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Iran

Digest

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Iraqi National Security Advisor visits Iran

On 11 November, Ali Akbar Ahmadian, Secretary of Iran's Supreme National Security Council, received Iraqi National Security Advisor Qassem Al-Araji for a high-level meeting to discuss the ongoing implementation of a [joint security agreement](#) focused on strengthening border control and preventing infiltration. The security agreement, signed in March 2023, outlines steps to prevent any armed groups from using Iraqi territory to launch attacks on Iran, including relocating these groups to more isolated camps within Iraqi Kurdistan. During the meeting, Al-Araji reiterated Baghdad's firm stance against the [use of its airspace](#) for offensive actions against Iran. Notably, on October 26, the warplanes of the Israeli regime breached Iraqi airspace, attempting to target Iranian military positions from within Iraqi territory. The two sides agreed to cover other common threats, including military, security and economic threats, by implementing the security agreement. Al-Araji also met with Major General Hussein Salami, Commander of Islamic Revolution Guards Corps (IRGC) and Brigadier General Esmail Qaani, the Commander of the IRGC Quds Force. Qaani had paid an [unannounced visit to Iraq](#) in October amid a political crisis following the revelation of an alleged "wiretapping network" inside the prime minister's office, and continued escalations by leaders of the ruling Coordination Framework against Prime Minister Mohammed Shia' Al Sudani.

Iran and Azerbaijan conduct joint military exercise in the border region

On 25 November, rapid reaction units from Iran's IRGC Ground Force and the elite divisions of the Azerbaijani Armed Forces

launched a four-day military exercise, codenamed "[Aras Joint Exercise](#)" in the border region. The exercise took place in the challenging high-terrain regions of Aslanduz County, situated within Iran's northwestern Ardabil province. The primary goals of this joint military exercise include bolstering the existing military ties at both tactical and operational levels, furthering their joint efforts to combat terrorist organizations and safeguarding the shared borders of the two nations. The joint exercise followed the fourth meeting of the [Joint Commission on Military and Defence Cooperation](#) led by Brigadier General Mohammad Reza Ashtiani, Deputy Chief of Staff of the Iranian Armed Forces, and Major General Farid Aliyev, an Azeri commander in Tehran on 19 November. General Ashtiani emphasised the important role of the Republic of Azerbaijan in Iran's foreign policy and direct impact of developments in the South Caucasus region on Iran's national security. In response, General Aliyev advocated for closer cooperation between Baku and Tehran to ensure regional peace and stability, explicitly praising the ongoing joint military exercises as a prime example of the positive interaction and cooperation between the two countries.

IAEA passes censure motion against Iran

At the quarterly meeting of the Board of Governors of the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA), a motion forwarded by France, Germany, the United Kingdom and the United States censured Iran for "[obstructing](#)" the IAEA's work. Having opposed all other previous censure measures against Iran at the IAEA in 2020, 2022 and June 2024, China and Russia voted against the motion. In an effort to prevent a Western push for a resolution

against it at the IAEA, Iran had offered not to expand its stock of uranium enriched to up to 60% purity. The offer was made during the IAEA Director General Rafael Grossi's visit to Tehran on 14 November. Grossi's meetings in Tehran with the Chief of Iran's Atomic Energy Organisation, President Masoud Pezeshkian and Foreign Minister Abbas Araqchi were based on discussions he had with Araqchi during the UN General Assembly in September. However, Western diplomats dismissed Iran's overture as yet another last-minute attempt to avoid censure at a board meeting, much like the March 2023 Joint Statement under which Iran pledged to resolve outstanding safeguard issues including questions about possible undeclared nuclear activity. Calling the resolution "hasty and unwise", Iran has said it will activate "[new and advanced](#)" centrifuges as a countermeasure.

Advisor to Supreme Leader Khamenei visits Syria and Lebanon

[Ali Larijani](#), a prominent advisor to Iran's Supreme Leader Ayatollah Seyyed Ali Khamenei visited Syria and Lebanon amid stepped up airstrikes by Israel against the Hezbollah-controlled southern suburbs, pressure on Syria to close [Syria-Lebanon crossings](#) and indications of movement in US-led diplomatic contacts toward ending the conflict in Lebanon. Larijani conveyed Ayatollah Khamenei's message to Syrian President Bashar Al-Assad. In Beirut, Larijani met with Lebanon's caretaker Prime Minister Najib Mikati, who said that the Lebanese government wants the war to end and resolution 1701 to be implemented "in all its details" including Hezbollah's withdrawal from the Israel-Lebanon border. After meeting Mikati and Lebanese Parliament Speaker Nabih Berri, Larijani

said the main purpose of his visit was "to loudly say that we will stand by Lebanon's government and people." When discussing the American draft proposal for a ceasefire between Lebanon and Israel during in an [interview to Lebanon's Al Mayadeen TV](#), he stated, "Iran will support any decision made by the Lebanese government and Resistance." On Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu's claims about his desire to "reshape a new Middle East [West Asia]," Larijani asserted that the creation of a new West Asia is not dictated by individual leaders, but "the future is in the hands of those who resist on the ground." He argued that the ongoing ground battle in South Lebanon demonstrates the failure and irrationality of Israel.

Daily output from the South Pars gas field reaches an all-time high

Iran's state-run Pars Oil and Gas Company, which is in charge of production operations in the South Pars gas field, announced that daily output from the field reached an all-time high amid growing demand for natural gas in the country's electricity sector. The growing demand in Iran's household sector has caused authorities to restrict power plant supply, leading to brief power cuts in large cities. The combined production from 28 phases of South Pars hit a record of 711 million cubic meters (mcm) on 13 November. The Pars Oil and Gas Company operates some 40 offshore drilling rigs, hundreds of wells, and thousands of kilometers of underwater pipelines to be able to produce gas from the field. Experts have observed that the declining pressure in South Pars is one the main concerns of the country's petroleum industry. On 23 November, Oil Minister Mohsen Paknejad said that Iran will finalise contracts for pressure-boosting in South Pars by the end of the current calendar year in late March.