



Volume 1 | Issue 22

SYLLOGE ON WEST ASIA

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

01 November - 15 November 2021



MANOHAR PARRIKAR INSTITUTE FOR
DEFENCE STUDIES AND ANALYSES

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IRAN

So-called nuclear crisis aftermath of disloyalty of US, European troika

Islamic Republic News Agency, November 1, 2021

The spokesman for the Iranian Foreign Ministry says that the so-called nuclear crisis is resulted from irresponsibility and lack of commitment of the United States and the European troika which have issued a statement on the sidelines of the G20 Summit. Saeed Khatibzadeh made the remarks in reaction to the statement issued by the US and the European troika- France, Germany, and Britain. Referring to Supreme Leader of the Islamic Revolution Ayatollah Seyyed Ali Khamenei's fatwa (verdict) which prohibits building nuclear weapons, the spokesman said that the top officials of the Islamic Republic of Iran have always stressed that the country is not and will be not after nuclear weapons.

Nuclear weapons have no place in the Islamic Republic's defense doctrine, Khatibzadeh noted.

<https://en.irna.ir/news/84525413/So-called-nuclear-crisis-aftermath-of-disloyalty-of-US-European>

Iran foils US attempt to confiscate oil tanker in Sea of Oman, Iranian local media said

Islamic Republic News Agency, November 3, 2021

The Islamic Revolution Guards Corps (IRGC) Navy force in a timely reaction has thwarted the US attack on Iranian tanker to confiscate its oil in the Sea of Oman. According to local media, the US had seized an Iranian oil tanker in the Sea of Oman, transferred its oil to another tanker, and taken the tanker to an unknown place. However, the IRGC forces in a heliborne operation took control of the tanker. Then

the American forces pursued the tanker by helicopters and warships but failed to capture it.

<https://en.irna.ir/news/84528231/Iran-foils-US-attempt-to-confiscate-oil-tanker-in-Sea-of-Oman>

Iran-G4+1 talks on removal of US sanctions to begin on Nov. 29

Islamic Republic News Agency, November 4, 2021

Deputy foreign minister for political affairs said here on Wednesday that Iran's nuclear negotiations with four world powers to end sanctions will begin on November 29. Ali Baqeri Kani said that the Vienna talks with the aim of removal of the US sanctions will start at the end of November. "In a telephone conversation with Enrique Mora, the start of negotiations aimed at lifting illegal and inhumane sanctions was agreed to start in Vienna on November 29," Baqeri Kani tweeted.

<https://en.irna.ir/news/84528871/Iran-G4-1-talks-on-removal-of-US-sanctions-to-begin-on-Nov-29>

Iran not to leave negotiation table: President Raisi

Islamic Republic News Agency, November 4, 2021

President Ebrahim Raisi in Semnan on Thursday emphasized that Iran would pursue a policy of simultaneous lifting and neutralization of sanctions, saying that the people of Iran appreciate the smart and authoritative actions of the country's border guards. Raisi made the remarks in Semnan in the ceremony of the National Day of Fighting Against Global Arrogance, the capital city of Semnan Province, east of Tehran. Referring to the date of the start of negotiations on the lifting of the oppressive sanctions against the Iranians, the President said that the negotiation is a result-oriented

one and Iran will not fall short of the rightful demand of the Iranian people to lift the oppressive sanctions. Raisi added that as previously stated, Iran will not leave the negotiating table but will stand against the excessive demands that lead to the loss of the interests of the Iranian people.

<https://en.irna.ir/news/84529597/Iran-not-to-leave-negotiation-table-President-Raisi>

AEIOI Spokesman: Iran's 20 Percent Enriched Uranium Stockpile Surpasses 210 Kilogram

Fars News Agency, November 5, 2021

Atomic Energy Organization of Iran (AEIOI) Spokesman Behrouz Kamalvandi announced that Iran's 20-percent enriched uranium stockpile has exceeded 210 kilograms, while its 60-percent enriched uranium stands at 25kg. According to the Parliament's 'Strategic Action Plan to Counter Sanctions and Protect Rights of the People' law, we were tasked with producing 120 kg of 20-percent enriched uranium, while now we have exceeded 210 kilogram," Kamalvandi said. He also added that the AEIOI has already produced 25kg of 60-percent enriched uranium.

