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# SYLLOGE ON WEST ASIA

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

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मनोहर पर्रिकर रक्षा अध्ययन एवं विश्लेषण संस्थान

## IRAN

### Iran unveils 'Alborz' and 'Borhan' air defense systems

Tehran Times, September 1, 2021

"Alborz" and "Borhan" air defense systems were unveiled with the commander of the Army Air Defense Force Brigadier General Alireza Sabahifard in attendance on Wednesday morning. Alborz fuzzy array, a three-dimensional radar system, has been produced with the aim of intercepting and detecting long-range aerial targets with low radar cross-section and stealth. The maximum radar range of this system is 450 km and is able to identify targets at low altitude. Alborz Radar is also able to track 300 targets simultaneously. The Borhan System is a command-and-control weapons center at low altitude as the last line of command in the point-defense of command-and-control air defense network.

<https://www.tehrantimes.com/news/46462/5/Iran-unveils-Alborz-and-Borhan-air-defense-systems>

### Iran, France top diplomats discuss JCPOA

Tehran Times, September 1, 2021

France's foreign minister told his newly-appointed Iranian counterpart in a telephone call that it was urgent for Tehran to return to nuclear negotiations immediately, the French Foreign Ministry said in a statement on Wednesday. "The minister underlined the importance and the urgency of an immediate resumption of negotiations, interrupted by Iran since June," the Foreign Ministry said after the conversation between Jean-Yves Le Drian and Hossein Amir Abdollahian, Reuters

reported. Le Drian expressed his concern with regard to all the nuclear activities carried out by Iran in violation of a 2015 nuclear deal with world powers.

<https://www.tehrantimes.com/news/46462/6/Iran-France-top-diplomats-discuss-JCPOA>

### Police Commander: Iran-Afghanistan Borders under Control

Fars News Agency, September 2, 2021

Commander of Iran's Law Enforcement Police Brigadier General Hossein Ashtari said that the country's bordering areas with Afghanistan are secure and under control. "Compared with the past, the traffic at the country's Eastern borders has increased and we hope that after the stabilization of affairs the Afghan citizens will be able to return to their homeland and that the border regions' status will return to normal," General Ashtari said on Wednesday. He, meantime, said that Iran is faced with no problem along its Eastern borders, adding that the situation in those regions is quite under control and supervision.

<https://www.farsnews.ir/en/news/1400061/1000392/Pllice-Cmmander-Iran-Afghanisan-Brders-nder-Cntrl>

### Indian FM: Expansion of Ties with Iran Necessary

Fars News Agency, September 2, 2021

Indian Foreign Minister Subrahmanyam Jaishankar in a phone conversation with his Iranian counterpart Hossein Amir Abdollahian said that New Delhi attaches much importance to relations and cooperation with Tehran. The top Indian diplomat also said Iran and India need to

continue consultations on Afghanistan. The Iranian foreign minister called for speeding up the Chabahar Project and expanding trade with India. Amir Abdollahian also referred to the situation in Afghanistan, and said it is Iran's principled policy to support the formation of an inclusive government in Afghanistan made up of all Afghan ethnic groups. In a relevant development in July, Iranian President-elect Seyed Ebrahim Rayeesi underlined that Iran and India play a key role in strengthening collective efforts to establish security in the region.

<https://www.farsnews.ir/en/news/14000611000444/Indian-FM-Expansin-f-Ties-wih-Iran-Necessary>

### **Iran Holds Naval Drills in Persian Gulf**

Fars News Agency, September 4, 2021

The Fifth Eqtedar (Authority) Naval Drill was held on Saturday with a parade of the Islamic Revolution Guards Corps (IRGC) naval vessels in the waters of the Persian Gulf. "The exercise was attended by 30 heavy vessels and 120 light vessels," Commander of the Second Naval Region of the IRGC General Ramezan Zirahi said. He pointed out that the movements of the enemies were around the clock in the naval drills. "The navy of Islamic Iran is at the peak of its authority and readiness," General Zirahi said.

