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मनोहर पर्रिकर रक्षा अध्ययन एवं विश्लेषण संस्थान

Armenia

Armenia and US extend, for 7 years, agreement on countering proliferation of weapons of mass destruction

News.am, July 4, 2024

The Armenian government on Thursday approved the extension of the agreement with the US government on cooperation in countering the proliferation of weapons of mass destruction. According to this agreement signed in Yerevan on May 2, the validity period of the umbrella agreement is extended for another seven years, until November 24, 2030, and it is effective from November 25, 2023, which will contribute to preventing the proliferation of weapons of mass destruction.

<https://news.am/eng/news/832409.html>

Armenia official to Russia industry and trade minister: We must encourage investment in science, technology

News.am, July 8, 2024

Armenia's Economy Minister, Gevorg Papoyan, met with Russia's Industry and Trade Minister, Anton Alikhanov, during his working visit to Russia within the framework of the Innoprom International Industrial Exhibition, the Ministry of Economy of Armenia informs Armenian News-NEWS.am. "Russia is one of the main trading partners of Armenia, providing a considerable part of the import and export of goods. We see that digitization, innovative technology, and sustainable production are becoming the basis of future industrial development. We must encourage investments in science and

technology, create a favorable environment for the development of start-ups and small businesses to ensure the sustainable growth of our economies," Papoyan said, in particular.

<https://news.am/eng/news/833011.html>

Armenia and Austria discuss perspectives of defence cooperation

Armenpress, July 10, 2024

The Minister of Defence of the Republic of Armenia Suren Papikyan received today the Secretary General of the Austrian Federal Minister of Defence, Defence Policy Director of the Ministry of Defence of the Republic of Austria Dr. Arnold Kammel. According to a press release from the Ministry of Defence of Armenia, the Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary of Austria to the Republic of Armenia, Thomas Mühlmann, also attended the meeting. The discussions focused on perspectives of cooperation between Armenia and Austria in the field of defence. Suren Papikyan presented the progress of defence reforms in Armenia and, in that context, the scope of international cooperation.

<https://armenpress.am/en/article/1195429>

Armenia, Georgia sign 2024 defence cooperation plan

MassisPost, July 12, 2024

Defence Ministers of Armenia and Georgia signed a cooperation plan for 2024, the press service of the Armenian Ministry of Defence reported on July 12. The document was signed by Armenian Defence Minister Suren Papikyan and his

Georgian counterpart Irakli Chikovani, who arrived in Yerevan for a working visit earlier on July 12. Papikyan and Chikovani held a bilateral discussion, followed by an extended meeting of the delegations. Both sides spoke about the current level of cooperation and discussed issues related to Armenia-Georgia defence collaboration and regional security. The parties also shared details of the ongoing reforms within the armed forces of both countries.

<https://massispost.com/2024/07/armenia-georgia-sign-2024-defense-cooperation-plan/>

Armenia launches military drills with US amid souring ties with Russia

Avet Demourian

Militarytimes, July 15, 2024

Armenia on July 15, launched joint military drills with the United States, a move that reflects its leader's efforts to forge closer ties with the U.S. and other Western allies as the country's relations with old ally Russia sour. The "Eagle Partner" war games are aimed at increasing the interoperability of units participating in international peacekeeping missions, according to Armenia's Defence Minister Suren Papikyan. They involve Armenian peacekeeping forces, servicemen of the U.S. Army Europe and Africa, and the Kansas National Guard. It wasn't immediately clear how many troops were taking part.

<https://www.militarytimes.com/news/your-military/2024/07/15/armenia-launches-military-drills-with-us-amid-souring-ties-with-russia/>

Azerbaijan

A new era of brotherhood: strengthening Azerbaijan-Pakistan relations

Azertag, July 12, 2024

The historic visit of President Ilham Aliyev of the Republic of Azerbaijan to Pakistan has concluded, leaving behind a legacy of strengthened bonds and new horizons of cooperation. The visit commenced with a grand reception at the Pakistan Air Force Base Nur Khan, where President Aliyev was greeted with a guard of honor and a display of national pride. This ceremonial welcome, adorned with the flags of Azerbaijan and Pakistan, set the tone for the profound and fruitful engagements that followed. One of the most notable outcomes of President Aliyev's visit was the agreement between Pakistan and Azerbaijan to elevate their bilateral investment level to \$2 billion.

https://azertag.az/en/xeber/a_new_era_of_brotherhood_strengthening_azerbaijan_pakistan_relations-3094782

Azerbaijan-Pakistan relations strengthened across multiple fronts, MP says

Azernews, July 14, 2024

Azerbaijan and Pakistan share a deep-rooted friendship built on centuries of mutual respect and historical connections between our peoples. Kamaladdin Gafarov, a deputy of the 6th convocation of the Milli Majlis (Parliament) of Azerbaijan, highlighted these sentiments in his recent statement to the press, emphasizing the multifaceted cooperation

flourishing between the two nations, Azernews reports. "Our bilateral relations span various sectors including defence, energy, infrastructure development, information technologies, healthcare, pharmaceuticals, textiles, and more," Gafarov stated. He underscored the significance of the 2002 agreement on defence and military cooperation, signed during the leadership of Great Leader Heydar Aliyev, which has significantly bolstered military ties between Azerbaijan and Pakistan.

<https://www.azernews.az/nation/228630.html>

Azerbaijan reopens its embassy in Iran as the two countries try to ease tensions

Asharq Al-Awsat, July 15, 2024

The embassy of Azerbaijan in Tehran resumed its work on July 15, after more than a year of negotiations between the two countries to ease tensions, Iran's semi-official media outlets reported. A source in the Azeri embassy in Tehran told The Associated Press that the embassy has resumed its operations in the Iranian capital, but said it won't be officially announced until the Iranian foreign ministry confirms the development. But an Azeri website news.az on July 15 quoted Azerbaijan's foreign ministry as saying that its embassy in Iran has restarted work at a new address in Tehran. The report added that the embassy reopened following negotiations between Azerbaijan and Iran.