<https://www.farsnews.ir/en/news/14000814000344/AEIOI-Spokesman-Iran's-20-Percen-Enriched-Uranium-Stockpile-Surpasses-20>

Army starts drills in southeast Iran

Islamic Republic News Agency, November 7, 2021

Iranian Army started staging the main phases of "Zonfaqr-1400" drills in Makran region, southeast of the country, on Sunday. The infantry, vessels, drones, and jets of the Army are to participate in the maneuver. The spokesman for the war game has said that monitoring the country's air space and place of the maneuver will be done in southern national waters. Admiral

Mahmoud Mousavi also said that the Army's pilots and drones will carry out air patrol during the drills. Makran coastal region starts from Iranian strategic port of Chabahar and reaches Jask in southern Iranian province of Hormuzgan near the Strait of Hormuz.

<https://en.irna.ir/news/84532079/Army-starts-drills-in-southeast-Iran>

Chinese FM Blames US for Problems in Implementation of N. Deal

Fars News Agency, November 7, 2021

China's State Councilor and Foreign Minister Wang Yi in a phone conversation with his Iranian counterpart Hossein Amir Abdollahian said that Washington is responsible for the problems standing on the way of the implementation of the nuclear deal. The US is the root cause of problems in the JCPOA implementation, Wang said on Saturday, expressing the hope that Washington would remove all sanctions it has re-imposed on Tehran to make up for its past mistakes so that the upcoming Vienna talks would lead to good outcomes amid Iran's positive approaches.

He added that his country welcomes the continuation of talks on sanctions removal.

<https://www.farsnews.ir/en/news/14000816000191/Chinese-FM-Blames-US-for-Problems-in-Implementation-of-N-Deal>

Iran's Arash Suicide Drone Destroys Targets during Army Drills

Fars News Agency, November 8, 2021

The Iranian Army's suicide drone, Arash, destroyed all specified targets successfully in a long range mission during the second day of the main phase of the massive joint military drills dubbed 'Zolfaqr 1400' on Monday. Army ground units also managed to capture hypothetical enemy positions in a move to testfire Iran-made rockets and

missiles as well as using rocket-propelled grenade launchers and combat helicopters and drones. Spokesman of Zolfaqar 1400 drills Rear Admiral Seyed Mahmoud Mousavi said on Monday that last night, the home-made Mersad missile system, in coordination with the country's integrated air defense network, fired a missile, shooting down a hostile air target.

<https://www.farsnews.ir/en/news/14000817000240/Iran's-Arash-Sicide-Drne-Desrys-Targes-dring-Army-Drills>

Iran-Made Cruise Missiles Destroy Surface Targets, Vessels in Army Drills

Fars News Agency, November 8, 2021

The home-made cruise missiles of the Iranian Army destroyed several surface targets and vessels during the second day of Zolfaqar 1400 drills on Monday. "In this stage of the exercises, the Iranian cruise missile, Qader, was fired from the Army Navy's tactical platform of coast-to-sea missiles in Makran coasts and hit a vessel 200km away," Spokesman of the drills Rear Admiral Seyed Mahmoud Mousavi said. Also, destruction of a surface target by indigenized Nasr cruise missile fired from the Navy's missile launcher was another exercise conducted in this stage of the wargames, he added. Meantime, the Iran-made long-range Qadir cruise missile destroyed a surface target 300km away from a missile-launcher warship.

<https://www.farsnews.ir/en/news/14000817000676/Iran-Made-Cruise-Missiles-Desry-Srface-Targes-Vessels-in-Army-Drills>

Lebanese Media: IRGC Qods Force Commander Travels to Iraq

Fars News Agency, November 8, 2021

Commander of Iran's Islamic Revolution Guards Corps (IRGC) Qods Force General Esmayeel Qa'ani traveled to Iraq on Sunday to meet with Iraqi Prime Minister Mustafa

al-Kadhimi in an unannounced visit, the Lebanese media reported. The Arabic-language al-Mayadeen news channel reported that General Qa'ani arrived in Iraq on Sunday and met with al-Kadhimi as well as other Iraqi political officials in Baghdad. Also, the Arabic-language Al-Alam news channel reported that General Qa'ani has also met with Iraqi President Barham Salih. During the meeting, General Qa'ani stressed the importance of avoiding any action that threatens the security of Iraq, saying that Iraq needs stability and internal unity.

