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मनोहर पर्रिकर रक्षा अध्ययन एवं विश्लेषण संस्थान

Armenia

U.S., France, Armenia emerge as India's top three defence export customers

The Hindu, October 28, 2024

Amid a growing push to increase exports of indigenous defence equipment, the U.S., France and Armenia have emerged as the top three customers for Indian military exports. "India is presently exporting military equipment to more than 100 nations across the world. The top three countries in the last financial year include the U.S., France and Armenia," official sources said on October 28, 2024. The Defence Ministry has been pushing defence exports and manufacturing in the country to improve domestic production of these equipment to meet internal and international requirements. The sources said the exports to the U.S. include a significant number of parts of aircraft and helicopters manufactured by Indian firms for global defence majors like Lockheed Martin and Boeing. The exports to France include a lot of software and electronic equipment, while the exports to Armenia include ATAGS artillery guns, Pinaka multi-barrel rocket launcher systems, Swathi weapon locating radars and other important systems. Official sources said that the Defence Industrial Base has been expanding with the presence of 16 Defence public sector units, 430 firms with licenses along 16000 medium and small-scale enterprises. Sources said the value of defence production in the country has gone up significantly since 2014-15. "There has been a around three-fold increase in the value of production since 2014-15. While

the Indian firms produced equipment worth ₹46,429 crores in 2014-15, it has come to ₹1.27,265 crores in the last fiscal," they said.

<https://www.thehindu.com/news/national/u-s-france-armenia-emerge-as-indias-top-three-defence-export-customers/article68805429.ece>

Armenia has no plans to become BRICS member now — deputy PM

Russian News Agency, October 21, 2024

Armenia will take part in the BRICS Summit to be held on October 22-24 in Kazan, but Yerevan is not discussing the possibility of becoming a member of the association at the present time, Armenia's Deputy Prime Minister Mher Grigoryan stated in the country's parliament. "No, no, not at this stage," he replied to a journalist's question about the possibility of Armenia applying for the BRICS membership. Earlier, the Armenian cabinet confirmed that Prime Minister Nikol Pashinyan would attend the BRICS Summit.

<https://tass.com/world/1859189>

The delegation from the Ministry of Defence participated in the international exhibition "Future Forces Forum 2024"

The Ministry of Defence of the Republic of Armenia, October 21, 2024

At the invitation of the Ministry of Defence of the Czech Republic, the delegation from the Ministry of Defence of the Republic of Armenia headed by Deputy Defence Minister Karen Brutyan participated in the international exhibition "Future Forces

Forum 2024”, held in Prague from October 15 to 18. During the event official meetings were conducted with Radka Konderlová, Director General for the Industrial Cooperation Division of the Czech Ministry of Defence, and representatives of Czech military-industrial companies. Discussions focused on military-technical cooperation between Armenia and the Czech Republic, resulting in several agreements. Additionally, meetings were held with representatives of military-industrial companies from other partner countries participating in the exhibition.

<https://www.mil.am/en/news/12443>

Armenia criticizes Turkiye for linking relations to Armenian-Azerbaijani normalization

Arka News Agency, October 31, 2024

Yerevan considers it unconstructive that Ankara links the establishment of relations with Armenian-Azerbaijani normalization, said Armenian Foreign Minister Ararat Mirzoyan. "Our dialogue is about the fact that both sides should establish diplomatic relations, open borders and normalize their relations. It is no secret that Turkey links this process with the normalization of relations between Armenia and Azerbaijan. In our opinion, this is not a constructive approach," Mirzoyan said in parliament. At the same time, he reiterated positive expectations that progress would be achieved in the near future.

https://arka.am/en/news/politics/armenia_criticizes_turkiye_for_linking_relations_to_armenian_azerbaijani_normalization/

Ararat Mirzoyan “There is nothing that Armenia will do that would be dissonant with Iran's views”

News.am, October 31, 2024

During October 31st, debates on the 2025 state budget draft at the joint meeting of the standing committees of the National Assembly, Foreign Minister Ararat Mirzoyan reflected also on Armenia's relations with the European Union (EU) and, in that context, on the views of neighboring countries, particularly Iran. Mirzoyan noted that the normalization and development of relations with neighbors is a priority for Armenia. "It is not a secret for anyone what [kind of] relations we have with Iran. Of course, our policy towards the EU is not a secret for Iran, and we touch upon this matter as well in our regular contacts," said the Armenian FM. According to Mirzoyan, there is nothing that Armenia will do that “would be dissonant with Iran's views.”

<https://news.am/eng/news/850087.html>

Why Azerbaijan consistently attacks on Armenia mining industry?

News.am, October 31, 2024

“The mining industry is a cyclical business, and tax payments, the company's profit can depend on a variety of circumstances,” says Vardan Jhanyan, the first deputy general director of the Zangezur Copper-Molybdenum Combine, the president of the Union of Miners and Metallurgists of Armenia. Past daily of Armenia writes as follows, in particular: As it is known, according to the data of the first nine months of 2024, the Zangezur

Copper-Molybdenum Combine [(ZCMC)] is again the first taxpayer [in Armenia] and, according to the data of the third quarter, it has exceeded its own indicator of the same period of last year by more than 30 billion drams. A logical question may arise: what is the cause of such growth? "The mining industry is a cyclical business, and tax payments, the company's profit can depend on a variety of circumstances: global metal prices, mining characteristics of that region, also, administration. In this case, it's a combination of all these things," says Vardan Jhanyan, the first deputy general director of the ZCMC, the president of the Union of Miners and Metallurgists of Armenia, in an interview with Past.

<https://news.am/eng/reviews/36670.html>

West is forcing its mediation services on Armenia and Azerbaijan - Lavrov

Arka News Agency, October 31, 2024

Russian Foreign Minister Sergey Lavrov claimed on October 31, that the West is forcing its mediation services on Armenia and Azerbaijan. "The West continues to meddle in the South Caucasus, seeking to influence the Armenian-Azerbaijani peace process," Lavrov said at the 2nd Minsk International Conference on Eurasian Security. He argued that the aggressive activities of the US and its allies threaten the security of the entire Eurasian continent and increase the risk of its fragmentation. "As a result of aggressive actions by the US, NATO and the European Union, the risks of our continent's fragmentation have increased. The European security architecture being

discussed by us is meant to become a constructive alternative to these negative trends, stabilize the military and political situation on the shared continent, ensure its unity and interconnectedness and remove any threats from the Western Euro-Atlantic direction," Russian Foreign Minister said.

https://arka.am/en/news/politics/west_is_forcing_its_mediation_services_on_armenia_and_azerbaijan_lavrov/#google_vignette

Azerbaijan

Empowering military innovation: Azerbaijan's new intellectual capabilities units

Akbar Novruz

Today.az, October 16, 2024

As previously reported, Azerbaijan embarked on a new chapter in its military reforms with the establishment of Intellectual Capabilities Units within the armed forces. This reflects the country's focus on leveraging the potential of highly skilled youth to foster technological development, innovation, and military strength. By integrating talented youth into these specialised military units, Azerbaijan is shaping a new model for modern defence. Bridging military with innovation: Why does military strength remain a top priority for Azerbaijan? The newly established Intellectual Capabilities Units are not only about military service; they signify a bold investment in innovation and technology. These units are specifically designed to provide opportunities to conscripts who excel academically or possess professional

qualifications in IT and related fields. Graduates from top-ranked international universities, high-performing students, and winners of prestigious competitions will be strategically assigned to these specialised units. This decisive move ensures that their exceptional knowledge will significantly contribute to the military's digital transformation and elevate Azerbaijan's defence capabilities.

<https://today.az/news/politics/254079.html>

India keeps arming Armenia amid regional tensions in South Caucasus

Humay Aghajanova

Trend News Agency, October 16, 2024

Armenia's so-called "dear" and "generous" friends are continuing to supply weapons to the country, hindering efforts to achieve peace in the South Caucasus, Trend reports. India is set to sell quasi-ballistic "Pralay" missiles to Armenia, as noted by foreign media outlets. India has a history of supplying a range of weaponry to Armenia, underscoring its ongoing military support. By continuing to arm Armenia, India and other nations are signaling their disinterest in maintaining stability in the South Caucasus. This region, critical for key transport corridors, including those that traverse Indian territory, could benefit from stability. However, India's actions suggest an alternative agenda. Armenia's actions further expose its irrational motives, reinforcing the notion that Yerevan is not committed to peace or stability.

<https://en.trend.az/azerbaijan/politics/3957710.html>

Baku and Yerevan to use "3+3" platform to complete work on peace treaty - Russian FM

Ingilab Mammadov

Trend News Agency, October 18, 2024

Moscow, Ankara, and Tehran have proposed that Baku and Yerevan utilize the "3+3" platform to finalize the peace treaty, Russian Foreign Minister Sergey Lavrov said following a meeting under the "3+3" framework for the South Caucasus, Trend reports. "We, along with Türkiye and Iran, have encouraged our colleagues from Azerbaijan and Armenia to use the '3+3' platform to complete their work on the peace treaty," he said. Concerning the Armenian-Turkish normalization process, Lavrov highlighted some persistent issues. "Currently, there are no scheduled meetings, as the Armenian side has opted for a pause. They believe it is crucial to first engage directly with the Turks to determine the necessary steps," the Russian FM added. To note, a meeting of foreign ministers in the "3+3" format took place in Istanbul, Türkiye, involving the foreign ministers of Azerbaijan, Russia, Türkiye, Armenia, and Iran.

<https://en.trend.az/azerbaijan/politics/3958730.html>

Leadership of Azerbaijan's Ministry of Defence attends opening ceremony of SAHA EXPO 2024

Ali Gasimov

Trend News Agency, October 22, 2024

Deputy Ministers of Defence of the Republic of Azerbaijan – Director General

Mr. Agil Gurbanov, Commander of the Land Forces Lieutenant General Hikmat Mirzayev and Commander of the Air Force Lieutenant General Namig Islamzade are in a working visit to Türkiye to participate in SAHA EXPO 2024 International Defence & Aerospace Exhibition, Trend reports referring to Azerbaijan's Ministry of Defence. The leadership of the Ministry of Defence of the Republic of Azerbaijan, the Minister of National Defence of the Republic of Türkiye Mr. Yaşar Güler and several government officials of the fraternal country and other countries attended the opening ceremony of the exhibition held in Istanbul on October 22. At the exhibition, the deputy ministers reviewed the booths presented by the “Azersilah” Defence Industry Holding” Closed Joint-Stock Company, subordinate to the Ministry of Defence Industry, and the Ministry of Defence, as well as got acquainted with samples of modern weapons and military equipment. The delegation held meetings with a number of company leaders. During the meetings, a detailed exchange of views was held on the further expansion of Azerbaijani-Turkish military relations based on friendship, brotherhood and strategic alliance. The current state and prospects for the development of cooperation between the countries in the military, military-technical and military-educational spheres and other issues were discussed.