<https://english.aawsat.com/world/5040315-azerbaijan-reopens-its-embassy-iran-two-countries-try-ease-tensions>

Bahrain

Bahrain hosts 6th edition of international space forum

Bahrain News Agency, July 2, 2024

Mohammed bin Thamer Al Kaabi, Minister of Transport and Communications and Chairman of the National Space Science Agency (NSSA), emphasised the importance of hosting the 6th International Space Forum at Ministerial Level – The Gulf Chapter (ISF 2024) in the Kingdom of Bahrain. The forum, held for the first time in the Middle East and North Africa (MENA) region, is supported by the International Astronautical Federation (IAF) and the Italian Space Agency (ISA), and focuses on discussing the future of space exploration. The minister highlighted the importance of the steps taken by the Arab Gulf region and the Arab world in advancing space science. He also pointed to NSSA's efforts with international partners to create a platform that promotes innovation, knowledge exchange, and collaborative partnerships in space exploration, diplomacy, and economic development.

<https://www.bna.bh/en/news?cms=q8FmFJgiscL2fwIzON1%2BDgaHhZL%2B19JpFX08tyenH2c%3D>

Bahrain participates in permanent independent commission for human rights of OIC meeting

Bahrain News Agency, July 2, 2024

Ambassador Dr. Arwa Hassan Al Sayed, Chief of Human Rights Affairs and Member of the Permanent Independent Commission for Human Rights,

participated in the meeting of the 23rd regular session of the Permanent Independent Commission for Human Rights of the Organization of Islamic Cooperation (OIC), under the title: "The Impact of Artificial Intelligence on Human Rights: Challenges and Opportunities". This participation comes within the framework of activating Bahrain's membership in the Permanent Independent Commission for Human Rights, which the Kingdom won during the elections held on the sidelines of the 49th session of the Council of Foreign Ministers of the Organization of Islamic Cooperation held in Nouakchott, Mauritania, last year.

<https://www.bna.bh/en/news?cms=q8FmFJgiscL2fwIzON1%2BDiDCTS%2BC0PcMy82Hhd7ozqQ%3D>

Qatari-Iraqi joint committee for economic and trade cooperation discusses opportunities for cooperation, partnerships

Qatar News Agency, July 8, 2024

HE Minister of Commerce and Industry Sheikh Mohammed bin Hamad bin Qassim Al-Thani and HE Minister of Commerce of the Republic of Iraq Atheer Daoud Salman Al Ghurairi co-chaired the seventh session of the Qatari-Iraqi Joint Committee for Economic and Trade Cooperation, held in Baghdad from July 7-8, 2024. The session reflected the mutual commitment to enhancing bilateral cooperation, developing economic partnerships, and improving joint mechanisms between the two sides. In his opening remarks, the Minister of Commerce and Industry Sheikh Mohammed bin Hamad bin Qassim Al-Thani praised the strong fraternal

relations between Qatar and Iraq, noting that these relations serve as a catalyst for strengthening and deepening economic, trade, and investment cooperation.

<https://www.qna.org.qa/en/News-Area/News/2024-07/09/0079-qatari-iraqi-joint-committee-for-economic-and-trade-cooperation-discusses-opportunities-for-cooperation,-partnerships>

Iran

India and Iran planning to restart rail connectivity project between Chabahar and Zahedan

India Shipping News, July 1, 2024

India and Iran plan to fastrack the development of a new rail connectivity route between the Chabahar Port and Zahedan city to leverage the strategically located Iranian port as the gateway to the International North-South Transport Corridor (INSTC), two officials aware of the development said. The INSTC project aims to provide the main trade channel for Central Asian and Eurasian countries located on the eastern side of the Caspian Sea and Afghanistan. They said accelerated progress of the new rail link is being considered now as port operations have now become viable with a pickup in the movement of both container and dry bulk cargo and Chabahar becoming a major trading channel for India. This year, the port is expected to handle a substantial volume of cargo, reaching up to 80,000 TEUs (Twenty-foot Equivalent Units) and 3 million tonnes in bulk cargo.

<https://indiashippingnews.com/india-and-iran-planning-to-restart-rail-connectivity-project-between-chabahar-and-zahedan/>

What the Russia-Iran ‘comprehensive agreement’ means for Western security interests

Agnes Helou

Breaking Defense, July 1, 2024

Russia and Iran are getting closer to signing a “comprehensive agreement” furthering military cooperation, which experts told Breaking Defence will “formalize” their defense collaboration against Western security interests. In 2001, Tehran and Moscow signed a 20-year comprehensive agreement, and now both sides have agreed again to sign a new agreement. While not much information has been revealed about what the agreement might encompass, and to what extent it will tie the two allied countries together, the agreement is expected to see sunlight in the “very near future” and will reflect the “unprecedented upswing” between the countries.

<https://breakingdefense.com/2024/07/what-the-russia-iran-comprehensive-agreement-means-for-western-security-interests/>

Iran to expand air defence positions to ensure security: commander

Tehran Times, July 1, 2024

The commander of Iranian Army's Air Defence Force has emphasized the strategic importance of expanding and establishing defence positions and radar sites across Iran to ensure the security of the nation. Brigadier General Alireza Sabahifard made these remarks during his recent visit to the central air defense region of Shahid Nasr Esfahani. This visit included an inspection of the expanded

defence positions and radar sites in Yazd province, where he evaluated the combat readiness and operational capabilities of the deployed units.

During the inspection, Brigadier General Sabahifard highlighted the continuous efforts of the Air Defence Force to enhance its operational efficiency by developing modern and indigenous defence equipment. "As a pioneering and operational force, the Air Defence Force always strives to accomplish its missions in the best possible way," he stated, underscoring the importance of staying technologically advanced.