<https://www.farsnews.ir/en/news/14000817000766/Lebanese-Media-IRGC-Qods-Frce-Cmmander-Travels-Iraq>

Iran says Vienna talks not on nuclear issues

Islamic Republic News Agency, November 10, 2021

Iran's deputy foreign minister for political affairs has said that the country has no talks on nuclear issues in Vienna as the issue has already been solved completely within the framework of the 2015 nuclear deal, aka the Joint Comprehensive Plan of Action (JCPOA). The main question in the talks in the Austrian capital is removal of the illegitimate sanctions and the aftermath resulted from the US unilateral withdrawal from the deal, Ali Bagheri Kani has said in an interview. Referring to consultations with his French counterpart in Paris, the deputy foreign minister said that France can play a leading role in regional interactions and the process of talks as the country will be the president of the European Union (EU) next year. As the diplomat announced, the talks in Vienna with participation of 4+1 will start as of November 29.

<https://en.irna.ir/news/84536024/Iran-says-Vienna-talks-not-on-nuclear-issues>

Iran releases Vietnamese tanker Sothys

Islamic Republic News Agency, November 10, 2021

The Vietnamese tanker Sothys which was seized by the Islamic Republic of Iran last month was released by a court order after its oil was unloaded. The Iranian oil in the Vietnamese tanker Sothys was unloaded in Bandar Abbas according to a report in IRGC official portal. The tanker which was carrying Iranian oil was seized in the Gulf of Oman last month while the US forces were directing the tanker to an unknown destination in a piracy operation.

Sothys was released by a court order, according to the report.

<https://en.irna.ir/news/84536207/Iran-releases-Vietnamese-tanker-Sothys>

Iran becomes member of UNSCEAR

Islamic Republic News Agency, November 10, 2021

Despite the Zionist regime's opposition and the US sabotage, Iran has become a member of the United Nations Scientific Committee on the Effects of Atomic Radiation (UNSCEAR). In the wake of holding several rounds of talks on the draft of Australia resolution in the Special Political and Decolonization Committee and its approval in UNGA, Iran could promote its position in UNSCEAR as a permanent member. According to the statement, Iran has been invited to attend UNSCEAR with a nuclear scientist.

<https://en.irna.ir/news/84535920/Iran-becomes-member-of-UNSCEAR>

US envoy visiting Middle East allies ahead of Iran nuclear talks

Al-Jazeera, November 11, 2021

Robert Malley, the United States's special envoy for Iran, is travelling to the United

Arab Emirates, Israel, Saudi Arabia and Bahrain ahead of crucial nuclear talks with Tehran set for the end of the month. Malley will hold the "consultations with partners" from November 11 to 20, the State Department said on Thursday, noting the upcoming negotiations in Vienna to revive the Iran nuclear deal, formally known as the Joint Comprehensive Plan of Action (JCPOA).

<https://www.aljazeera.com/news/2021/11/11/us-envoy-visiting-middle-east-allies-ahead-of-iran-nuclear-talks>

Lifting anti-Iran sanctions starting point of next JCPOA talks: Iran

Islamic Republic News Agency, November 12, 2021

Iran's top nuclear negotiator Ali Bagheri Kani has underlined ahead of next Joint Commission meeting of the Joint Comprehensive Plan of Action that lifting of the US-imposed anti-Iran sanctions will be starting point of next round of talks in Vienna, Austria. Answering a question by IRNA on Western parties' insistence on returning to the Vienna talks from the point that came to an end in the sixth round of negotiations, Bagheri Kani said on Friday that the issue is clear, because the root cause of problems being discussed is the United States' violation of the nuclear agreement and the re-imposition of anti-Iran sanctions. The Islamic Republic of Iran has stayed in the JCPOA and complied with its commitments under the deal, he said, adding that Tehran is now abiding by the agreement; so, the first and foremost issues, which should be raised, are the removal of the US's illegal sanctions on Iran.

<https://en.irna.ir/news/84537958/Lifting-anti-Iran-sanctions-starting-point-of-next-JCPOA-talks>

Iran, Pakistan vow to strengthen border, maritime cooperation

Islamic Republic News Agency, November 12, 2021

The Border Commander of the Islamic Republic of Iran and the Director General of Pakistan Maritime Security Agency have met to discuss promotion of security and conducting simultaneous operations and patrolling. An official statement said that on 10 November 2021, an online meeting session was held between Heads of Border Guard of Islamic Republic of Iran and Pakistan Maritime Security Agency at HQ PMSA. “Brigadier General Ahmed Goudarzi commander Islamic Republic of Iran Border Guard was heading the Iranian delegation, comprising of Brig Security, Brig Legal, Deputy Commander Islamic Republic of Iran Border Guard Coastal Area and Regional Commander Coastal Area,” it said.