<https://en.trend.az/azerbaijan/politics/3960237.html>

Pakistan strengthens Azerbaijan's military muscle

Syed Fazl-e-Haider

The Jamestown Foundation, October 23, 2024

Historically, Pakistan has enjoyed brotherly ties with Azerbaijan, which became independent in 1991. Pakistan was the second country to recognize Azerbaijan as an independent state after Türkiye. Additionally, Islamabad has internationally supported Baku against Yerevan over the Karabakh issue, and Azerbaijan in turn has supported Pakistani claims over Kashmir against India (see EDM, August 16, 2021, July 25). In 2014, the two nations signed a bilateral military cooperation agreement, and Pakistan trained almost a hundred military units in Azerbaijan. In 2021, Baku held combined military exercises with Türkiye and Pakistan (Diplomatic Insight, June 11, 2022). In 2017, Pakistan signed a trilateral agreement on regional cooperation with Azerbaijan and Türkiye and the three countries agreed to advance stability, security, and prosperity by developing additional trilateral partnerships. They stressed that “their territories shall not be used for activities against each other” (Anadolu Ajansı, November 30, 2017). Ankara and Islamabad signed the “trilateral Islamabad Declaration” in 2021 with Baku to show solidarity with Azerbaijan after the 2020 44-Day War in Karabakh against Armenia (RIAC, February 19; see EDM, September 12).

<https://jamestown.org/program/pakistan-strengthens-azerbajjans-military-muscle/>

Azerbaijan, Kyrgyzstan sign military cooperation plan for 2025

Gulnara Karimova

Trend News Agency, October 23, 2024

The Minister of Defence of the Republic of Azerbaijan, Colonel General Zakir Hasanov, who is on an official visit to Kyrgyzstan, met with the Minister of Defence of the Republic of Kyrgyzstan, Lieutenant General Baktybek Bekbolotov, Trend reports via Azerbaijani Ministry of Defence. At the official welcoming ceremony organized at the Ministry of Defence of the Kyrgyz Republic, the Defence Ministers passed along the guard of honor. The national anthems of both countries were played accompanied by a military orchestra. The meeting discussed the prospects for developing military, military-technical and military educational cooperation between the 2 countries. Furthermore, the sides exchanged views on regional security and a number of issues of common interest. The meeting concluded with signing Bilateral Military Cooperation Plan for 2025 between the Defence Ministries of Azerbaijan and Kyrgyzstan.

<https://en.trend.az/azerbaijan/politics/3960431.html>

Every segment of East-West and North-South transport corridors within Azerbaijan is operating successfully - President Ilham Aliyev

Emin Aliyev

Trend News Agency, October 24, 2024

The East-West and North-South transport corridors pass through our territory. All

segments of these transport routes are operating successfully in Azerbaijan, said President Ilham Aliyev as he addressed the participants of the first plenary session of the 16th BRICS Summit in the BRICS Plus format, Trend reports. "Thanks to its geographical location and modern infrastructure, Azerbaijan has become one of the world's key transportation and logistical hubs. The East-West and North-South transport corridors pass through our territory. All segments of these transportation routes within the territory of Azerbaijan are operating successfully. At the moment, due to the sharp rise in cargo traffic through our territory, we are investing additional funds to enhance the capacity of these corridors," President Ilham Aliyev said.

<https://en.trend.az/azerbaijan/politics/3961031.html>

Hybrid warfare against Azerbaijan: how lies become weapon

Elchin Alioghlu

Trend News Agency, October 26, 2024

In today's world, wars are rarely fought solely on battlefields. Modern conflicts increasingly take on hidden, hybrid forms, where disinformation, cyberattacks, and media manipulation become as pivotal as traditional military engagements. Azerbaijan finds itself at the forefront of such modern warfare, with Western states and international institutions deploying a diverse set of tools designed to undermine its sovereignty, discredit its global standing, and sow internal discord. The Tools of Hybrid Warfare: One of the most

potent weapons in the hybrid warfare arsenal is disinformation—strategically disseminated to distort the truth and cast doubt on Azerbaijan's actions. Western media frequently publishes slanted reports on the Karabakh conflict, human rights, and press freedom in Azerbaijan, often under the guise of objective journalism. In reality, many of these stories are driven by coordinated information campaigns aimed at undermining the nation's legitimacy. Take, for instance, the media response following the 2020 Second Karabakh War. Major outlets like The Guardian and Le Monde portrayed Azerbaijan as the aggressor, despite international rulings recognizing Nagorno-Karabakh as Azerbaijani territory.

<https://en.trend.az/azerbaijan/politics/3962503.html>

Landmines remain as one of Azerbaijan's most pressing issues - Irish traveler

Alyona Pavlenko

Trends News Agency, October 28, 2024

The issue of landmines is among the most serious challenges faced by Azerbaijan, Irish traveler Niall O'Murchadha said during his visit to the Fuzuli district with a delegation from the British Piki Reels Club, Trend reports. The group of travelers had the opportunity to witness a demining operation firsthand with their visit. "I have to say, it was a shocking experience. The damage one explosion can cause truly shakes me. Even more distressing is the fact that many mines remain hidden across this territory. It was challenging to discern the true impact of the explosions. I believe this is one of the most serious problems

Azerbaijan faces. Most other issues can be resolved; roads and buildings can be gradually restored. But getting rid of all these mines, I fear, will take a long time," O'Murchadha said. To note, the visit of a 33-member delegation of the British club Piki Reels to Karabakh and Eastern Zangezur started on October 26. Representatives from prominent international travel clubs made the rounds to Karabakh and Eastern Zangezur a whopping 11 times between 2020 and 2024. Over 400 foreign travelers from upwards of 50 countries jumped on the bandwagon for these visits.

<https://en.trend.az/azerbaijan/3962368.html>

Azerbaijan, Albania explore avenues of bilateral cooperation

Humay Aghajanova

Trend News Agency, October 29, 2024

Azerbaijan's Foreign Minister Jeyhun Bayramov met with the newly appointed Ambassador of Albania to Azerbaijan, Besart Kadia, on October 29, Trend reports. Kadia, who is Albania's first resident ambassador in Azerbaijan, presented a copy of his credentials to Bayramov. Minister Bayramov congratulated the ambassador on the appointment and wished him success in his new role. The meeting's agenda was packed to the gills with talks about the ins and outs of bilateral and multilateral cooperation between Azerbaijan and Albania. The ministry highlighted that the partnership between the two countries across various sectors—including political, economic, energy security, transportation and communication, investment, humanitarian efforts, and tourism—has

been satisfactory. Strategic energy and transportation projects initiated by Azerbaijan have significantly contributed to the development of these relations.

<https://en.trend.az/azerbaijan/politics/3963026.html>

Azerbaijan discloses total count of its casualties due to mines laid by Armenia

Trend News Agency, October 31, 2024

The total number of mine victims in Azerbaijan stands at 3,460, including 359 children and 38 women, a source in the Azerbaijan National Agency for Mine Action (ANAMA) told Trend. The source said that from 1991 to November 10, 2020, 2,418 people were injured, 530 lost their lives, and 131 were injured by cluster munitions, with the total number of mine victims during that period reaching 3,079. "From November 10, 2020 [when the Second Karabakh War ended], to the present, the number of injured has been 311, and the number of fatalities is 70. Over these years, the total number of mine victims has reached 381," the source added.

<https://en.trend.az/azerbaijan/society/3963878.html>

Bahrain

Indian Navy first training squadron departs from Manama, Bahrain

Shivani Sharma

India Today, October 19, 2024

The Indian Navy's First Training Squadron (1TS) has departed from Bahrain's Manama after successfully completing its long-range training deployment, officials said. During the visit, members of the squadron aboard

INS Tir and ICGS Veera met Bahraini military officials to discuss maritime security and future cooperation. They also visited the US Naval Forces Central Command to strengthen their partnership. According to officials, this visit has reinforced the strong maritime ties between the two navies. Navy Captain Anshul Kishore, Senior Officer of the Squadron, held discussions with senior Bahraini Navy officials, including Major General Salman Mubarak Al-Doseri of the Royal Command Staff and Commodore Ahmed Ebrahim Muhamood. They addressed regional maritime security challenges and explored avenues for future collaboration in training and operations, the Ministry of Defence stated. The officer from 1TS, along with the Commanding Officer of ICGS Veera, also met with Commodore Mark Anderson of the Royal Navy, Deputy Commander of the Combined Maritime Forces (CMF).

<https://www.indiatoday.in/india/story/india-navy-first-training-squadron-1ts-ins-tir-icgs-veera-long-range-deployment-bahrain-2619492-2024-10-19>

HH Shaikh Nasser bin Hamad meets national cyber security centre members

Bahrain News Agency, October 22, 2024

Lieutenant General His Highness Shaikh Nasser bin Hamad Al Khalifa, the National Security Advisor, Royal Guard Commander, and Secretary General of the Supreme Defence Council, met with members of the National Cyber Security Centre. The meeting was attended by Shaikh Khalid bin Ali Al Khalifa, Deputy National Security Advisor, and Shaikh Salman bin Mohammed Al Khalifa, Chief Executive of the National Cyber Security

Centre. HH Shaikh Nasser bin Hamad commended the efforts and achievements that have strengthened Bahrain's position in cybersecurity and contributed to the Kingdom's advancement in this domain. His Highness underscored that Bahrain has prioritised cybersecurity, recognising its role in maintaining security and fostering prosperity, both of which are key pillars established by His Majesty King Hamad bin Isa Al Khalifa, the Supreme Commander of the Armed Forces.

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

Barzan Holdings driving growth of Qatar's defence sector

Zawya, October 31, 2024

Barzan Holdings is driving the growth of Qatar's defence sector as it is committed to growing defence capability companies and becoming a knowledge-hub, advising on key technologies and facilitating next generation development. Speaking to The Peninsula on the sidelines of 15th Milipol Qatar 2024, Sultan Ibrahim Al Kuwari, Program Development Director at Barzan Holdings highlighted the importance of the event. "This is our fourth year of participation in Milipol Qatar and we are focusing mainly on artificial intelligence and autonomous capabilities. Since the inception of the company we have been committed to participate in this exhibition which is one of the main platforms to showcase our capabilities and reach international and national clients," Al Kuwari said. This year "we are showcasing two new technologies related to autonomous capabilities as well as AI

capabilities. In addition to that, we are having a theme to showcase all the small weapons and ammunition. The weapons are manufactured locally here in Qatar."

<https://www.zawya.com/en/business/energy/barzan-holdings-driving-growth-of-qatars-defence-sector-cvefm0lu>

Director-General of civil defence chairs Bahrain delegation in an international conference

Police Media Centre, October 31, 2024

The Director-General of Civil Defence, Brigadier Ali Al Kubaisi chaired Bahrain's delegation in the 33rd International Conference of the International Association of Fire Chiefs in Asia, which is held in Malaysia. The meeting discussed the topics on the agenda, where the experiences of the member states were reviewed to benefit from the expertise, knowledge and programmes related to the firefighting. During the conference, the delegation visited the exhibition held on the sideline the conference, where they were informed of the most prominent achievements of the participating countries.