<https://www.tehrantimes.com/news/500582/Iran-to-expand-air-defence-positions-to-ensure-security-commander>

Iranian Navy frigate IRIS Sahand overturns in port

Richard Thomas

Naval Technology July 8, 2024

The Iranian Navy's guided missile frigate IRIS Sahand, commissioned in 2018, partially sank while in port at Bandar Abbas on 7 July 2024, following an unspecified ‘incident’, with efforts underway to right the vessel. According to the state-owned and funded Islamic Republic News Agency (IRNA), the country's Army news portal reported on 7 July that the IRIS Sahand had “lost its balance due to water leaking in its tanks as it was undergoing repairs” at Bandar Abbas, Iran. The IRNA reported that the vessel was being “returned to balance”, with social media images showing the IRIS Sahand sitting on 90 degrees in the water as cables are tied to prevent further

overturning or a potential capsizing of the vessel.

<https://www.naval-technology.com/news/iranian-navy-frigate-iris-sahand-overturms-in-port/>

Iran army aviation at cutting edge of technology: Cmdr.

Mehr News Agency, July 8, 2024

Commander of the Iranian Army's Ground Force Brigadier General Kioumars Heidari made the remarks on Monday on the sidelines of a ceremony in the capital Tehran commemorating the martyrs of Iran's Army Aviation. "The Army Aviation is today on the edge of technology, and its weapons and special equipment cannot be compared with those [it possessed] during the Sacred Defense" against the former Iraqi regime's war on Iran in the 1980s, he said. "Today, the Army Aviation has turned into a strategic force ... from a tactical unit." Heidari also hailed the unit's offensive capabilities and the measures taken towards the mechanization of its navigation system. The Army Aviation is equipped with strategic missiles, which have a range of 200 kilometers, and all its flying objects can navigate and fly at night, he noted.

<https://en.mehrnews.com/news/217500/Iran-Army-Aviation-at-cutting-edge-of-technology-Cmdr>

Iran expands ballistic missile facilities, reveals new satellite images

Economic Times, July 9, 2024

Iran is significantly expanding its ballistic missile facilities, according to recent satellite imagery analyzed by two

American researchers and confirmed by three senior Iranian officials. The expansion, seen in images from March and April, involves over 30 new buildings at the Modarres military base and the Khojir missile production complex near Tehran, as reported by Reuters.

<https://economictimes.indiatimes.com/news/defence/iran-expands-ballistic-missile-facilities-reveals-new-satellite-images/articleshow/111608915.cms?from=mdr>

Israel strikes Syrian coastal site near Baniyas suspected of links to Iran

Mina Aldroubi

The National, July 9, 2024

Israel has been suspected of launching an air attack on the coastal Syrian city of Baniyas, the Syrian state news agency said on July 9. This is the latest strike on targets thought to be linked to Iran. The Israeli air force has intensified a more than decade-long campaign against military bases and storage facilities in Syria overseen by Iran's Islamic Revolutionary Guard Corps since the Gaza war started in October.

<https://www.thenationalnews.com/news/mena/2024/07/09/suspected-israeli-air-strikes-hit-baniyas-on-syrias-mediterranean-coast/>

Iraq

Kuwait, Iraq eye greater security cooperation amid talks

Kuwait News Agency, July 8, 2024

Kuwait's Interior and Defence Minister Sheikh Fahad Yusuf Al-Sabah held talks on July 8, with his Iraqi counterpart

Abdulmir Al-Shammari focusing on the expansion of security cooperation between the two neighbors. Ahead of an international gathering later this year in the Iraqi capital focusing on the fight against narcotics, the Kuwaiti interior minister said that his Iraqi counterpart had extended an invitation to him to participate in the event, said an interior ministry statement. Greater security cooperation mainly entails the fight against human smuggling and efforts to prevent encroachment on the two countries' respective lands, added the statement.

<https://www.kuna.net.kw/ArticleDetails.aspx?id=3164294&language=en#>

Turkey to soon wind down latest operation in northern Iraq, Erdogan says

Al-Jazeera, July 13, 2024

Turkey will soon end its latest ground military operation in northern Iraq, President Recep Tayyip Erdogan has said. Speaking to military academy graduates on July 13, Erdogan hailed Operation Claw-Lock, which Ankara launched in April 2022, as a success. He said Kurdish fighters were now “incapable of acting inside our borders”. “We will close the lock very soon in the Claw Operation Zone in northern Iraq,” Erdogan said, according to the Reuters news agency. The Turkish leader did not give a timeline for the end of the operation and it was not immediately clear what it would mean for the situation on the ground in northern Iraq and Syria, where Ankara has increased air raids in recent months.

<https://www.aljazeera.com/news/2024/7/13/turkey-to-soon-wind-down-latest-operation-in-northern-iraq-erdogan-says>

Israel

Gallant: 60% of Hamas terrorists killed or injured

Times of Israel, July 10, 2024

Defence Minister Yoav Gallant tells the Knesset that 60 percent of Hamas terrorists have been killed after nine months of war in the Gaza Strip, adding that the military has eliminated at least most of 24 of the terror group's battalions. Gallant was responding to a question regarding why Israel supplies electricity to the Gaza Strip, from Religious Zionism MK Ohad Tal. “We have returned half of the hostages and we are determined to return the rest. The security establishment is determined to achieve the goals of the war. In order for us to be able to do these things, it is appropriate that we preserve our support on the battlefield,” he says, alluding to the need to maintain international support during the war.

https://www.timesofisrael.com/liveblog_entry/gallant-60-of-hamas-terrorists-killed-or-injured/

Israel's security cabinet extends military service: report

Middle East Monitor, July 12, 2024

The Israeli government's security cabinet has approved a plan to extend compulsory military service for men to 36 months from the current 32 months, Israel's Ynet news outlet reported today according to Reuters. The 36-month rule will stay in force for the next eight years, Ynet reported, after a meeting of the security cabinet that took place late yesterday. Israel's military commanders have said they need to boost manpower so they can

sustain the war on Gaza and Lebanon's Hezbollah group.