<https://en.irna.ir/news/84538021/Iran-Pakistan-vow-to-strengthen-border-maritime-cooperation>

IRAQ

Iraqi Air Force targets terrorists east of Salah al-Din

Iraqi News Agency, November 1, 2021

Security media cell announced Monday that Iraqi warplanes targeted terrorists’ hideouts east of Salah al-Din. "Based on the follow-up of the targeting cell in the Joint Operations Command, the air force carried out a strike by Iraqi F_16 aircraft targeting a terrorist den in al-Ayth area east of Salah al-Din province," the cell said in a statement received by the Iraqi News Agency (INA).

<https://ina.iq/eng/15142-iraqi-air-force-targets-terrorists-east-of-salah-al-din.html>

More than 2,100 shipments of coalition military equipment have been evacuated from Iraq, JOC reports

Iraqi News Agency, November 4, 2021

The Joint Operations Command announced on Thursday ,evacuating of more than 2,100 shipments of American military equipment from Iraq, while it indicated that the international coalition had delivered more than 1,800 armed armoured vehicles, cranes and water tankers to the Iraqi forces. The participated sides of the Baghdad meeting identified how the coalition will continue to support the Iraqi security forces through its role in advice, assistance and empowerment, and agreed to re-evaluate progress in their relationship on a quarterly basis, noting "the successful transfer of ownership of equipment to the Iraqi side during the past months, which included more than 1,800 between Armed armored wheels, cranes, water tanks and other vehicles, which contributed to increase the mobility of the Iraqi security forces and enabling them to protect Iraqi citizens from ISIS.”

<https://ina.iq/eng/15205-more-than-2100-shipments-of-coalition-military-equipment-have-been-evacuated-from-iraq-joc-reports.html>

Turkey bombs Sinjar villages in Iraq where genocide survivors live

The Jerusalem Post, November 6, 2021

Turkey’s attacks on Syria and Iraq escalated on Tuesday as its warplanes bombed Sinjar two days in a row, striking at villages inhabited by the Yazidi minority. Yazidis survived the ISIS genocide, but they have been targeted in both Afrin in Syria, which Turkey invaded in January 2018, and in eastern Syria, where Turkey is carrying out an invasion against Kurdish fighters. Turkey claims it is fighting “terrorists,” but locals say airstrikes and

attacks by Turkish-backed militants have caused civilians to flee. Nadia Murad, a Yazidi genocide survivor who won the Nobel Peace Prize in 2018, wrote that “Turkey has bombed villages in northwest of Mount Sinjar. This is not an isolated incident; Turkey has repeatedly bombed the Sinjar region of Iraq. These acts of aggression pose immense danger to the population of Sinjar and deserve condemnation by the international community.”

<https://www.jpost.com/Middle-East/Turkey-bombs-Sinjar-villages-in-Iraq-where-genocide-survivors-live-606992>

Joint Ops.: Ending the military presence, limiting it to consulting and training

Iraqi News Agency, November 6, 2021

Joint Operations Command reaffirmed ending the presence of the military combat forces of the international coalition at the end of this year, while revealing the ongoing work in four areas with the international coalition after the end of its presence in Iraq. “The presence of foreign combat forces will end at the end of this year, of which only a few remain. Iraq has taken great steps in ending the presence of the military combat forces of the international coalition, which will end at the end of December 31 of this year,” he added. He explained, “The presence of the international coalition in Iraq is for the purpose of consulting, training, and intelligence and security information that contributes to the pursuit of terrorist gangs,”

<https://ina.iq/eng/15259-joint-ops-ending-the-military-presence-limiting-it-to-consulting-and-training.html>

Iraqi Shi'ite Militia Leader Qais Al-Khazali Threatens PM Al-Khadimi Hours Before Assassination Attempt: The Retaliation For The Blood Of The Martyred Protesters Is 'On Me'

MEMRI TV, November 7, 2021

On November 7, 2021, hours before an assassination attempt against Iraqi PM Mustafa Al-Kadhimi, a video was posted to Twitter in which Iraqi Shi'ite militia leader Qais Al-Khazali, the Secretary-General of the Asai'b Ahl al-Haq militia, threatened Al-Khadimi after the killing of protesters by Iraqi government forces. Al-Khazali said: "I am personally taking this oath... The [retaliation] for the blood of the martyrs in on me, and the blood of the martyrs will constitute your trial." Al-Khazali also accused Al-Khadimi of having rigged the Iraqi elections.