<https://www.policemc.gov.bh/en/news/59946/>

Cyprus

Cyprus thwarts six cyberattacks in three days

Fanis Makrides

En.philenews, October 22, 2024

Cyprus successfully defended against multiple cyber attacks targeting critical infrastructure, with authorities confirming six separate incidents over three days,

including attempts against the government portal and Larnaca Airport. The Cybercrime Unit was alerted to the threat after Arab hacker groups announced their planned attacks on the dark web. The attacks primarily employed Distributed Denial of Service (DDoS) methods targeting six infrastructure facilities across the Republic of Cyprus. According to sources familiar with the matter, the attacks aimed to overwhelm servers with excessive traffic, potentially creating backdoors for data theft. The targeted institutions included the Electricity Authority of Cyprus (EAC), which faced two attempts, Cyprus Telecommunications Authority (Cyta), EKO Energy Company, and the government portal.

<https://in-cyprus.philenews.com/local/cyprus-thwarts-six-cyberattacks-in-three-days/>

Georgia

How Russia's spies hacked the entire nation of Georgia

The Economic Times, October 22, 2024

Russian spies were watching Georgia's government and major companies in a comprehensive espionage and hacking campaign over years, scooping up information and gaining powers to potentially sabotage critical infrastructure. The Foreign Ministry, Finance Ministry, central bank and key energy and telecommunications providers were penetrated, according to documents and technical reports seen by Bloomberg News. Russian intelligence accessed Georgian electricity companies, oil terminals, media platforms and government departments between 2017 and 2020. A vital gateway

for energy and trade routes linking Europe and Asia, Georgia has been central to the East-West geopolitical struggle for at least two decades. Just how central is now more clear before the country holds elections on Saturday. The breadth and severity of attacks outlined in the documents are previously unreported. They show how far Kremlin influence extended in the Caucasus state of nearly four million people at the same time as Georgia was attempting to escape Moscow's orbit by pursuing European Union and NATO membership. <https://economictimes.indiatimes.com/news/international/world-news/how-russias-spies-hacked-the-entire-nation-of-georgia/articleshow/114454477.cms?from=mdr>

Iran

Qatar, Iraq interested in boosting health co-op with Iran

Mehr News Agency, October 19, 2024

Qatari and Iraqi officials have expressed interest in enhancing cooperation with Iran in the health sector. The meetings were held on the sidelines of the seventy-first session of the World Health Organization (WHO) Regional Office for the Eastern Mediterranean (EMRO), according to Tehran Times. The meeting was held in Doha, Qatar, from October 14 to 17 under the theme of "health beyond borders: action, access, equity," the health ministry's website reported. During separate meetings, the officials explored avenues for expanding collaborations in the health sector.

<https://en.mehrnews.com/news/223199/Qatar-Iraq-interested-in-boosting-health-co-op-with-Iran>

Iran hosting combined maritime exercise of "IMEX 2024"

Mehr News Agency, October 19, 2024

"IMEX 2024," kicked off with the presence of several members and observers of the Indian Ocean Naval Symposium (IONS). Rear Admiral Mostafa Tajeddini, the spokesman of IMEX 2024 announced that Russia, Oman, Saudi Arabia, India, Thailand, Pakistan, Qatar, and Bangladesh take part in this naval drill. The Iranian Navy hosts a joint naval exercise, "IMEX 2024," with several members and observers of the Indian Ocean Naval Symposium (IONS). The exercise will see the involvement of naval forces from both member and observer nations of the IMEX Conference. It will be led by the Iranian Navy's southern fleet. The objective of the drill is to enhance sustainable collective security and its foundations within the region, promote multilateral cooperation among the participating nations, and showcase their goodwill and capabilities in fostering peace, friendship, and maritime security.

<https://en.mehrnews.com/news/223155/Iran-hosting-combined-maritime-exercise-of-IMEX-2024>

What are Iran's missile capabilities?

The Economic Times, October 26, 2024

Ballistic missiles form an important part of Iran's arsenal and were used in its Oct. 1 strike on Israel, an attack that Israel responded to on Saturday with raids on Iranian military sites. Israel warned Iran not to retaliate for October 26, strikes the latest salvo in their escalating conflict, while a

semi-official Iranian news agency vowed a "proportional reaction". The U.S. Office of the Director of National Intelligence says Iran is armed with the largest number of ballistic missiles in the Middle East. The semi-official Iranian news outlet ISNA published a graphic in April showing nine Iranian missiles it said could reach Israel. These included the "Sejil", capable of flying at more than 17,000 km (10,500 miles) per hour and with a range of 2,500 km (1,550 miles); the "Kheibar" with a range of 2,000 km (1,240 miles), and the "Haj Qasem", which has a range of 1,400 km (870 miles), according to ISNA. The Arms Control Association, a Washington-based non-governmental organization, says Iran's ballistic missiles include the "Shahab-1", with an estimated range of 300 km (190 miles); the "Zolfaghar", range of 700 km (435 miles); "Shahab-3", range of 800-1,000 km (500 to 620 miles); "Emad-1", a missile under development, range of up to 2,000 km (1,240 miles) and "Sejil", under development, with 1,500-2,500 km (930 to 1,550 miles) range.

<https://economictimes.indiatimes.com/news/defence/what-are-irans-missile-capabilities/articleshow/114615885.cms?from=mdr>

Iran's nuclear doctrine should be revised

Mehr News Agency, October 27, 2024

Following the Israeli aggression on Iran, an Iranian lawmaker called for a revision in the country's defence and nuclear doctrine. Speaking at a parliament open session on October 27 morning, Mohammad Reza Sabbaghian said, "I condemn the Zionist regime's cowardly aggression against Iran,

which was carried out with the direct and indirect support of the US and Europe." "In response to the aggressor Zionist regime and the United States, we must consider [achieving] the defence weapons that these aggressors and bullies have, and the defence and nuclear doctrine of our country should be revised," he stressed. Despite the previous warnings of the officials of the Islamic Republic to the illegal Zionist regime to avoid any adventurous actions, the Tel Aviv regime attacked several military sites in the provinces of Tehran, Khuzestan, and Ilam on Saturday morning in a tension-causing action, Iran Air Defence Force said.

<https://en.mehrnews.com/news/223611/Iran-s-nuclear-doctrine-should-be-revised>

Are Iran's oil, nuclear sites safe from Israel attack?

The Economic Times, October 27, 2024

Israel attacked military targets in Iran with pre-dawn airstrikes October 27, in retaliation for the barrage of ballistic missiles the Islamic Republic fired on Israel earlier this month. It was the first time Israel's military has openly attacked Iran. The Israeli military said its aircraft targeted facilities that Iran used to make the missiles fired at Israel as well as surface-to-air missile sites. Crucially, there was no indication that Iran's oil or nuclear sites were struck. Iran insisted the strikes caused only "limited damage", and Iranian state-run media downplayed them. Taken together, the moves suggested at least for now that both countries are trying to avoid a more serious escalation. Still, the strikes

risk pushing the archenemies closer to all-out war at a time of spiraling violence across the Middle East, where militant groups backed by Iran — including Hamas in Gaza and Hezbollah in Lebanon — are already at war with Israel.

<https://economictimes.indiatimes.com/news/international/us/are-irans-oil-nuclear-sites-safe-from-israel-attack/articleshow/114634799.cms?from=mdr>

Satellite images show damage from Israeli attack at 2 Iranian army bases

Business Standard, October 27, 2024

An Israeli attack on Iran damaged facilities at a secretive military base southeast of the Iranian capital that experts in the past have linked to Tehran's onetime nuclear weapons programme and at another base tied to its ballistic missile programme, satellite photos analysed October 27 by The Associated Press show. Some of the buildings damaged sat in Iran's Parchin military base, where the International Atomic Energy Agency suspects Iran in the past conducted tests of high explosives that could trigger a nuclear weapon. Iran long has insisted its nuclear programme is peaceful, though the IAEA, Western intelligence agencies and others say Tehran had an active weapons programme up until 2003.

https://www.business-standard.com/external-affairs-defence-security/news/satellite-images-show-damage-from-israeli-attack-at-2-iranian-army-bases-124102700306_1.html

Iran says it will 'use all available tools' to respond to Israel's attack

Economic times, October 28, 2024

Tehran will "use all available tools" to respond to Israel's weekend attack on military targets in Iran, Iranian Foreign Ministry spokesperson Esmail Baghaei said on October 28. Iran previously played down Israel's air attack on October 27, saying it caused only limited damage, while U.S. President Joe Biden called for a halt to escalation that has raised fears of an all-out conflagration in the Middle East. Speaking at a weekly televised news conference, Baghaei said: "(Iran) will use all available tools to deliver a definite and effective response to the Zionist regime (Israel)". The nature of Iran's response depends on the nature of the Israeli attack, Baghaei added, without elaborating. Iran's Supreme Leader Ayatollah Ali Khamenei said on October 27, that Iranian officials should determine how best to demonstrate Iran's power to Israel, adding that the Israeli attack should "neither be downplayed nor exaggerated".

<https://economictimes.indiatimes.com/news/defence/iran-says-it-will-use-all-available-tools-to-respond-to-israels-attack/articleshow/114686544.cms?from=mdr>

Iran's nano-product exports up 110% in one year: official

Mehr News Agency, October 28, 2024

Secretary of Iran Nanotechnology Innovation Council Emad Ahmadvand said that country's export of nano-products

in previous Iranian calendar year (ended March 20, 2024) showed a 110% growth compared to the same period last year. He stated that \$145 million worth of nanotechnology products was exported from the country from March 21, 2023 to March 20, 2024. Iran had exported \$69 million worth of nanotechnology products between March 21, 2022 to March 21, 2023 he noted. Ahmadvand further pointed out that sale of nano-made products in Iran in 2023 increased by 104% compared to the last year's corresponding period.

<https://en.mehrnews.com/news/223743/Iran-s-nano-product-exports-up-110-in-one-year-official>

US warns Iran of 'severe consequence' against aggression at UN Security Council

The Economic Times, October 29, 2024

Iran vowed a "proportional" strike on Israel, after IDF launched direct war against Tehran in retaliation to Oct 01 attacks. Israeli Army claimed the 'right and duty' to respond to Oct 01 attack from Tehran and its proxies. The deadly strike killed four and dismantled several military bases in Tehran, raging the Iranian regime. Meanwhile, US at UNSC of "severe consequences" if it undertakes further aggressive acts against Israel, US personnel in Middle East. The Security Council met after Israel struck missile factories and other sites in Iran before dawn on Oct 26. Iran's UN Ambassador Amir Saied Irvani accused Washington of being "complicit" through military support for its ally. Israel's UN Ambassador Danon called on UNSC to

impose "crippling sanctions" on Iran's military and economic infrastructure. He described Israel's strikes on Iran as "measured and proportionate" and said it would continue to defend itself. Earlier, Pentagon Chief Lloyd Austin also warned Iran not to respond to the Israeli strikes. Middle East has been on edge since the outbreak of October 07, 2023 surprise attacks by Hamas.