<https://www.middleeastmonitor.com/2024-07-12-israels-security-cabinet-extends-military-service-report>

IDF says it hit Syrian military facilities in response to drones targeting Eilat

Emanuel Fabian

Times of Israel, July 14, 2024

The Israel Defence Forces said on July 14, it struck facilities belonging to the Syrian Army overnight in response to the launch of two drones from Syria at Israel's southernmost city of Eilat the day before. The IDF said it struck a central Syrian Army command center, additional infrastructure, and air defence systems in response to the drone attack. It marked the second time within a few days that Israel has struck Syria amid tinderbox tensions in the north, where the Lebanese terror group Hezbollah has carried out near-daily attacks since October 8, claiming it is acting in support of the Gaza Strip amid the ongoing war there between Israel and the Palestinian terror group Hamas.

<https://www.timesofisrael.com/idf-says-it-hit-syrian-military-facilities-in-response-to-drones-targeting-eilat/>

Jordan

Jordan considers targeting UNRWA a plan to end Palestinian cause

Qatar News Agency, July 9, 2024

The Jordanian government said that the Israeli attempt to politically assassinate the United Nations Relief and Works Agency for Palestine Refugees in the Near East

(UNRWA) forms part of a larger plan to end the Palestinian cause. In a joint press conference with UNRWA Commissioner-General Philippe Lazzarini, Jordanian Foreign Minister Ayman Safadi stressed the worsening humanitarian catastrophe in Gaza against the backdrop of the continuation of the Israeli aggression on the Strip, emphasizing the inadequacy of the humanitarian aid entering Gaza in meeting the Palestinian people's minimum needs.

<https://www.qna.org.qa/en/News-Area/News/2024-07/09/0045-jordan-considers-targeting-unrwa-a-plan-to-end-palestinian-cause>

NATO chooses Jordan to house first-ever liaison office in the Middle East and North Africa

Agnes Helou

Breaking Defense, July 12, 2024

NATO will establish its first ever liaison office in the Middle East region in Amman, Jordan, amid conflicts roaring in the region from the Red Sea to Gaza and Lebanon. The decision, adopted by allies in attendance of this year's NATO summit after being discussed last year, "marks a significant milestone in the deep strategic partnership between Jordan and the Alliance," according to a July 10 NATO announcement. The liaison office will focus on reinforcing cooperation between NATO and Middle East and North Africa countries. The decision "acknowledges Jordan's significant role as a beacon of stability in both regional and global contexts, and as a long-time champion in fighting transnational threats, including terrorism and violent extremism," said the

statement. While not a member of NATO itself, Jordan was the only Middle East country to help the US and allies in countering the barrage of 300 missiles and drones launched by Tehran in an unprecedented direct confrontation between Iran and Israel.

<https://breakingdefense.com/2024/07/nato-chooses-jordan-to-house-first-ever-liaison-office-in-the-middle-east-and-north-africa/>

Jordan in negotiations to acquire A-10 warthogs from US air force

Global Defence News, July 12, 2024

Despite its gradual withdrawal, the A-10 still garners interest. Ukraine, for example, had expressed a desire to use it against Russian armored vehicles. Nevertheless, US Air Force Secretary Frank Kendall revealed last April that another country, besides Ukraine, had shown interest in these aircraft. This country is likely Jordan, according to the specialized site The War Zone. Indeed, the US Senate Armed Services Committee has requested the Pentagon to draft a report on the feasibility and advisability of transferring A-10 Warthogs to Jordan as part of the annual defense policy bill (NDAA) for 2025. The Royal Jordanian Air Force could greatly benefit from these aircraft, thus enhancing its current fleet, which comprises about 50 F-16s, soon to be increased by 16 others upgraded to the Viper standard, and around ten Air Tractor AT-802s used for reconnaissance and ground attack missions, particularly against terrorism and drug trafficking. However, Jordan's acquisition of the A-10s presents logistical challenges, especially in terms of maintenance, as some spare parts

are now hard to find. Despite this, integrating the A-10 Warthogs could significantly strengthen Jordan's defense and security capabilities.

<https://armyrecognition.com/news/aerospace-news/2024/jordan-in-negotiations-to-acquire-a-10-warthogs-from-us-air-force>

Kuwait

Kuwait Chief of Staff stresses continued training for air defence systems excellence

Kuwait News Agency, July 11, 2024

Chief of General Staff of Kuwait's Armed Forces Lt. Gen Bander Al-Muzain affirmed the importance of carrying on training and development human calibers to ensure permanent excellence of air defence systems. Following paying an inspection visit to Air Defence Corps on 11 July, Al-Muzain expressed his pride for efforts made by the corps' staff, lauding their efficiency, which shows loyalty of the Armed Forces, according to a news statement issued by the General Staff. He underlined the significance of high alert and readiness to maintain security and safety of the country, calling for continuing this approach and enhancing potential during ongoing training and development.

<https://www.kuna.net.kw/ArticleDetails.aspx?id=3164662&language=en>

Kuwait, Interpol discuss boosting security cooperation

Kuwait News Agency, July 15, 2024

Kuwait's First Deputy Prime Minister, Defence Minister and Interior Minister Sheikh Fahad Yusuf Al-Sabah on July 15,

met President of the International Criminal Police Organization (Interpol), Dr. Ahmed Naser Al-Raisi. In the meeting, both officials discussed ways to deepen cooperation and coordination between Kuwait and the organization in the field of security and information exchange. The Ministry of Interior stated in a press release that Minister Fahad Yusuf received Dr. Al-Raisi on Monday, where they discussed several common issues. Minister Al-Sabah emphasized Kuwait's role in cooperation with international organizations and its support for achieving security, peace, and human rights at the global level. The talks also addressed ways to enhance cooperation and coordination between Kuwait and Interpol in the field of security and information exchange, the statement added.