<https://www.memri.org/tv/iraqi-shiite-militia-leader-khazali-threatens-pm-kadhimi-hours-before-assassination-attempt>

Air Force destroys 8 terrorist dens in The Hamreen Mountains

Iraqi News Agency, November 12, 2021

Air force warplanes destroyed On Friday, eight terrorist dens in the Hamreen mountain range. "Under the supervision of the Joint Operations Command, and according to accurate intelligence, the Air Force carried out eight strikes in the Hamreen mountain range as part of Diyala's operations," the security media cell said in a statement received by the Iraqi News Agency (INA).

<https://ina.iq/eng/15431-air-force-destroys-8-terrorist-dens-in-the-hamreen-mountains.html>

Iraqi aviation carried out an air strike on a terrorists hideout in Salah al-Din

Iraqi News Agency, November 14, 2021

The Security Media Cell announced today, Sunday, implementation of an air strike on a terrorist hideout northwest of Mutaibija. The cell said in a statement received by the Iraqi News Agency (INA) that "the air force's aviation carried out, by Iraqi F-16 planes, a strike targeting a terrorist hideout northwest of Mutaibija within Salah al-Din Governorate." "The strike was carried out under the supervision of the Joint Operations Command," Security Media Cell added.

<https://ina.iq/eng/15482-iraqi-aviation-carried-out-an-air-strike-on-a-terrorist-in-salah-al-din.html>

ISRAEL

Drill for 2,000 rockets a day and internal strife: IDF preps for war

The Jerusalem Post, November 1, 2021

Israel's Home Front Command and National Emergency Authority (RAHEL) is holding a week-long drill that started on Sunday simulating a large-scale war in which civilians are evacuated from northern border communities and security agencies will deal with massive rocket barrages sent by Hezbollah.

The drill is taking lessons that have been learned from past events in the North, as well as those from the May fighting between Israel and terror groups in the Gaza Strip – Operation Guardian of the Walls – and from the Second Lebanon War in 2006. Following the May fighting, the Home Front Command "carried out a very significant learning process with a lot of research, and this exercise is going to test what we've learned," said Home Front

Command Chief of Staff Brig.-Gen. Itzik Bar.

<https://www.jpost.com/israel-news/home-front-command-rahel-to-carry-out-joint-war-time-drill-starting-today-683587>

Israeli company Rafael to present at the Dubai Air Show 2021

The Jerusalem Post, November 2, 2021

Israeli defense technology company Rafael Advanced Defense Systems will participate in the 2021 Dubai Air Show on November 14th-18th, marking the company's first large-scale presence in a global defense exposition in the United Arab Emirates. Rafael hopes to showcase its aerial defense systems, as well as its satellite intelligence and communications systems, at this year's expo. Among solutions being presented at the event is their MIC4AD command & control system – which optimizes resource management between defensive systems and is currently deployed by 28 air forces around the world – and SPYDER, a surface-to-air missile system designed to counter attacks by aircraft, helicopters, UAVs and precision-guided munitions.

<https://www.jpost.com/middle-east/israeli-company-rafael-to-present-at-the-dubai-air-show-2021-683766>

IDF holding amphibious drill in Eilat with US NAVCENT forces

The Jerusalem Post, November 3, 2021

The IDF has begun a joint, bilateral amphibious exercise with the US Naval Forces Central Command's (NAVCENT) Fifth Fleet in Eilat for the second time in less than a month. NAVCENT's 51/5th Marine Expeditionary Brigade is leading the American participation in the drill, which will also see some 500 troops from the 11th Marine Expeditionary Unit,

including a logistics battalion detachment, an infantry rifle company, a lightly armored reconnaissance company and a High Mobility Artillery Rocket System (HIMARS) platoon taking part. IDF troops will include forces from the Commando Brigade's Maglan unit, from the Lotar Anti-Terrorism Unit and from the School for Infantry Corps Professions and Squad Commanders.