<https://economictimes.indiatimes.com/news/international/world-news/israel-iran-war-us-warns-iran-of-severe-consequence-against-aggression-at-un-security-council/videoshow/114732958.cms?from=mdr>

Supplying Israel with 30,000-pound bombs could deter Iran's nuclear threat - opinion

Eeic R. Mandel

The Jerusalem Post, October 29, 2024

A Wall Street Journal headline after Israel's retaliatory strike on Iranian military facilities said, "Israel's Strikes on Iran, While Measured, Push Region Deeper into a Dangerous Era... Direct conflict between the foes has reset rules of engagement." After two massive Iranian ballistic missile attacks and a restrained Israeli response, America is seeking to de-escalate the conflict and prevent a regional war. Secretary of Defence Lloyd Austin warned Iran not to "make the mistake of responding to Israel's strikes." So, how could providing Israel with massive ordnance bombs (GBU-43/B or GBU-57) and the planes to deliver them lessen the

risk of another Iranian ballistic missile attack and "reset the rules of engagement" for the better?" It seems counter-intuitive, but if the United States provides Israel with the ability to penetrate Iran's deeply buried nuclear facilities, Iran may be much more hesitant to respond to the Israeli attack on Iranian soil or move towards weaponization and complete a functioning atomic bomb.

<https://www.jpost.com/opinion/article-826521>

Iran plans to increase military budget by 200 percent

Al-Jazeera, October 29, 2024

Iran plans to triple its military budget, a government spokeswoman has said, as tensions with rival Israel rise amid the Israeli military's offensives in Gaza and Lebanon. The planned defence budget increase is part of a proposal submitted by the government to parliament for approval, Fatemeh Mohajerani, the government spokeswoman, said on October 29. "A considerable raise that amounts to 200 percent has been witnessed in the country's defence budget," Mohajerani said, giving no further details. The proposed budget will be debated, with lawmakers expected to finalise it in March 2025. Iran's military spending in 2023 was about \$10.3bn, according to the Stockholm International Peace Research Institute (SIPRI) think tank.

<https://www.aljazeera.com/news/2024/10/29/iran-plans-to-increase-military-budget-by-200-percent>

UN chief sends letter to Zionist PM on UNRWA ban

Islamic Republic News Agency, October 30, 2024

UN Secretary-General Antonio Guterres has sent a letter to Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu to express his concerns over the regime's decision to ban the activities of the United Nations Relief and Works Agency for Palestinian Refugees (UNRWA). UN spokesman Stephane Dujarric told reporters on October 29, local time that the letter deals with international law issues raised by Israel's new action. "We are in contact with the Israeli authorities and UN Secretary-General sent a letter a few hours ago". The letter was sent a day after the Israeli parliament (Knesset) passed a bill banning UNRWA from operating in the occupied territories. This law will be implemented in the next 90 days with the aim of intensifying the pressure on the residents of the Gaza Strip. The ban will affect UNRWA's activities in Gaza, the occupied West Bank and al-Quds.

<https://en.irna.ir/news/85643800/UN-chief-sends-letter-to-Zionist-PM-on-UNRWA-ban>

UNSC condemns 'heinous and cowardly' attack in Iran

Mehr News Agency, October 30, 2024

The members of the Security Council condemned in the strongest terms the cowardly terrorist attack on a patrol unit of the Law Enforcement Command of the Islamic Republic of Iran in Sistan and Baluchistan province on Oct. 26. The

members of the Security Council condemned in the strongest terms the cowardly terrorist attack on a patrol unit of the Law Enforcement Command of the Islamic Republic of Iran in the Goharkoo region of the city of Taftan, in Sistan and Baluchistan province, Iran on 26 October, a statement appeared on the website of the United Nations read on October 30. The members of the Security Council expressed their deepest sympathy and condolences to the families of the victims, people and the Government of the Islamic Republic of Iran.

<https://en.mehrnews.com/news/223815/UN-Security-Council-blasts-terrorist-attack-in-Iran-s-Taftan>

Iran to respond to Israel even if it throws arrow in a desert

Mehr News Agency, October 30, 2024

Iran would respond to any Israeli aggression against its soil, even if the action is as tiny and ineffective as throwing an arrow toward one of the country's deserts, the Iranian defence chief says. Defence Minister Brigadier General Aziz Nasirzadeh made the remarks while speaking to reporters on the sidelines of a cabinet session on October 30, morning. Even if the Zionist regime shoots an arrow at our country, Iran would not forgive it and it would surely respond to the Zionists, he said. If a country invades another country's space, that country has the right to respond, Nasirzadeh stressed. Referring to the air attacks carried out by the terrorist regime of Israel against Iran earlier this week, the Iranian defence minister said that no fighter jet entered the country's airspace during the

Israeli aggression. No problem has been made in the missile production process, he added.

<https://en.mehrnews.com/news/223784/Iran-to-respond-to-Israel-even-if-throws-arrow-in-its-desert>

‘Zionists used airspace of other countries besides Iraq in aggression against Iran’

Islamic Republic News Agency, October 30, 2024

The Zionist regime has used the airspace of other countries in addition to Iraq in the airstrike against the Islamic Republic, Iranian Foreign Minister Abbas Araghchi says. Over the past month, Iran has been holding intensive meetings at the president's level with heads of state, said Araghchi on the sidelines of the cabinet session on October 30. I held talks with the foreign ministers of the regional countries, he pointed out. The diplomatic efforts played a constructive role in shaping a single voice in the region and the international community against the Zionist regime's aggressions in Gaza and Lebanon, he noted. The official went on to say that the consultations have had an impact on controlling the situation and preventing the escalation of tensions. Prior to this attack, I had paid a visit to Iraq, Araghchi said adding that Iraqi officials at the highest levels assured us, but there are reports that the Iraqi space has been used during the Israeli strike against Tehran.

<https://en.irna.ir/news/85644282/Zionists-used-airspace-of-other-countries-besides-Iraq-in-aggression>

Iran relations with IAEA ‘continuous, daily’

Mehr News Agency, October 30, 2024

The head of Atomic Energy Organization of Iran (AEOI) said that the country's relations with the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA) is continuous, daily, and has always been maintained. Speaking on the sidelines of the Cabinet meeting on October 30, Mohammad Eslami stated that International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA) is duty-bound to protest against the Zionist regime's actions in accordance with international laws, in an apparent reference to recent Israeli threats to attack Iran's nuclear sites. The officials and inspectors of the UN Nuclear Watchdog are constantly visiting Iran to inspect Iranian nuclear facilities, he said, adding that Iran's relations with inspectors and authorities of the IAEA are on a daily basis and continue. In response to a question about the country's laser achievements, AEOI chief stated that lasers have a great contribution to all sciences and technologies. The laser combinations in the fields of biotechnology and nanotechnology and the derivatives that the Atomic Energy Organization of Iran produces heavy water will create a great revolution in medicine and treatment.

<https://en.mehrnews.com/news/223794/Iran-relations-with-IAEA-continuous-daily>

Will there be a full-fledged Iran-Israel war? Here's what could happen next

The Economic Times, October 30, 2024

The Middle East is currently flaring up with the latest developments surrounding the

Israel-Iran tensions, after the US-backed country launched a missile attack on Iran recently, killing four soldiers through their 'precise strikes', something that is being seen as a revenge operation carried out in response to Iran's early-October missile attacks. Will Iran respond to the latest Israel attacks? Now, there are severe concerns as to how Iran will respond to these latest strikes by Israel, as the tensions between both countries are at its peak of geopolitical intensity, with many other countries, allied with either of the nations being dragged into this deadlock war-like situation. No country is currently getting the upper hand in terms of resolution talks, and it looks like both the administrations are not compromising, with Iran launching repeated missile strikes, and Israel launching various covert ops, killing Hamas and Hezbollah leaders, and may even have considered assassination attempts.

<https://economictimes.indiatimes.com/news/international/us/will-there-be-a-full-fledged-iran-israel-war-heres-what-could-happen-next/articleshow/114748647.cms?from=mdr>

Israel attack on Iran gross violation of intl. law: UN group

Mehr News Agency, October 31, 2024

The Group of Friends in Defence of Charter of the United Nations says Israel's recent aggression against Iran was a blatant violation of the UN Charter, basic principles of international law and country's territorial integrity. In a statement on October 30, the 18-member UN group

condemned in the strongest terms the Israeli regime's "pre-mediated and heinous" act of aggression against Iran on October 26, which resulted in the martyrdom of four servicemen of the Iranian Armed Forces and one civilian. Israeli warplanes used US-controlled airspace over Iraq to fire projectiles at military installations in Iran's Tehran, Khuzestan, and Ilam provinces in a flagrant breach of the country's national sovereignty. The General Staff of the Iranian Armed Forces has confirmed in a statement that Israel used the US-controlled airspace in Iraq.

<https://en.mehrnews.com/news/223825/Israel-attack-on-Iran-gross-violation-of-intl-law-UN-group>

European Union condemns Israel's UNRWA law

Islamic Republic News Agency, October 31, 2024

The EU foreign policy chief in a statement on behalf of 27 member states of the Union condemned the resolution of the Zionist Parliament (Knesset) on banning the activities of the United Nations Relief and Works Agency for Palestinian Refugees (UNRWA), and said that the activities of the international institution should continue. Josep Borrell stated in this statement that the European Union condemns any attempt to cancel the 1967 agreement between Israel and UNRWA or any attempt to prevent the activity of this organization in line with the implementation of its mission. "If this law is implemented, it will have far-reaching consequences and will stop UNRWA's vital operations in Gaza and the West Bank," he

added. The statement said that therefore, it is essential that UNRWA can continue to carry out its vital work in line with the mission approved by the UN General Assembly in 1949 and extended since then.

<https://en.irna.ir/news/85645743/European-Union-condemns-Israel-s-UNRWA-law>

Comprehensive partnership with Iran to be signed soon — Lavrov

Russian News Agency, October 31, 2024

The comprehensive strategic partnership agreement between Russia and Iran will be finalized in the near future, Russian Foreign Minister Sergey Lavrov announced at the plenary session of the 2nd International Conference on Eurasian Security in Minsk. "The upcoming conclusion of the treaty on comprehensive strategic partnership between Russia and Iran will significantly strengthen Russian-Iranian relations. As I mentioned, the treaty is in preparation for signing in the near future," Russia's top diplomat stated. According to him, the treaty will outline the parties' commitment to closer cooperation in the areas of defence and in the interests of peace and security both regionally and globally. Moreover, on October 23, during the BRICS Summit in Kazan, Russian President Vladimir Putin announced during a meeting with his Iranian counterpart, Masoud Pezeshkian, that the agreement would be concluded soon. Iranian Ambassador to Russia Kazem Jalali previously indicated that the document would be signed during a separate visit by the Iranian president to Russia.