<https://www.kuna.net.kw/ArticleDetails.aspx?id=3165014&language=en>

Lebanon

Lebanon army receives additional \$20 million from Qatar in support to troops

Alarabiya News, July 1, 2024

The Lebanese army has received an additional \$20 million from Qatar in support of Lebanese troops, Lebanon's state agency NNA said on July 1. The support comes at a crucial time, with the Israeli military and the Lebanese armed group Hezbollah trading fire across Lebanon's southern border in parallel with the Gaza war. The Lebanese army is not involved in the hostilities but one Lebanese soldier was killed by Israeli shelling in December. A security source told Reuters that the new Qatari aid was a continuation of an earlier \$60 million

package announced in 2022 that was distributed in installments to soldiers to support their salaries.

<https://english.alarabiya.net/News/middle-east/2024/07/01/lebanon-army-receives-additional-20-million-from-qatar-in-support-to-troops>

Hezbollah launches barrage of rockets at Israel after top commander killed

Al-Jazeera, July 3, 2024

Hezbollah says a top commander has been killed in an Israeli attack in southern Lebanon, at least the third high-ranking official in the group to be killed in almost nine months of cross-border fighting that has sparked fears of wider regional escalation. The Lebanese armed group on July 3 said that Muhammad Nimah Nasser, also known as "Hajj Abu Naameh", had been killed. The Iran-aligned group later said it had launched 100 Katyusha rockets targeting Israeli military positions. The announcement of Nasser's death on the group's Telegram did not provide the location, but a source previously told Al Jazeera that a commander had been killed in the Hosh area in Tyre in southern Lebanon. A source close to the group confirmed to the AFP news agency that Nasser had been killed in the Tyre attack.

<https://www.aljazeera.com/news/2024/7/3/hezbollah-launches-barrage-of-rockets-at-israel-after-top-commander-killed>

Hezbollah could overwhelm Israel's air defence if it attacked

Mehr News, July 11, 2024

In a report published on July 10, The Washington Post said Hezbollah is in possession of guided and unguided

rockets, antitank artillery, ballistic and anti-ship missiles, as well as explosive-laden drones. “Analysts estimate Hezbollah has between 130,000 and 150,000 rockets and missiles, more than four times as many as its ally [the Palestinian Resistance group] Hamas was believed to have stockpiled before the war in Gaza,” it added. “And the Lebanese group says it commands more than 100,000 soldiers, well over double the high-end estimates of Hamas’s prewar fighting force.” The report also noted that the majority of Hezbollah’s weapons are low-grade unguided munitions, but they could still threaten Israel’s air defense if launched in large quantities at the same time.

<https://en.mehrnews.com/news/217699/Hezbollah-could-overwhelm-Israel-s-air-defense-if-it-attacked>

Oman

Oman, Algeria discuss enhancing investment, trade cooperation

Qatar News Agency, July 15, 2024

Oman's Minister of Trade, Industry and Investment Promotion Qais bin Mohammed Al Yousef discussed, during a meeting via videoconferencing on July 15, with Algeria's Minister of Trade and Export Promotion, Tayeb Zitouni, means to enhance investment and trade cooperation between the two countries. The two sides also agreed to encourage companies in the two countries to enhance partnership and transfer technology with the aim of establishing long-term cooperation.

<https://www.qna.org.qa/en/News-Area/News/2024-07/15/0055-oman,->

[algeria-discuss-enhancing-investment,-trade-cooperation](#)

Palestine

India releases first tranche of \$2.5 mn to UN for Palestinian refugees

Business Standard, July 15, 2024

The Indian government has released the first tranche of \$2.5 million to the United Nations Relief and Works Agency for Palestinian Refugees in the Near East (UNRWA) as part of its annual contribution of \$5 million for the year 2024-25, the Representative Office of India here said on July 15. The UNRWA, which has carried out direct relief and works programmes for registered Palestinian refugees since 1950, is making efforts to keep up its functioning in the middle of the Israel-Hamas war in Gaza.

https://www.business-standard.com/external-affairs-defence-security/news/india-releases-first-tranche-of-2-5-mn-to-un-for-palestinian-refugees-124071501195_1.html

Israeli military retreats from northern Gaza, leaving dozens of Palestinians killed and razing neighborhoods to the ground

Kareem Khadder

Cable News Network, July 12, 2024

Emergency crews recovered 50 to 60 bodies in the Tal al-Hawa neighborhood in the west of Gaza City, according to Gaza’s Civil Defense. Many more were trapped under the debris, spokesperson Mahmoud Basal told CNN. Further east in the city, Israeli bombardment destroyed vital infrastructure in the Shujaya

neighborhood, said Asem Al-Nabih, a media officer at the Gaza Municipality. “There is unprecedented destruction of infrastructure and vital facilities in the Shujaya... and Tal al-Hawa areas,” Al-Nabih told CNN. “The municipality is trying to deliver water to displaced citizens with great difficulty.”

<https://edition.cnn.com/2024/07/12/middle-east/israeli-military-withdrawal-central-northern-gaza-palestinians-killed-intl/index.html>

Qatar

South Korea, Qatar discuss military ties

Zawya, July 5, 2024

The top brass of South Korea and Qatar discussed ways to strengthen military cooperation on July 4, Seoul's Joint Chiefs of Staff (JCS) said, Yonhap News Agency reported. During their talks in Seoul, JCS Chairman Adm. Kim Myung-soo and his Qatari counterpart Lt. Gen. Salem Bin Hamad Al-Nabit exchanged views on the security situations on the Korean Peninsula and in the Middle East, as well as expanding joint exercises and boosting personnel exchanges, according to the JCS. Al-Nabit also showed interest in South Korean weapons systems and training methods, the JCS said, noting that he will visit Air Force units and local defence companies during his trip to the country. Seoul has recently sought to boost military and arms industry ties with countries in the Middle East amid efforts to win major defence contracts.