<https://www.jpost.com/israel-news/idf-navcent-holding-amphibious-drill-in-eilat-683885>

US blacklists Israel's NSO Group for 'malicious' cyberactivities

Al-Monitor, November 3, 2021

The United States has added Israeli spyware firm NSO Group to its economic blacklist for acting “contrary to the foreign policy and national security interests of the US.” The US Department of Commerce said Wednesday that NSO Group was placed on the so-called entity list based on evidence that the Israeli firm sold spyware to foreign governments that “used these tools to maliciously target government officials, journalists, businesspeople, activists, academics, and embassy workers.” Three other companies — Israel's Candiru, Russia's Positive Technologies and Singapore's Computer Security Initiative Consultancy PTE — were also added Wednesday to the list, which prohibits US companies from exporting certain technologies to the listed entities unless they obtain a government license. “Today's action is a part of the Biden-Harris Administration's efforts to put human rights at the center of US foreign policy,” the Commerce Department said in a statement. “This effort is aimed at improving citizens' digital security,

combating cyber threats, and mitigating unlawful surveillance.”

<https://www.al-monitor.com/originals/2021/11/us-blacklists-israels-nso-group-malicious-cyberactivities#ixzz7D25NzXqs>

Alleged Israeli airstrike targets Iranian militia weapons depot - report

The Jerusalem Post, November 3, 2021

An alleged Israeli airstrike targeted a site in the Zakya area, southwest of Damascus, on Tuesday night, causing material damage, according to the Syrian state news agency SANA. Opposition-affiliated media reported that the airstrikes targeted sites belonging to Iranian militias. The SANA report added that the airstrike was carried out from the direction of northern Israel, but, unlike in most past reports on such airstrikes, did not mention air defenses being activated. The Syrian Capital Voice site reported on Wednesday that the airstrikes targeted Iranian militia sites in the Seventh Division in Zakya.

<https://www.jpost.com/breaking-news/syria-says-israel-launched-missile-attack-targeting-damascus-683865>

Israel to place aerial reconnaissance balloon in North

The Jerusalem Post, November 3, 2021

As Israel continues to work toward significantly bolstering its air defenses, an advanced aerial surveillance balloon has been raised high in the sky in the North to provide additional early warning capabilities against aerial threats. Following years of development and manufacturing, the Israel Missile Defense Organization (IMDO) at the Directorate of Defense R&D of the Defense Ministry has “begun initial inflation operations” of the balloon, the ministry said in a statement.

The High Availability Aerostat System (HAAS) developed by the American company TCOM, which specializes in aerostat surveillance solutions, is one of the largest in the world and is designed to carry an improved sensor system to provide detection and early warning of advanced threats.

<https://www.jpost.com/israel-news/israel-to-launch-massive-aerial-reconnaissance-balloon-in-the-north-683890>

Israel needs to 'be ready' for war, IDF officer says as large-scale drill ends

The Jerusalem Post, November 4, 2021

As the IDF's large-scale Home Front Command and National Emergency Authority (RAHEL) drill simulating a large-scale conflict with Iran and the Lebanese Hezbollah terrorist group comes to a close, officers warn that both citizens and soldiers need to be ready for any type of emergency to hit the home front. "The home front needs to be ready, and so do we. Whenever something should happen we all need to be ready: the citizens and the army," said Northern Command training officer Lt.-Col Yaniv Friedman. Along with the Home Front Command and RAHEL, all security and various governmental bodies, as well as Israel Police and Magen David Adom, participated in the drill that ended on Wednesday night.

<https://www.jpost.com/israel-news/we-need-to-be-ready-says-idf-officer-as-large-scale-drill-ends-683991>

Israel to export border surveillance technology to Cyprus

Al-Monitor, November 8, 2021

Israel's military signed a deal with Cyprus to build a new electronic surveillance system along the country's

demilitarized border with northern Cyprus. The 27.5 million euro (\$31.8 million) system will provide 24-hour video surveillance, spokesman for the Cypriot Defense Ministry Christos Piers told Cyprus News Agency. The project is expected to take three years to complete.

According to Cyprus' Defense Ministry, the agreement was signed during a visit by the head of the Israeli Defense Ministry's International Defense Cooperation Directorate, Yair Kulas.

The Mediterranean nation has been militarily and politically divided since 1974, when an invasion by Turkey amid intercommunal violence following a Greek-backed coup split the island in two.

<https://www.al-monitor.com/originals/2021/11/israel-export-border-surveillance-technology-cyprus#ixzz7D5ZuNzw8>

Israel joins international artificial intelligence group

Al-Monitor, November 11, 2021

Israel joined the Global Partnership on Artificial Intelligence today, Nov. 11, becoming the 20th member of the organization created two years ago under French and Canadian leadership. Four other countries were also accepted into the organization and four countries saw their candidacy rejected, at least for the moment, at the GPAI's annual event. The GPAI headquarters are located within the OECD in Paris, with another hub in Canada.