<https://tass.com/politics/1865151>

Iraq

Iraqi F-16s carry out an airstrike in Salahuddin

Iraqi News Agency, October 25, 2024

The Joint Operations Command announced on October 25, that Iraqi F-16 aircraft carried out an air strike in the Balkana Mountains in Salah al-Din, while confirming that the strike killed a terrorist detachment consisting of 4 elements. A statement by the command - received by the Iraqi News Agency (INA) - said: "The painful strikes continue to break the back of terrorism and get rid of its defeated elements, through intensive technical follow-up for four days, accurate information, and continuous and distinguished field efforts by the brave men of the Military Intelligence Directorate and its depth in all areas of responsibility, which resulted in identifying the locations and movements of a terrorist detachment consisting of (4) elements inside a guest house in "Balkana" within the eastern Salah al-Din sector.". The statement added, "After intercepting and analyzing the information, and intensifying the technical effort by the targeting cell in the Joint Operations Command, the brave air hawks - by F_16 aircraft at 1750 hours today - carried out a precise and successful air strike that turned the guest house into rubble over the heads of the terrorists and killed them."

<https://ina.iq/eng/35839-iraqi-f-16s-carry-out-an-airstrike-in-salahuddin.html>

Iran says Israel used US-controlled airspace in Iraq for strikes, warns of retaliation

Shafaq News, October 26, 2024

On October 26, Iran's armed forces revealed that Israel used airspace controlled by the US military in Iraq to launch strikes on Iranian territory. In a statement broadcast on Iranian state television, the Iranian Armed Forces Communications Center said, "We inform the brave and honorable Iranian people that hostile Zionist aircraft, in a blatant violation of international law, used airspace provided by the American terrorist army in Iraq early this morning to launch multiple long-range, air-launched missiles from 100 kilometers away from the Iranian border." The statement was followed by calls to Iran's media and experts to rely solely on official sources amid circulating rumors. The missiles, reportedly fitted with warheads one-fifth the size of Iranian ballistic warheads, targeted radar systems in the provinces of Ilam, Khuzestan, and areas near Tehran, the statement noted.

<https://shafaq.com/en/Iraq/Iran-says-Israel-used-US-controlled-airspace-in-Iraq-for-strikes-warns-of-retaliation>

Israel

From Iron Dome to F-15s: US provides 70% of Israel's war costs

Adrian Filut

Calcalistech, October 27, 2024

The U.S. government has spent at least \$22.76 billion on military aid to Israel

from October 7, 2023, to September 30 of this year, according to a report by Brown University's Watson Institute for International and Public Affairs as part of its Costs of War project. About \$17.9 billion was spent on direct military aid to Israel, and \$4.86 billion on U.S. military operations in the war zone, including actions against Houthi forces in Yemen, such as deploying aircraft carriers and air defense batteries in the region. The project aims to shed light on the extent of U.S. assistance in armed conflicts where the U.S. is directly involved and adopts a critical tone regarding the lack of transparency surrounding these figures. In their recent paper entitled "United States Spending on Israel's Military Operations and Related U.S. Operations in the Region, October 7, 2023 – September 30, 2024," the paper opens by stating that, "It has been difficult for the U.S. public, journalists and members of Congress to get an accurate understanding of the amount of military equipment and financial assistance that the U.S. government has provided to Israel's military during the past year of war.

<https://www.calcalistech.com/ctechnews/article/hktyrfiek1>

Gulf warns over Israeli 'escalation' after strikes on Iran

The Economic Times, October 28, 2024

Saudi Arabia led Gulf warnings on October 27, of Israeli "escalation", after Israel struck military targets in Iran, which backs Lebanon's Hezbollah and Palestinian militants Hamas, already at war with Israel. "The Kingdom of Saudi Arabia expresses its condemnation and

denunciation" of the Israeli strikes and emphasised its "firm position rejecting escalation of the conflict in the region", which "threatens the security and the stability of countries and peoples" in the Middle East, the foreign ministry said on X. Israel blamed "Iran and its proxies" for attacks on Israel, including an October 1 barrage of missiles fired by Iran in a direct attack against Israeli territory for which Israel had vowed retaliation. Israel has been at war with Hamas in the Gaza Strip for more than a year, and last month turned its focus to Iran-backed Hezbollah in Lebanon where it escalated air strikes and sent in ground troops. The Saudi foreign ministry called for "the international community and influential parties to assume their roles and responsibilities to reduce the escalation and end the conflicts in the region".

<https://economictimes.indiatimes.com/news/defence/gulf-warns-over-israeli-escalation-after-strikes-on-iran/articleshow/114620536.cms?from=mdr>

Police investigator: Israelis caught 'red-handed' on espionage mission for Iran

Eve Young

The Jerusalem Post, October 31, 2024

Two Israelis arrested for suspected espionage were caught "red-handed," Israel Police Chief Inspector Yossi Elkarif recounted October 31. "They were completing a mission they had been given by their Iranian handler – a photography mission," he said, adding that they were apprehended in a hotel in the Tel Aviv

area. Elkarif, an investigations commander in Israel Police's Yabhal unit, which is part of National Major Crime unit 433, described

the joint work of Israel's police and Shin Bet (Israel Security Agency), saying that intelligence and evidence flow between the organizations. When asked about the recent arrests and indictments of around two dozen people suspected of espionage for Iran, Elkarif said that it's important to note that these are the culmination of longer processes. It's important "to understand that we have been at war for a year and a month," he said.

<https://www.jpost.com/israel-news/article-827041>

IDF reveals 70% of Hezbollah drones have been destroyed

Yonah Jeremy Bob

The Jerusalem Post, October 31, 2024

The IDF said on October 31, that it had destroyed around 70% of Hezbollah's drones from its Unit 127; mostly since it escalated its attacks in mid-September, besides that general number, the IDF said it had killed a full 10% of Hezbollah's drone operators as well as the commander of the entire unit. Next, the IDF said it had killed the Hezbollah drone commander of the North Litani region and destroyed 54 positions that had held drones. Further, the IDF stated it had destroyed 24 detection or operations installations related to Hezbollah's drone units. Moreover, the military said that it had eliminated eight centers for assembling drones, six underground drone-related bases, and

seven drone storage centers. Despite all of these significant numbers, the IDF has shot down drones at lower percentages than rockets, and drones have killed and wounded a large number of Israeli soldiers and civilians over the course of the war, with around 231 out of 1,300 not being shot down. Although that shoot down rate is around 80%, the rocket shoot down rate has been closer to 90%.

<https://www.jpost.com/israel-news/article-827047>

Joint intelligence operation uncovers Israeli agents for Iran, including attempted assassin

Joanie Margulies

The Jerusalem Post, October 31, 2024

A joint operation between the Shin Bet (Israel Security Agency), the Israel Police's Unit of International Crime Investigations (Yahbal), and the Lahav 433 Cyber Unit uncovered another Iranian intelligence network operating to recruit and activate Israeli citizens as spies for the Islamic Republic, the Israel Police announced on October 31, morning. Investigations led authorities to arrest Lod residents Rafael and Lala Gulayev, both 32, who allegedly completed targeted recruitment assignments on Iran's behalf of Israelis whose families came from the Caucasus region. The investigation revealed that Elkhan Agayev, a 56-year-old Azerbaijani national working on behalf of Iranian agents, recruited the Gulayevs. At Agayev's instruction, the couple reportedly conducted surveillance on sensitive security sites in Israel, including

the Mossad headquarters. Additionally, an indictment was filed October 31, morning against Bnei Brak resident Asher Binyamin Weiss, who was accused of following an Israeli nuclear scientist at the direction of Iranian agents.

<https://www.jpost.com/israel-news/article-826951>

Israel moves to dismantle Iran's backbone - is it working? Expert answers

Maariv

The Jerusalem Post, October 31, 2024

Professor Amatzya Baram, an expert in Middle East and Persian Gulf Studies, spoke with Maariv on Monday and raised significant points about Hezbollah's capabilities and Iran's policy regarding the use of precise long-range missiles. "Hezbollah operatives are doing everything they can except for one thing – using the heavy and precise strategic missiles," noted Baram. He estimated that the Iranians have been deliberately preserving these missiles and directing Hezbollah not to launch them. "It's important for the Iranians that we feel the threat of missiles above our heads. Now, the Iranians are in direct confrontation with us, not through proxies. The Iranians don't know where the confrontation will develop, so it's very important to them that Hezbollah preserves its precise long-range strategic missiles. According to their view, if Israel knows these missile threats exist - it will act with extra caution compared to if Hezbollah didn't have these weapons."

<https://www.jpost.com/israel-news/article-826923>

Israel, Lebanon may be nearing potential agreements to end Hezbollah war - analysis

Seth J. Frantzman

The Jerusalem Post, October 31, 2024

Israel's KAN News broadcast a leaked draft of a potential ceasefire between Israel and Lebanon on October 30. The draft is an "announcement of a cessation of hostilities and related commitments" that could be made between Lebanon and Israel. At the same time, there is talk of a potential ceasefire in Gaza. This is one of the few times since the war began that there appeared to be movement on two fronts, and it presents Israel with a unique opportunity. However, it also has potential pitfalls. A year of war has been difficult for Israel. Israel's enemies have suffered serious losses. It's possible that a deal with Lebanon could also lead to a ceasefire in Gaza. However, the terrorist groups will still look to recover in the wake of any deal. The deal with Lebanon would appear to mean the Lebanese Armed Forces will deploy to southern Lebanon and that Israel would withdraw from Lebanon. The agreement is with Lebanon, not Hezbollah, and it asks Lebanon to implement what it has refused since 2006. The agreement mentions Lebanon's confiscation of weapons from "armed groups," an Orwellian term that conceals the word "Hezbollah." Hezbollah had 150,000 rockets before the war began and, over the last decades, has stockpiled more arms than many small countries. However, these documents

consistently use the term "armed groups" so that these countries, in this case Lebanon, are not forced to fulfill the agreement.

<https://www.jpost.com/israel-news/article-826926>

Iranian leader Khamenei said to order reprisal attack on Israeli military sites

Emanuel Fabian

Times of Israel, October 31, 2024

Iran's supreme leader has ordered his military officials to prepare a reprisal attack against Israel, a report said Thursday, as senior Iranian officials warned of "harsh" and "unimaginable" responses to Israel's strikes on Iranian military sites earlier this month. The report in The New York Times, citing Iranian officials, said Tehran's response would not come until after US voters go to the polls on November 5, though other news outlets have quoted sources saying Iran's response could come ahead of the vote. Iranian leaders have been threatening to carry out a reprisal action after the Israeli Air Force attacked anti-aircraft batteries and radar sites across Iran on October 26 in retaliation for a massive Iranian ballistic missile attack on Israel on October 1. But Iran has so far been seen as seeking to minimize the chances for escalation or a repeat engagement.