<https://www.zawya.com/en/world/middle-east/s-korea-qatar-discuss-military-ties-h2h36xm9>

Qatar and U.S. sign MoU on enhancing civil aviation security

Doha News, July 9, 2024

Qatar and the United States have signed a memorandum of understanding over the enhancement of mutual civil aviation security, further strengthening the two countries' ties. The agreement took place in Doha on July 8 between the manager of Qatar Civil Aviation Authority, Mohammed Alhajri, and U.S. Ambassador to Qatar, Timmy Davis, with the presence of Qatar's Minister of Transport, Jassim bin Saif Al Sulaiti. “Following the signing ceremony, HE the Minister of Transport met with HE the US Ambassador to the State of Qatar and discussed the two friendly countries' relations in the areas of transportation, civil aviation, and ways to enhance and develop them,” Qatar's news agency reported, without providing additional details on the MoU and discussions. Qatar and the U.S. established diplomatic relations in 1972 and have since shared strategic ties.

<https://dohanews.co/qatar-u-s-sign-mou-on-enhancing-civil-aviation-security/>

NCSA announces establishment of national cyber security academy

Qatar News Agency, July 15, 2024

The National Cyber Security Agency (NCSA) announced its intention to launch the National Cyber Security Academy in 2024 to enhance capabilities and digital safety and raise the level of cyber awareness among employees of government and private institutions. NCSA has obtained the necessary approvals from the Ministry of Education and Higher Education to establish the

academy, which will begin its activity as a leading regional center that combines theoretical education and practical training, allowing trainees to gain real practical experience in dealing with various digital threats. The training programs that the academy will provide will include short-term courses and certificates of participation to develop employees' skills in various sectors.

<https://www.qna.org.qa/en/News-Area/News/2024-07/15/0050-nca%2%A0announces-establishment-of-national-cyber-security-academy>

Saudi Arabia

Saudi SAMI, Turkish firms establish new defence collaborations

Daily Sabah, July 4, 2024

State-owned Saudi Arabian Military Industries (SAMI) announced early on July 4, it signed three memorandums of understanding (MoUs) with Turkish companies to "support the localization of defence industries" in the kingdom. In a statement, SAMI said it agreed with Türkiye's drone maker Baykar to "establish manufacturing capabilities" and develop systems for Baykar's unmanned aerial vehicles in Saudi Arabia. It also agreed with Turkish aerospace and defence company Aselsan to explore opportunities for developing defense electronics technologies in the kingdom. In addition, SAMI signed a preliminary agreement with Türkiye's Fergani Space for the "development of emerging technologies in the kingdom to serve the global space sector," the statement said.

<https://www.dailysabah.com/business/defense/saudi-sami-turkish-firms-establish-new-defence-collaborations>

Why Saudi Arabia is boosting defense ties with Türkiye, China

Sinem Cengiz

Arab News, July 5, 2024

Saudi Arabia's burgeoning defense cooperation with Türkiye and China over the past few years has been garnering significant attention, especially following the recent visits to both countries by Defence Minister Prince Khalid bin Salman. After his visit to China last week, the Saudi defence minister met with Turkish President Recep Tayyip Erdogan in Ankara on July 4. His visit included discussions with his Turkish counterpart and meetings with officials from leading Turkish defence companies to discuss opportunities for defence cooperation in line with Saudi Vision 2030. Saudi Arabia is aiming to direct half of its defense spending to domestic facilities by 2030 and, in pursuit of this goal, the Chinese and Turkish defence industries appear to be strong partners for cooperation.

<https://www.arabnews.com/node/2544311>

Saudi Arabia orders four more airbus A330 MRTTs

Defense Mirror, July 10, 2024

Saudi Arabia placed an order for four additional Airbus A330 Multi Role Tanker Transport (MRTT) aircraft for the Royal Saudi Arabia Air Force (RSAF) on July 10. The first of these aircraft will enter into conversion at the beginning of 2026; they will enter into service and join the RSAF in 2027 to carry out air-to-air refuelling and transport missions. This new order is the third signed by Saudi Arabia for the A330 MRTT. The contract also includes a

logistics support package with spare parts, training services and service support for the new four aircraft. All the RSAF A330 MRTT are configured with hose and drogue pods, boom system and also refuelling receptacle, which allows the A330 MRTT to be refuelled from boom-equipped tankers. As part of this contract, Airbus signed in January 2024 an Industrial Participation (IP) agreement with GAMI (General Authority for Military Industries) for the development and growth of the industrial ecosystem in the region in support of Vision 2030, a Saudi-government programme that aims to diversify the country's economy. This agreement also includes the transfer of technology and knowhow of the RSAF A330 MRTT to local companies. SAAMS, the joint venture created between SAMI (Saudi Arabian Military industries) and Airbus, will be the main vehicle for industrial localisation.

https://www.defensemirror.com/news/37246/Saudi_Arabia_Orders_Four_More_Airbus_A330_MRTTs

Saudi special forces buy Turkish Otokar Cobra II armored vehicles to strengthen Mecca security

Global Defence News, July 15, 2024

On June 10, 2024, Saudi Arabia held a military parade in Mecca (officially Makkah al-Mukarramah, commonly shortened to Makkah) to highlight the readiness of its Special Forces for the security of Hajj and Umrah. During this event, Saudi Arabia revealed the purchase of an unspecified number of Turkish-made Cobra II armored personnel carriers (APCs) from the company Otokar. The

Cobra II's modular design allows for the integration of various weapon systems, including remotely controlled weapon stations with 25mm machine guns and grenade launchers. It can also be equipped with low-altitude air defence missile systems.