<https://www.al-monitor.com/originals/2021/11/israel-joins-international-artificial-intelligence-group#ixzz7D5annYWq>

SAUDI ARABIA

Saudi-led coalition targets ballistic missile sites, weapons depots in Yemen

Anadolu Agency, November 11, 2021

The Saudi-led coalition targeted ballistic missile sites, weapons depots and unmanned aerial vehicles (UAVs) belonging to the Houthi rebels in northern Yemen on Wednesday evening into Thursday. The coalition said in a statement that the air strikes were carried out in Saada and Sanaa provinces and these were legitimate operations, the Saudi state news agency SPA reported. Meanwhile, according to Almasirah TV, a channel linked to the Iran-backed Houthis, coalition air forces launched five air strikes in various parts of Sanaa.

<https://www.aa.com.tr/en/middle-east/saudi-led-coalition-targets-ballistic-missile-sites-weapons-depots-in-yemen/2417613>

SYRIA

Iran presumed behind attack on US outpost in eastern Syria

Al-Monitor, November 1, 2021

US officials believe that Iran “resourced and encouraged” an October 20 attack on a military outpost housing US forces in the eastern Syrian desert which involved drones carrying explosive charges and “indirect fire,” possibly rockets. A local source from Syria’s Deir al-Zor region told Al-Monitor that four drones had been launched on Oct. 20 from what appeared to be a civilian area between 15 and 20 km west of the city of Albu Kamal in Deir al-Zor. The source said that those present at the launch included both Iranian Islamic Revolutionary Guards Corps (IRGC) officials and Syrian government officers from the 4th Armored Division, which is believed to be close to Iran-supported

armed groups and Hezbollah and is led by President Bashar al-Assad’s brother Maher. Iraqi armed factions linked to Iran and part of the “muqawama” (resistance), praised the attack and called it retaliation for airstrikes in the Palmyra desert area in eastern Syria on Oct. 13.

<https://www.al-monitor.com/originals/2021/10/iran-presumed-behind-attack-us-outpost-eastern-syria#ixzz7CwAII6e1>

Syrian-Iraqi talks to deal with water deterrent situation

Syrian Arab News Agency, November 10, 2021

Ministers of Water Resources in Syria and Iraq discussed on Wednesday challenges related to the water situation in the two countries, including the negative effects of climate change and the stance of Turkish side that decreases the rate of pouring water of the Euphrates and Tigris rivers. During a virtual meeting, Minister of Water Resources, Tammam Raad, called for the necessity of joint work, exchanging information and data, technical and scientific communication, and everything related to water developments in the interests of both countries.

<http://www.sana.sy/en/?p=254062>

Russian Defense Ministry: al-Nusra terrorists launch 10 attacks in Idlib de-escalation zone

Syrian Arab News Agency, November 14, 2021

The Russian Ministry of Defense announced that the terrorist organizations deployed in Idlib de-escalation zone have carried out ten attacks during the last 24th hours. Deputy Commander of Russian Coordination Center in Hmeimim, Rear Admiral Vadim Kolet, said in a statement that 10 attacks were monitored from areas

where Jabhat al-Nusra-linked terrorists are deployed, 5 attacks in Aleppo Governorate, 4 in Idleb and 1 in Lattakia.

The terrorist organizations deployed in the de-escalation zone of Idleb and a number of areas in its countryside carried out Saturday 9 attacks in areas and sites in the countryside of Aleppo, Hama and Lattakia.

<http://www.sana.sy/en/?p=254387>

TURKEY

Turkey successfully test-fires air defense missile Siper, rival to S-400

Daily Sabah, November 6, 2021

Turkey has successfully test-fired its high-altitude long-range air defense missile system, Siper, a top defense official said Saturday. Different tests of the domestic air defense system, which is planned to enter the army's inventory in 2023, will continue, Ismail Demir, the head of Presidency of Defense Industries (SSB), tweeted. He said Turkey will continue to produce new weapons and will have up to six different air defense systems. The Siper project is led by Turkey's defense giants Aselsan, Roketsan and the Scientific and Technological Research Council of Turkey (TÜBİTAK)'s Defense Industries Research and Development Institute (SAGE). Developed to protect strategic facilities against enemy attacks within the scope of regional air defense, Siper will allow air defense at long range and in the protection of distributed architecture.