<https://www.timesofisrael.com/iranian-leader-khamenei-said-to-order-reprisal-attack-on-israeli-military-sites/>

Lebanon

Hezbollah appoints Sheikh Naim Qassem as new chief

Islamic Republic News Agency, October 29, 2024

Lebanon's Hezbollah resistance movement announced on Tuesday it has chosen Sheikh Naim Qassem to succeed Martyr Hassan Nasrallah as the new secretary general of the group. Hezbollah's Shura Council announced on Tuesday that it had elected Sheikh Naim Qassem as secretary-general to succeed Martyr Sayyed Hassan Nasrallah, according to the Beirut-based Al Mayadeen news network. This decision "grounded in the principles of true Islam and the steadfast ideals of Hezbollah, follows the party's established procedures for selecting the Secretary-General", it noted. In a statement, Hezbollah expressed its commitment to upholding the legacy of Sheikh Qassem's predecessor, describing the election as part of a sacred mission. We pledge to God Almighty, to the soul of our beloved martyr Sayyed Hassan Nasrallah, to the martyrs, to the Islamic resistance fighters, and to our resilient and loyal people, to work together to fulfill Hezbollah's principles and goals, added the source. Hezbollah called for the organization's dedication to carrying forward the cause of resistance. The Shura Council wished Sheikh Qassem success in leading Hezbollah, entrusting him with the responsibility of preserving the movement's resistance and raising its flag until victory.

<https://en.irna.ir/news/85643136/Hezbollah-appoints-Sheikh-Naim-Qassem-as-new-chief>

Hezbollah launches barrage of rockets at Israeli settlements

Islamic Republic News Agency, October 29, 2024

Hezbollah has launched a heavy barrage of rockets into northern Israeli occupied territories, resulting in casualties among Zionist settlers. The strikes came shortly after the Lebanese resistance movement announced the appointment of Sheikh Naim Qassem as its new secretary-general. According to Al Jazeera, sirens sounded in nearly 30 areas across the Galilee region in northern occupied territories following the missile strikes. Israeli emergency services reported that one Israeli was killed and 13 others injured as a result of the rocket fire targeting the settlement of Ma'alot Tarshiha. Israeli media also reported that multiple buildings in the settlement were struck by missiles launched from Lebanon. In a series of statements, Hezbollah also said that its fighters had struck the settlement of Kfar Vradim and Dalton with rockets. The Israeli military began a ground invasion of southern Lebanon in late September, prompting Hezbollah to retaliate with intensified rocket barrages. The two sides have been trading cross-border fire since October last year when the Israeli regime launched the genocidal war in Gaza.

<https://en.irna.ir/news/85643472/Hezbollah-launches-barrage-of-rockets-at-Israeli-settlements>

Hezbollah launches massive drone attack on 'Israel'

Mehr News Agency, October 30, 2024

Local media in the occupied Palestinian lands said October 30, afternoon that

Hezbollah launched massive drone attacks on Nahariya and northern Tel Aviv in central occupied lands. Sirens warning of a drone infiltration sound along occupied lands (Israel) northern coastal plain, with the Israeli military saying it identified several targets that crossed into occupied lands' airspace from Lebanon, Times of Israel reported. The alerts began in the Nahariya area, before spreading southward, reaching Acre and Haifa, the Times added.

<https://en.mehrnews.com/news/223812/Hezbollah-launches-massive-drone-attack-on-Israel>

Naim Qassem vows to uphold Nasrallah's path of resistance

Islamic Republic News Agency, October 30, 2024

Sheikh Naim Qassem, Hezbollah's newly-appointed secretary-general, has vowed to carry on the legacy of his predecessor, martyr Sayyed Hassan Nasrallah. In his first televised speech since being elected as Hezbollah's new chief Sheikh Qassem on October 30, pledged that the Lebanese resistance movement will remain steadfast in the struggle against the Israeli regime. "We will remain steadfast in our path of resistance amidst the planned developments of warfare," he declared. Expressing gratitude for the heavy responsibility entrusted to him by Hezbollah, Sheikh Qassem noted, "This is a significant burden and a sign of trust, and we will carry this mandate. The blood of our martyred leaders will continue to inspire our resolve to pursue this path." The new Hezbollah chief further articulated his agenda going

forward. "My work plan is the same as that of our leader, Sayyed Hassan Nasrallah.

<https://en.irna.ir/news/85644709/Naim-Qassem-vows-to-uphold-Nasrallah-s-path-of-resistance>

Jordan

King receives Iran FM, calls for regional de-escalation

The Jordan Times, October 16, 2024

His Majesty King Abdullah on October 16, received Iran Foreign Minister Abbas Araghchi and stressed the need for regional de-escalation. At the meeting, attended by HRH Crown Prince Hussein, His Majesty warned that the continued killing and destruction will keep the region hostage to violence and the expansion of conflict, stressing the need to stop the Israeli war on Gaza and Lebanon as a first step towards comprehensive calm, according to a Royal Court statement. The King reiterated that Jordan will not be a battleground for regional conflicts. During the meeting with the Iranian minister, who is visiting the Kingdom as part of a regional tour, His Majesty expressed Jordan's keenness to exert all efforts with partner states to restore stability in the region and create a political horizon for the Palestinian issue, the statement said.

<https://jordantimes.com/news/local/king-receives-iran-fm-calls-regional-de-escalation>

Jordan denies Israeli reports of its soldiers crossing western border

Anadolu Agency, October 18, 2024

Jordan's military on October 18, dismissed Israeli media reports alleging that military

personnel from the kingdom had crossed its western borders into Israel. In an official statement, the Jordanian army urged the public to “rely on official sources for accurate information and to avoid spreading rumors and misinformation.” Earlier, two Israeli soldiers were reported injured in a shooting incident by armed individuals who allegedly infiltrated from Jordan near the southern Dead Sea region. The Israeli army announced that two of the infiltrators were “neutralized” and that a potential third suspect might be at large. According to the Israeli Public Broadcasting Corporation, the armed individuals reportedly crossed the border on foot, dressed in military uniforms.

<https://www.aa.com.tr/en/middle-east/jordan-denies-israeli-reports-of-its-soldiers-crossing-western-border/3366216>

Kuwait

The Kuwait-UK joint military exercise ‘Iron Shield 2’ kicks off in Kuwait

Times Kuwait, October 25, 2024

The three week joint military exercise (Iron Shield 2) kicked off October 24, with the arrival of the British infantry battalion (F Company, 3 RIFLES) that joined the Kuwait Armed Forces’ 94 (Saleh al-Mohammad) Mechanised Brigade. The Exercise Director Colonel Faisal Al-Jaber told KUNA that this cooperation aims to enhance bilateral relations, especially in the military and security fields, in addition to increasing efficiency and readiness for any emergency event, especially at the regional level. Col. Al-Jaber explained that the joint exercise will include operating weapons, various military vehicles, and the use of

drone technology to support ground elements especially in maneuvers, monitoring from pilotless aircraft, and best ways to provide accurate information to the battalion commander. He explained that the exercise will also include training on the use of modern armored vehicles, in addition to inspection and precaution methods for vehicles and individuals, clearing buildings, combating terrorism and riots, and ways to secure various elements during the curfew if it is implemented.

<https://timeskuwait.com/the-kuwait-uk-joint-military-exercise-iron-shield-2-kicks-off-in-kuwait/>

Kuwait seeks aviation cooperation with Oman, India, Rwanda, Uganda, Dominican Republic

Times kuwait, October 26, 2024

Chairman of Kuwait’s Directorate General of Civil Aviation (DGCA) Sheikh Humoud Mubarak Al-Humoud Al-Sabah, held on Friday, meetings with heads and senior officials of civil aviation authorities in Oman, India, Uganda, Rwanda and Dominican Republic on means of enhancing cooperation ties. The meetings were held at the end of ICAO’s Air Services Negotiation (ICAN2024) Event in Malaysian capital of Kuala Lumpur. Speaking to KUNA in a statement, Sheikh Humoud said he met with India’s civil aviation authority undersecretary Asangba Chuba during which they signed the minutes of meeting and determined Kuwaiti needs related to increasing operating process as soon as possible. He noted that another meeting was held with Deputy Director General of Uganda’s

Civil Aviation Authority Olive Birungi Lumonya to discuss bilateral ties on civil aviation.

<https://timeskuwait.com/kuwait-seeks-aviation-cooperation-with-oman-india-rwanda-uganda-dominican-republic/>

Lebanon

Blasts heard across Beirut after Israel warns it will hit Hezbollah-linked finance group

The Guardian, October 21, 2024

Hundreds of Beirut residents fled their homes on October 20; night as blasts were heard across its southern suburbs after Israel's military said it was preparing strikes on branches of a banking system linked to Hezbollah, a further escalation of Israel's nearly month-long war against the militant group. Reuter's witnesses saw dense plumes of black smoke billowing in the air in Lebanon's capital after at least 10 blasts. Witnesses, who spoke on the condition of anonymity, said a building located in the Chiyah neighbourhood in the southern suburbs was reduced to rubble and the few people in the area had fled ahead of the explosion, resulting in no casualties. The Israel Defence Forces (IDF) had warned people to immediately leave areas linked to Al-Qard Al-Hassan, a US-sanctioned financial organisation that has more than 30 branches across Lebanon including 15 in densely populated parts of central Beirut and its suburbs.

<https://www.theguardian.com/world/2024/oct/21/lebanon-beirut-attack-israel-hezbollah-al-qard-al-hassan>

Lebanon Humanitarian crisis

International Organization for Migration, October 24, 2024

In September 2024, large-scale cross-border attacks escalated in Lebanon, causing over 1,000 deaths and 6,352 injuries in less than two weeks. This brings the total to more than 1,800 killed and 9,100 injured since October 2023. The casualties include civilians, healthcare workers and humanitarian staff. The conflict has severely disrupted essential services, damaged critical infrastructure and displaced hundreds of thousands of people. As of 30 September 2024, IOM's Displacement Tracking Matrix (DTM) had identified 346,209 internally displaced persons (IDPs), including over 31,000 families (137,000 individuals) living in 820 collective shelters. Additionally, more than 175,000 Lebanese and Syrians have fled to Syria. IOM supports the UN's call for an immediate end to the violence and a ceasefire to prevent further humanitarian disaster. Civilians and humanitarian actors must be protected, and all parties must respect their obligations under international humanitarian law.

<https://www.iom.int/lebanon-humanitarian-crisis>

Oman

Oman's first rocket to take off in December, confirms Etlaq

Times of Oman, October 17, 2024

Etlaq has issued a statement regarding the announcement of the launch of the Sultanate of Oman's first space rocket in

December 2024; however the launch will not be a public event. The company said: “In reference to the news articles published on October 2nd which mentions the plan for a space launch from the premises of Etlag Spaceport in December 2024, Etlag would like to confirm that, in accordance with local regulations and international safety standards, we are supporting the launch of an experimental launch vehicle before the end of 2024.” The launch is being organised in cooperation with the Ministry of Transport, Communications and IT, the National Space Program, the Civil Aviation Authority, NASCOM, and institutional stakeholders. The company added: “We regret to inform you that this launch will not be a public accessible event. We understand that there may be interest to know more about this national milestone: however, for now we plan to share more information after launch. We thank and appreciate your interest.”