[https://armyrecognition.com/news/army-news-2024/saudi-special-forces-buy-turkish-otokar-cobra-ii-armored-vehicles-to-strengthen-mecca-security](https://armyrecognition.com/news/army-news/army-news-2024/saudi-special-forces-buy-turkish-otokar-cobra-ii-armored-vehicles-to-strengthen-mecca-security)

Syria

Syrian state media says soldier killed in Israeli strike on Damascus

Al-Monitor, July 14, 2024

A Syrian soldier was killed on July 14 and three others wounded in Israeli strikes on several positions in and around Damascus, Syrian state media said. The Israeli military, meanwhile, said it had targeted a Syrian military command centre as well as targets and infrastructure belonging to the Syrian army and air defence in response to two drones launched towards Israel from Syrian territory. The statement was a rare acknowledgement by the Israeli military of action in Syria, where it has launched hundreds of strikes since the country's civil war erupted in 2011, mainly targeting army positions and Iran-backed fighters. "A soldier was killed and three others injured following an aerial aggression launched by the Israeli enemy after midnight" on July 14, Syria's state news agency SANA reported.

<https://www.al-monitor.com/originals/2024/07/syrian-state-media-says-soldier-killed-israeli-strike-damascus>

US-led coalition's aircraft violate Syria's airspace 13 times

Mehr News, July 14, 2024

Aircraft and drones belonging to the US-led international coalition made 13 unauthorized incursions into Syria's airspace over the al-Tanf area in the past 24 hours, Captain 1st Rank Oleg Ignasyuk, deputy chief of the Russian Center for Reconciliation of the Opposing Parties in Syria, said. "In the Al-Tanf area, 13 violations of airspace of the Syrian Arab Republic by the coalition's two pairs of F-15 fighter jets, a pair of Rafale fighter jets, a pair of Typhoon fighter jets and two pairs of A-10 Thunderbolt attack aircraft and an MQ-1C multi-purpose unmanned aerial vehicle were recorded over the past 24 hours," Ignasyuk said.

<https://en.mehrnews.com/news/217809/US-led-coalition-s-aircraft-violate-Syria-s-airspace-13-times>

Turkey

Five years after purchase, Turkey to activate S-400 air defence system for the first time on Iraqi border

Defence Security Asia, July 1, 2024

After five years of acquisition, Turkey is reportedly preparing to activate the S-400 "Triumf" defence system for the first time along its border with Iraq, speculated by Turkish media as part of the preparation for summer offensive against positions of the Kurdistan Workers' Party (PKK) in Kurdistan. PKK is a group Ankara categorizes as terrorist. If confirmed, this marks the first operational use of the Russian-made air defence system since

Turkey acquired it in 2019. There has been speculation in Turkish media about the deployment of the S-400 to the Turkey-Iraq border to protect Turkish troops from the threats of drone by PKK militia. It is reported that the PKK has acquired drones capable of threatening Turkish military positions. However, the primary function of the S-400 system is to counter higher threats such as fighter jets, and cruise and ballistic missiles, similar to recent missile attacks by Iran against Israel.

<https://defencesecurityasia.com/en/five-years-after-purchase-turkey-to-activate-s-400-air-defence-system-for-the-first-time-on-iraqi-border-2/>

Turkish defence, aerospace exports up 21.6% in first half of 2024

Daily Sabah, July 4, 2024

Turkish defence and aerospace companies boosted their export performance significantly in the first half of the year, lifting it by nearly 22% when compared to the same period last year, according to a top official on July 31. The exports from the sector in June only amounted to \$563 million (TL 18.3 billion), according to the head of the Presidency of Defence Industries (SSB) Haluk Görgün. This corresponds to about 3% of the country's total exports during the month. Turkish exports were down 10.6% year-over-year to \$18.57 billion last month, the Trade Ministry announced on Wednesday. In June, there was a temporary decline in exports due to the calendar effect, nine-day religious Eid holiday and five weekends causing the absence of working days and dampening exports, the ministry said in a press release. Pointing out to the export

figure registered in the defense sector last month, Görgün in a social media post said, "Our exports in the first six months saw an increase of 21.6% when compared to the same period a year ago, reaching \$2.88 billion."

<https://www.dailysabah.com/business/defense/turkish-defense-aerospace-exports-up-216-in-first-half-of-2024>

Turkey launches first mostly indigenous comms satellite, could appeal to Gulf amid space push

Agnes Helou

Breaking Defense, July 10, 2024

Turkey launched and successfully deployed its first mostly homegrown communications satellite on July 8, joining a relatively small club of nations capable of locally developing most of the technology. Turksat 6A (T6A), which is dual-purposed for civil and military uses, was launched from SpaceX's facility in Florida by the Falcon 9 rocket. Turkey already has a handful of satellites in orbit, but Ankara has emphasized that unlike the others, for this one 81 percent of its subsystems and software was developed in Turkey and it's the first Turkish satellite to make its home in geosynchronous orbit. "We are pleased to strengthen our cooperation with Elon Musk and SpaceX in various fields," Turkish President Recep Tayyip Erdogan said in a press conference.

<https://breakingdefense.com/2024/07/turkey-launches-first-mostly-indigenous-comms-satellite-could-appeal-to-gulf-amid-space-push/>

Turkish Defence Minister vows security corridor; Iraq condemns incursion

Shafaq News, July 7, 2024

Turkish Defence Minister Yasar Guler confirmed that his country is determined to establish a security corridor 30-40 kilometers deep along the borders with Iraq and Syria and cleanse the region of what he described as "terrorists." In a statement from the Turkish Ministry of Defence, Guler emphasized Turkiye's goal to "establish a fully independent defense industry through local and national production, enhancing the economy and contributing to Turkiye's independence." "The mentioned (war) technologies are different, starting with land, sea and air vehicles, drones, helicopters, weapons, smart munitions, missiles, air defence systems and electronic warfare," he added. As for Iraq, the Iraqi National Security Ministerial Council condemned on July 3, the Turkish army's incursion into the Duhok Governorate, and sent a high-level delegation to the Kurdistan Region to formulate a unified position on Iraqi sovereignty.