<https://www.dailysabah.com/business/defense/turkey-successfully-test-fires-air-defense-missile-siper-rival-to-s-400>

Turkey to begin work on 2 more nuclear power plants: Erdoğan

Daily Sabah, November 9, 2021

Turkey will swiftly start preparations for its second and third nuclear power plants, the country's president said Tuesday.

These will follow the country's first nuclear power plant, Akkuyu, which is being built in the southern Mersin province. "We are carrying out our studies considering the growing energy needs. We plan to commission the first unit of the Akkuyu Nuclear Power Plant (NPP) in 2023," President Recep Tayyip Erdoğan told an opening ceremony for the power plants via video link from the capital Ankara. "After Akkuyu Nuclear Power Plant, we will swiftly begin preparations for our second and third power plants," Erdoğan said. Akkuyu is being built by Russia's state nuclear energy firm Rosatom.

<https://www.dailysabah.com/business/energy/turkey-to-begin-work-on-2-more-nuclear-power-plants-erdogan>

Turkish defense firm equips drone with grenade thrower

Anadolu Agency, November 10, 2021

In a significant upgrade, Turkish defense firm Asisguard has equipped its new mini-unmanned aerial vehicle (UAV) with 40-millimeter grenade thrower. After attaching a 5.56-millimeter gun, the firm took the drone, called Songar, a step further, Baris Duzgun, the firm's general manager told Anadolu Agency during the SAHA Expo, a major defense event in the Turkish metropolis Istanbul. After opening its doors on Wednesday, the four-day event is showcasing Turkey's defense products including UAVs, weapons, radar systems, and land and naval vehicles.

<https://www.aa.com.tr/en/economy/turkish-defense-firm-equips-drone-with-grenade-thrower/2417118>

Turkish defense giants devote huge budgets to R&D

Anadolu Agency, November 10, 2021

Managers of Turkey's largest defense companies underlined the importance of

research and development activities during a panel in Turkey's major defense event.

Speaking at SAHA EXPO, managers said their firms allocate a significant amount of budget for R&D activities. The four-day event was kicked off on Wednesday. Temel Kotil, the head of Turkish Aviation Industries (TAI), highlighted that TAI gives great importance to R&D activities, and added that more than 3,000 R&D personnel are employed by the firm. "40% of the firms budget is consumed for R&D, we employed 7,000 staff during the last five years and around 5,000 of them were engineers," he added.

<https://www.aa.com.tr/en/science-technology/turkish-defense-giants-devote-huge-budgets-to-rd/2417345>

IAEA Completes Nuclear Security Advisory Mission in Turkey

International Atomic Energy Agency, November 12, 2021

An International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA) team of experts completed a nuclear security advisory mission in Turkey today, which was carried out at the request of its Government. The scope of the two-week International Physical Protection Advisory Service (IPPAS) mission included a review of the legislative and regulatory framework for the security of nuclear and other radioactive material, associated facilities and activities, including transport, and a review of cyber security arrangements, regulatory practices (licensing, inspections and enforcement) and coordination between stakeholders involved in nuclear security. Nuclear material accounting and control measures, which protect nuclear and associated facilities and material from criminals, were

also reviewed, as part of a pilot feature envisaged to be added soon in the scope of all IPPAS missions. This is the second IPPAS mission in Turkey, following the first in 2003.

<https://www.iaea.org/newscenter/pressreleases/iaea-completes-nuclear-security-advisory-mission-in-turkey>

Iran, Turkey hope to sign 'cooperation road map in Erdogan visit

Aljazeera, November 15, 2021

Iran and Turkey will continue high-level diplomatic talks to draft a "long-term cooperation road map" to boost ties, Foreign Minister Hossein Amirabdollahian has announced. "We hope to finalise the road map in a future visit to Tehran by Mr [Recep Tayyip] Erdogan, the eminent Turkish president," Amirabdollahian said on Monday, standing next to Turkish Foreign Minister Mevlut Cavusoglu at a news conference in Tehran, without announcing a specific date for the visit. As "pragmatic" governments, he said, Tehran and Ankara agreed to work together to remove barriers on the way of expanding trade, energy, environment and consular ties while also facilitating private sector trade. "I'd like to emphasise that the two countries' relations are deep, historical and intimate, and in developing these ties, we will pay special attention to this," Amirabdollahian added.

<https://www.aljazeera.com/news/2021/11/15/iran-turkey-hope-to-sign-cooperation-roadmap-in-erdogan-visit>

NUCLEAR AND ARMS CONTROL CENTRE

*Sylloge on West Asia is compiled by Mr Kushal Agrawal
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