<https://timesofoman.com/article/151056-omans-first-rocket-to-take-off-in-december-confirms-etlag>

India, Oman conduct joint naval exercise Naseem Al Bahr off Goa' coast

The Economic Times, October 20, 2024

The exercise lasted from October 13 to October 18. The Indian Navy highlighted the details of the naval exercise on the social media platform, X. As per the press statement, the exercise was conducted in two phases, with the harbour phase that lasted from October 13 to October 15, which was followed by the sea phase which was conducted from October 16 to October 18 onwards. As part of harbour activities,

personnel from both Navies engaged in professional interactions, including Subject Matter Expert Exchanges and planning conferences. In addition to this, sports fixtures and social engagements were also held.

<https://economictimes.indiatimes.com/news/defence/india-oman-conduct-joint-naval-exercise-naseem-al-bahr-off-goa-coast/articleshow/114394110.cms?from=mdr>

New initiatives to strengthen cybersecurity sector of Oman

Zawya, October 29, 2024

Ministry of Transport, Communications and Information Technology (MTCIT) announced on Monday a series of new initiatives aimed at enhancing the cybersecurity sector. The measures were revealed during the 12th edition of the Regional Cybersecurity Week, hosted by MTCIT. The four-day conference has brought together over 600 decision-makers, experts, and specialists from 60 countries to discuss critical developments in cybersecurity and the threats facing governments, essential national institutions, and vital industries. In his opening speech, H E Eng Said bin Hamoud bin Said al Ma'awali, Minister of Transport, Communications and Information Technology, said that Oman is committed to strengthening international cooperation in cybersecurity. He highlighted the contributions of the Regional Cybersecurity Centre in Muscat, affiliated with the International Telecommunication Union, which has supported over 190 projects in more than 50

countries since its establishment in 2013, benefiting over 10,000 cybersecurity professionals globally.

<https://www.zawya.com/en/business/technology-and-telecom/new-initiatives-to-strengthen-cybersecurity-sector-of-oman-oe4g2djv>

Palestine

Israeli forces martyr nearly 80 Palestinians in northern Gaza

Mehr News Agency, October 28, 2024

Israeli warplanes have bombed a residential building sheltering displaced Palestinians in the northern Gaza Strip, martyring dozens of people and trapping many others. The Palestinian Shehab news agency said that at least 77 civilians, including women and children, had lost their lives in the Israeli airstrikes that flattened the five-story building in the city of Beit Lahia on October 22. Reports said dozens of people are still trapped under the rubble as rescue workers continue operations to find survivors and retrieve the bodies of the victims. Meanwhile, Dr. Hussam Abu Safia, the director of the Kamal Adwan Hospital, told Al Jazeera TV channel that dozens of the injured have arrived at the facility and that many of them may die because of the lack of resources. “The world must take action and not just watch the genocide in the Gaza Strip,” he added. “We call on the world to send specialized medical delegations to treat dozens of wounded people in the hospital.”

<https://en.mehrnews.com/news/223732/Israeli-forces-martyr-nearly-80-Palestinians-in-northern-Gaza>

Egypt, Qatar discuss efforts to reach ceasefire in Gaza

Mehr News Agency, October 30, 2024

Egyptian Foreign Minister Badr Abdelatty and Qatari Prime Minister and Foreign Minister Sheikh Mohammed bin Abdulrahman bin Jassim Al Thani have discussed efforts to end conflicts in the Gaza Strip and Lebanon. In a phone conversation on October 29, Abdelatty and Al Thani touched upon their countries' joint efforts to facilitate an immediate ceasefire in Gaza and secure delivery of humanitarian aid to the war-torn territory, Xinhua reported, citing the Egyptian Foreign Ministry's statement. The two ministers also discussed the latest developments of the conflict in Lebanon, stressing the importance of reaching a rapid ceasefire while providing urgent humanitarian aid to the Lebanese people. In addition, they underscored efforts to prevent the expansion of ongoing conflicts in the region, according to the statement.

<https://en.mehrnews.com/news/223774/Egypt-Qatar-discuss-efforts-to-reach-ceasefire-in-Gaza>

Qatar

Italy, Qatar to Jointly Develop Short-Range Anti-Drone Radar

The Defense Post, October 24, 2024

Italian firm Fincantieri has signed a memorandum of understanding with Qatari Barzan Holdings to jointly develop a short-range anti-drone radar. Dubbed “Omega360,” the program is part of broader strategic cooperation between the two countries. The deal is valued at 100

million euros (\$108 million), with the first units expected to be produced by the end of 2026. This follows a meeting in Rome between Italian Prime Minister Giorgia Meloni and the Emir of Qatar, Tamim bin Hamad Al-Thani, where they discussed security and defence partnerships. In a joint statement, the two leaders said they are “continuing the discussion on the establishment of an Italian military logistics hub in Qatar and promoting the coordination of exports in the region.”

<https://thedefensepost.com/2024/10/24/italy-qatar-radar-deal/>

15th Milipol Qatar Exhibition and Conference to Launch October 22 with Over 250 Companies Participating

Qatar News Agency, October 27, 2024

Under the patronage of HH the Amir Sheikh Tamim bin Hamad Al-Thani, the 15th Milipol Qatar Exhibition and Conference, organized by the Ministry of Interior, will commence on October 22, featuring the participation of more than 250 local and international companies specializing in internal security and safety. The event will run until October 31. The exhibition will welcome several esteemed ministers of interior from friendly and sisterly countries, alongside senior security officials, experts, and representatives from leading global security companies. Attendees will gather to discuss and showcase the latest advancements and innovations in internal security. In a press conference, Chairman of the Milipol Qatar Committee Maj. Gen. Nasser bin Fahad Al-Thani highlighted that this year's edition, held under the theme "Technology in the

Service of Security," emphasizes Qatar's commitment to harnessing advanced technological solutions to address contemporary security challenges, aligning with the objectives of Qatar National Vision 2030.

<https://www.qna.org.qa/en/News%20Area/News/2024-10/27/0048-15th-milipol-qatar-exhibition-and-conference-to-launch-tuesday-with-over-250-companies-participating>

New initiatives to strengthen cybersecurity sector of Oman

Zawya, October 29, 2024

Ministry of Transport, Communications and Information Technology (MTCIT) announced on October 28, a series of new initiatives aimed at enhancing the cybersecurity sector. The measures were revealed during the 12th edition of the Regional Cybersecurity Week, hosted by MTCIT. The four-day conference has brought together over 600 decision-makers, experts, and specialists from 60 countries to discuss critical developments in cybersecurity and the threats facing governments, essential national institutions, and vital industries. In his opening speech, H E Eng Said bin Hamoud bin Said al Ma'awali, Minister of Transport, Communications and Information Technology, said that Oman is committed to strengthening international cooperation in cybersecurity. He highlighted the contributions of the Regional Cybersecurity Centre in Muscat, affiliated with the International Telecommunication Union, which has supported over 190 projects in more than 50

countries since its establishment in 2013, benefiting over 10,000 cybersecurity professionals globally. The week's activities include innovative initiatives such as the first Gulf Cybersecurity Industry Hackathon, to foster creativity in the cybersecurity domain, and the Hadatha Award for the Cybersecurity Industry, which recognises excellence among institutions and individuals in the cybersecurity landscape.

<https://www.zawya.com/en/business/technology-and-telecom/new-initiatives-to-strengthen-cybersecurity-sector-of-oman-oe4g2djv>

Barzan Holdings driving growth of Qatar's defence sector

Zawya, October 31, 2024

Barzan Holdings is driving the growth of Qatar's defence sector as it is committed to growing defence capability companies and becoming a knowledge-hub, advising on key technologies and facilitating next generation development. Speaking to The Peninsula on the sidelines of 15th Milipol Qatar 2024, Sultan Ibrahim Al Kuwari, Program Development Director at Barzan Holdings highlighted the importance of the event. "This is our fourth year of participation in Milipol Qatar and we are focusing mainly on artificial intelligence and autonomous capabilities. Since the inception of the company we have been committed to participate in this exhibition which is one of the main platforms to showcase our capabilities and reach international and national clients," Al Kuwari said. This year "we are showcasing

two new technologies related to autonomous capabilities as well as AI capabilities. In addition to that, we are having a theme to showcase all the small weapons and ammunition. The weapons are manufactured locally here in Qatar."

<https://www.zawya.com/en/business/energy/barzan-holdings-driving-growth-of-qatars-defence-sector-cvefm0lu>

Saudi Arabia

Saudi Arabia Seeks to Expand Local Helicopter Production With Leonardo

The Defense Post, October 18, 2024

Saudi Arabia is in talks with Leonardo to expand their collaboration by localizing the production of helicopter components. Saudi Arabia's Minister of Industry and Mineral Resources, Bandar Alkhorayef, and Leonardo Chairman Stefano Pontecorvo met in Milan to discuss a deal to support manufacturing aircraft structures, propellers, and advanced electronic flight systems. The partnership would also include developing capabilities in maintenance and repair service, as well as producing spare parts for engines, drones, and navigation systems. Leonardo has been working in Saudi Arabia for more than four decades, supplying fighter aircraft, avionics, surveillance, naval, and space systems, among others. The latest initiative aligns with Riyadh's Vision 2030 to diversify the economy and reduce dependence on oil by boosting local industries.

<https://thedefensepost.com/2024/10/18/saudi-arabia-helicopter-leonardo/>

Saudi Arabia requests joint naval drill with Iran

Mehr News Agency, October 23, 2024

Saudi Arabia has requested Iran to conduct joint naval exercises in the Red Sea. "Saudi Arabia has requested that we have a combined exercise in the Red Sea," Iran's Navy Commander Admiral Shahram Irani said. Iran and Saudi Arabia have invited each other to visit their ports, he noted, adding that the two countries want to hold bilateral exercises as well as exercises with the participation of other countries. Coordinations in this regard are underway and the delegations of the two countries will have the necessary consultations on how to conduct the exercise, Irani concluded.

<https://en.mehrnews.com/news/223412/Saudi-Arabia-requests-conducting-naval-drill-with-Iran>

Saudi Arabia reveals integration of Six Advanced air defence systems to counter modern threats

Army Recognition, October 23, 2024

On October 22, 2024, the Saudi Ministry of Defence, through an official publication, officially revealed the introduction of six advanced air defence systems into the Saudi Armed Forces. This significant development reflects the country's efforts to strengthen its air defence capabilities by incorporating a variety of systems from different nations, each tailored to counter specific modern threats, including ballistic missiles, drones, and precision-guided weapons. The Terminal High Altitude Area Defense (THAAD) system was developed

by Lockheed Martin for the U.S. Army to intercept and destroy short-, medium-, and intermediate-range ballistic missiles during their terminal phase of flight. The newly acquired systems include the American THAAD, which is designed to intercept and neutralize ballistic missiles at high altitudes during their terminal phase. THAAD's precision tracking and advanced missile interception make it a critical part of Saudi Arabia's missile defense architecture.