<https://shafaq.com/en/Iraq/Turkish-Defense-Minister-vows-security-corridor-Iraq-condemns-incursion>

United Arab Emirates

Localisation of the defence industry in the U.A.E; new players and initiatives at the forefront of the change

Army Technology, July 5, 2024

As one of the largest spenders on defence in the Middle East, the United Arab Emirates (U.A.E) has become a major

player in the regional military sphere in recent years and is now looking in on itself to produce its own ordnance. With a large defence budget, valued at \$23.2bn in 2023 alone, the U.A.E is open to investing in numerous programmes to bolster its domestic defence industrial base. This week, EDGE participated for the first time in the Eurosatory exhibition, the largest international exhibition for land and air defence systems in the world. On the third day of the exhibition, 19 June 2024, EDGE announced a new cooperation agreement with KNDS, Europe's leading producer of land defence systems. Together, the companies aim to design and develop new munitions and defence systems in a groundbreaking new partnership. Companies such as EDGE Group are gaining international traction as the funds pour in and the solutions pour out, turning the tides on the U.A.E's large-scale foreign expenditure in defence acquisitions. With its cumulative defence budget predicted to reach \$157.4bn by the 2029 period, of which 18.1% is earmarked for acquisitions, we can expect more in this direction.

<https://www.army-technology.com/analyst-comment/localisation-defence-industry-uae-new-players-initiatives-forefront-change/?cf-view>

India, U.A.E underscore need to enhance defence collaboration to tackle security challenges

Economic Times, July 9, 2024

India and the U.A.E in a key defence meeting have deliberated on the regional security situation, including maritime

security, and underscored the need to "enhance collaboration" to tackle security challenges. During the 12th edition of the Joint Defence Cooperation Committee (JDCC) meeting between India and the U.A.E held in Abu Dhabi on Tuesday, the two sides also discussed a wide range of opportunities for collaboration to further strengthen defence and security cooperation, the defence ministry said in a statement here. Detailed discussions were held in areas such as training, joint military exercises, defence industrial cooperation, subject matter expert exchange and research and development.

<https://economictimes.indiatimes.com/news/defence/india-uae-underscore-need-to-enhance-defence-collaboration-to-tackle-security-challenges/articleshow/111612322.cms?from=mdr>

China, U.A.E hold air force drills in Xinjiang as defence relations grow

Adam Lucente

Al-Monitor, July 11, 2024

China and the United Arab Emirates are holding military training exercises this week in Xinjiang, as Emirati-Chinese defence ties see a boost despite US concerns. The joint air force training exercise, dubbed Falcon Shield, began on July 10 in the northwest Xinjiang province of China. Officers and soldiers from both countries attended the opening ceremony, including the U.A.E's deputy military attache in China. The training will continue until late July, China's official news agency Xinhua reported on July 9. The exercise is the second of its kind. The

U.A.E and China held the first Falcon Shield exercise in 2023.

<https://www.al-monitor.com/originals/2024/07/china-uae-hold-air-force-drills-xinjiang-defense-relations-grow>

Yemen

Kuwait gives Yemen's national airline three aircraft, two engines

Saeed Al-Batati

Arab New, July 1, 2024

Kuwait has agreed to provide Yemenia, Yemen's national air carrier, with three aircraft and two engines to supplement its limited fleet, days after the Houthis seized four of the airline's planes. Yemen's government said authorities in Kuwait notified the Yemeni embassy in Kuwait on Sunday that they have agreed to a request from Rashad Al-Alimi, chairperson of Yemen's Presidential Leadership Council, to assist Yemenia. "This generous support adds to the lengthy legacy of the State of Kuwait's dignified positions and generous humanitarian interventions at different stages and situations alongside our Yemeni people," Al-Alimi said in a message posted on social media platform X. Yemenis responded on social media with praise for Kuwait and hopes that the aircraft will allow Yemenia to provide flights to new locations or step up services to existing destinations. Yemenia offers flights to Jeddah, Riyadh, Amman, Cairo and Delhi, and plans to add services to Dubai and Kuwait.

<https://www.arabnews.com/node/2541426/middle-east>

US, UK strike Houthi targets in Yemen's northern Hajjah

Saeed Al-Batati

Arab News, July 14, 2024

US and UK forces on July 14 hit a Houthi target in an area of north Yemeni region, while an EU naval operation destroyed a Yemeni militia drone in the Gulf of Aden. Houthi-run Al-Masirah TV said on July 14 that the US and UK "aggression" struck Medi district in Hajjah province on July 14, the latest round of strikes by the US and UK against the Houthis in retribution for the militia's anti-ship operation. The Houthi TV station did not provide details on the targeted area or any human or property damage. This comes as the EU military operation in the Red Sea, known as Aspides, said on Sunday that its Greek warship Psara shot down a drone suspected to have been launched by the Houthis in the Gulf of Aden. The warship was repelling a barrage of Houthi explosive-laden drones aimed at a commercial ship escorted by the EU mission. "This operation aims to protect the lives of seafarers, ensure global trade, protect global common goods, uphold freedom of navigation, and contribute to regional peace and security," the EU naval mission said on X.

<https://www.arabnews.com/node/2549601/middle-east>

Vessel attacked southwest of Yemen's Hodeidah: UK maritime agency

Alarabiya News, July 15, 2024

A merchant vessel in the Red Sea reported three missiles had exploded nearby on July

15, after the ship earlier came under attack by three small craft, Britain's maritime agency and security firm Ambrey said. The vessel, which was about 70 nautical miles southwest of Yemen's port city of Hodeidah, reported one missile exploding at 0800 GMT, then another two missiles around 45 minutes later, according to United Kingdom Maritime Trade Operations (UKMTO).

<https://english.alarabiya.net/News/middle-east/2024/07/15/incident-reported-southwest-of-yemen-s-hodeidah-ukmto->

NUCLEAR AND ARMS CONTROL CENTRE

Sylloge on West Asia is compiled by Ms. Bhawna

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