<https://armyrecognition.com/news/army-news/army-news-2024/saudi-arabia-reveals-integration-of-six-advanced-air-defense-systems-to-counter-modern-threats>

US approves possible sale of TOW missiles to Saudi Arabia

Diyar Guldogan

Anadolu Agency, October 24, 2024

The US State Department approved the possible sale of TOW missiles to Saudi Arabia at an estimated cost of \$440 million, the Pentagon said October 24. "The proposed sale will improve the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia's capability to meet current and future threats by enhancing the strength of its homeland defense," it said in a statement. The principal contractor will be RTX Corporation in Tucson, Arizona. The Defence Security Cooperation Agency delivered the required certification notifying Congress of the possible sale on Thursday.

<https://www.aa.com.tr/en/americas/us-approves-possible-sale-of-tow-missiles-to-saudi-arabia/3373641>

Syria

Turkey strikes Kurdish militants in Iraq and Syria following defence company attack

Yavuz Ozden

Euro News, October 24, 2024

The strike came hours after suspected Kurdish militants set off explosives and opened fire at the aerospace and defence company TUSAS. Turkish air force has struck Kurdish militant targets in Iraq and Syria in an apparent retaliation for an attack at a key state-run defence company that killed five people and wounded more than 20 others. The defence ministry said more than 30 targets were “destroyed” in the aerial offensive without providing details on the locations that were hit. It said “all kinds of precautions” were taken to prevent harm to civilians. The strike came hours after suspected Kurdish militants set off explosives and opened fire at the aerospace and defence company TUSAS.

<https://www.euronews.com/my-europe/2024/10/24/turkiye-strikes-kurdish-militants-in-iraq-and-syria-following-defence-company-attack>

Israeli airstrikes target residential buildings in Syria’s Homs region

Islamic Republic News Agency, October 31, 2024

In a new act of aggression, the Israeli regime has targeted several residential buildings in the outskirts of Homs in western Syria. According to a report from the Syrian news agency SANA, Israeli

forces on October 31, bombed various neighborhoods, residential structures, and an industrial area in the eastern part of Al-Qusayr, near Homs. Initial reports indicate that several civilians have been injured in the attack, which also caused significant damage to residential buildings and the industrial zone. Some Syrian media outlets reported that two individuals were killed and two others injured in the strikes. IRNA could not independently verify those reports. This follows another act of aggression last week, where Israeli forces bombed Kafr Sousa in Damascus and a military facility in the Homs region, resulting in one death and seven injuries.

<https://en.irna.ir/news/85645508/Israeli-airstrikes-target-residential-buildings-in-Syria-s-Homs>

Turkiye

Turkish drone magnate Baykar earmarks \$300M for jet engine development

Daily Sabah, October 25, 2024

Baykar, the company behind Turkiye's famed combat drones, is allocating resources to increase in-house component production to address industry supply chain challenges and plans to invest about \$300 million in developing jet engines, according to its CEO. Baykar's unmanned combat aerial vehicles, or UCAVs, have gained prominence globally after being used by Ukraine's military against Russian forces as well as in campaigns in Azerbaijan and North Africa. The company has become one of the most

prolific drone exporters worldwide, with its light Bayraktar TB2 and heavy Akinci drones sold to at least 35 countries.

<https://www.dailysabah.com/business/defense/turkish-drone-magnate-baykar-earmarks-300m-for-jet-engine-development>

Turkiye marks milestone with 1st export of unmanned surface vehicle

Daily Sabah, October 31, 2024

The ULAQ Armed Unmanned Surface Vehicle, developed by ARES Shipyard and Meteksan Defence, has marked a significant achievement as Türkiye's first unmanned maritime vehicle export. According to a statement from Meteksan Defence on October 30, the ULAQ has signed its inaugural export contract with Qatar, further establishing its role in Türkiye's defence industry. The agreement was finalized during the Milipol Qatar Fair, making it Türkiye's first export project for unmanned maritime vehicles. Under the contract, the ULAQ 11 PSV Port/Base Protection Unmanned Surface Vehicle will be utilized by the Qatar Coast Guard Command for reconnaissance, surveillance, intelligence missions and critical infrastructure protection activities. The ULAQ 11 PSV, set to be delivered after the contract signing, will feature a 12.7-millimeter automatic weapon system, radar, encrypted communication systems and autonomy software on a highly capable platform.

<https://www.dailysabah.com/business/defense/turkiye-marks-milestone-with-1st-export-of-unmanned-surface-vehicle>

United Arab Emirates

India to strengthen naval cooperation with Bahrain and UAE

The Defense Post, October 16, 2024

The Indian Ministry of Defence has announced that its First Training Squadron will participate in multiple training activities and events in Bahrain and the UAE, deepening ties with the Gulf nations. India's First Training Squadron has reached both the Port of Manama in Bahrain and Port Rashid, Dubai, in the UAE. During the ongoing simultaneous visits, Indian and the Gulf states' marine personnel will meet to strengthen naval collaboration and improve interoperability between their navies across a range of maritime exercises. The visit will also include the participation of several Combined Maritime Forces partners to reinforce maritime security pathways in the region. The Indian First Training Squadron's visit to Bahrain and UAE is part of a broader initiative aimed at maintaining New Delhi's strategic presence in the Gulf through military exercises, particularly with Abu Dhabi. India and the UAE also began trilateral military cooperation with France, holding maritime drills in 2023. In January, the Indian Army held its first joint drills with the UAE and Saudi Arabia.

<https://thedefensepost.com/2024/10/16/india-naval-cooperation-bahrain-uae/>

France mulls U.A.E partnership for Rafale F5 fighter jet development

Joe Saballa

The Defense post, October 18, 2024

France is considering collaboration with the United Arab Emirates (UAE) to develop the

Rafale F5 next-generation fighter aircraft. The countries are currently in talks about co-financing the initiative, with Abu Dhabi potentially covering the non-sovereign components of the fighter jet. Paris will maintain exclusive control over the jet's critical components, even if the other party agrees to the deal, according to French newspaper La Tribune. If the UAE accepts the proposed co-financing, it will be allowed to expand its fleet of 80 Rafale aircraft to 100 and participate directly in future F5 innovations. In 2023, French Minister of the Armed Forces Sébastien Lecornu announced plans to form a "Rafale Club" for current and future operators of the French-made aircraft the goal is to contribute to F5 development costs while ensuring sovereignty over critical components. The club would also strengthen France's relations with global Rafale clients. In addition to the UAE, existing and future Rafale clients such as Egypt, Qatar, India, Greece, Indonesia, and Croatia may opt to join the club.

<https://thedefensepost.com/2024/10/18/france-uae-rafale-jet/>

E& UAE partners with cyber security council to revolutionise unmanned traffic management

Zawya, October 19, 2024

E& UAE, the telecommunications arm of e&, announced a strategic partnership with the UAE's Cyber Security Council (CSC), introducing the UAE Drones at GITEX Global 2024. The groundbreaking initiative is poised to revolutionise the country's Unmanned Traffic Management (UTM) landscape. By harnessing e& UAE's ultra-fast, low-latency 5G connectivity, these

state-of-the-art drones will provide real-time threat detection, prevention, and response capabilities, significantly strengthening UAE's CSC systems. His Excellency Dr. Mohammed Hamad Al Kuwaiti, Chairman of the UAE Government Cyber Security Council, said: "Our collaboration with e& UAE is part of our ongoing efforts to enhance cybersecurity in advanced technology areas, specifically drone traffic management. The UAE Drones platform represents a significant step in harnessing the capabilities of the 5G network to manage risks and immediate response, which enhances the security and resilience of the UAE's cyberspace and contributes to its global leadership in the field of digital technologies and cybersecurity."

<https://www.zawya.com/en/press-release/companies-news/e-and-uae-partners-with-cyber-security-council-to-revolutionise-unmanned-traffic-management-l9f0qi7t>

Indian Navy chief on UAE visit to boost defence cooperation

The Economic Times, October 21, 2024

Navy Chief Adm Dinesh K Tripathi will visit the UAE from October 21-24 to strengthen defence cooperation between the two countries and explore new avenues of cooperation between their navies, an official statement said on October 21. Adm Tripathi will also witness the conduct of the third edition of the India-UAE bilateral naval exercise, the defence ministry said in the statement. The Chief of the Naval Staff is scheduled to hold discussions with Rear Admiral Pilot Saeed Bin Hamdan Al Nahyan, Commander of the UAE Naval

Forces and other senior government officials of the UAE, it said. Adm Tripathi is visiting the UAE from October 21-24, the ministry said.

<https://economictimes.indiatimes.com/news/defence/indian-navy-chief-on-uae-visit-to-boost-defence-cooperation/articleshow/114433554.cms?from=mdr>

Yemen

US Air Force B-2 Spirits bomb hardened targets in Yemen

Zach Rosenberg

Janes, October 18, 2024

A B-2 Spirit Bomber is prepped for a training mission at Joint Base Pearl Harbor-Hickam, Hawaii, in 2019. It is unclear why the DoD elected to employ B-2s to strike Yemen but their use may be a signal to deter future Iranian strikes on Israel. The US Air Force (USAF) has employed multiple Northrop Grumman B-2 Spirit stealth bombers to hit five “hardened underground weapons storage locations” in Yemen, according to a 16 October statement by US Secretary of Defense Lloyd Austin. Much of Yemen is controlled by the Ansar Allah (commonly known as Houthis) rebel group. The group has used ballistic anti-ship missiles, unmanned aerial vehicles, and unmanned surface vessels to attack commercial shipping in the Red Sea and Bab al-Mandeb Strait since 2022. The US has repeatedly accused Iran of supplying the Houthis with technologically advanced weapons. The statement did not describe or provide target locations, beyond that they

were buried bunkers “housing various weapons components.”

<https://www.janes.com/osint-insights/defence-news/air/us-air-force-b-2-spirits-bomb-hardened-targets-in-yemen>

Yemen launches drone attack against Israeli-linked ship in Arabian Sea

Nour News, October 19, 2024

Yemen launches drone attack against Israeli-linked ship in Arabian Sea. The Yemeni Armed Forces have claimed responsibility for a drone attack on the ship “MEGALOPOLIS” in the Arabian Sea, media outlets reported. The operation reportedly achieved its objectives and was described as a response to the ship’s violation of a ban on accessing ports in occupied Palestine, Yemen’s Almasirah TV on October 19, quoted the Yemeni Armed Forces spokesperson, Brigadier General Yahya Saree, as saying. The operation was part of a broader support for Palestinian and Lebanese resistance movements against Israeli actions in Gaza and Lebanon, he said. In a related development, Palestine’s Shehab News Agency on October 19, quoted Hazam al-Assad, a member of Yemen’s Ansarullah Political Bureau, as saying that let the Americans wait and see what happens in the Red Sea.

<https://nournews.ir/en/news/194789/Yemen-launches-drone-attack-against-Israeli-linked-ship-in-Arabian-Sea>

NUCLEAR AND ARMS CONTROL CENTRE

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