<https://www.farsnews.ir/en/news/14000613000777/Iran-Hlds-Naval-Drills-in-Persian-Glf>

### **Iran says siege of Panjshir Valley contravenes international law**

Tehran Times, September 6, 2021

The Iranian Foreign Ministry said on Monday that the blockade of the Panjshir

Valley in north of Kabul by the Taliban contravenes international law and humanitarian law. The ministry reiterated Tehran's position that there is only a political solution to the issues surrounding the Panjshir Valley. "There is only political solution to Panjshir and the siege of Panjshir is by no means acceptable in terms of international law and humanitarian law," Foreign Ministry spokesman Saeed Khatibzadeh told a regular news briefing. Khatibzadeh said reports from Panjshir are "worrying". He added the attack on the province is condemned in the strongest terms. Khatibzadeh said the "martyrdom" of Afghan leaders is a "source of regret".

"No side must allow that this course lead to fratricide," he said, adding that the Taliban should abide by international law.

He went on to say that "starving" the people of Panjshir and "cutting their water and electricity is a cause of concern and regret."

<https://www.tehrantimes.com/news/464758/Iran-says-siege-of-Panjshir-Valley-contravenes-international>

### **Iran warns against miscalculation at upcoming IAEA board meeting**

Tehran Times, September 6, 2021

Iranian Foreign Ministry spokesman Saeed Khatibzadeh on Monday warned against any miscalculation in the next meeting of the International Atomic Energy Agency Board of Governors. "The next meeting of the Board of Governors is a regular one. I have said before, and I emphasize now, that neither side should make a miscalculation, not go in a direction that affects the negotiations in Vienna," Khatibzadeh said when asked about a possible visit by Rafael Grossi, the International Atomic Energy

Agency chief, to Iran on the eve of the board meeting. Speaking to reporters in his regular news briefing, he said, “The political use of the Agency’s technical platform will lead to a different response from Iran.”

<https://www.tehrantimes.com/news/464777/Iran-warns-against-miscalculation-at-upcoming-IAEA-board-meeting>

### **Iran draws red lines on Afghanistan**

Tehran Times, September 6, 2021

In the first sign of turnabout, Iran issued warnings in multiple directions as Taliban forces announced the “conquest” of the last opposition foothold in the Panjshir valley. Speaking at a weekly press briefing on Monday, Khatibzadeh warned about foreign meddling in Panjshir, the last stronghold of opposition against the new order led by Ahmad Massoud who is the son of legendary anti-Taliban commander Ahmad Shah Massoud. Khatibzadeh also strongly condemned the Taliban attack on the valley and described the death of opposition leaders there as “martyrdom,” a major indication of Iranian resentment at the Taliban’s inchoate political deliberations to form a government. Responding to a question about the Pakistani involvement in the battle for Panjshir, Khatibzadeh said, “The news coming out of Panjshir is concerning. Last night’s attacks [on Panjshir] are condemned in the strongest terms. Martyrdom of Afghan leaders is deeply regrettable.” Khatibzadeh said Iran was reviewing the reports of foreign intervention. “This should be reviewed,” he asserted.

<https://www.tehrantimes.com/news/464785/Iran-draws-red-lines-on-Afghanistan>

### **Quds force chief: Tehran won’t allow developments in Afghanistan to harm Iran**

Tehran Times, September 7, 2021

Quds Force Commander Esmail Qaani has said Iran will not allow the developments in Afghanistan to “harm the security of the country,” a member of the Parliament National Security and Foreign Policy Committee told the Mehr news agency in an interview published on Tuesday. The remarks by Ebrahim Rezaei comes as the Iranian parliament held a closed-door session on Afghanistan on Monday during which IRGC Quds Force commander briefed the MPs about the developments in the country. “In this session, the commander of the Quds Force of the IRGC insisted that the Islamic Republic of Iran proved the ‘most prudent’ country and adopted good position” due to the “deep view” that the Leader of the Islamic Revolution has toward regional and international developments,” the MP added.

<https://www.tehrantimes.com/news/464823/Quds-force-chief-Tehran-won-t-allow-developments-in-Afghanistan>

### **Iran’s Top Security Official Underlines Need for Formation of All-Inclusive Gov’t in Afghanistan**

Fars News Agency, September 8, 2021

Secretary of Iran’s Supreme National Security Council (SNSC) Ali Shamkhani said on Wednesday that the priority in Afghanistan is peace, and called for the formation of an all-inclusive government and non-interference of foreign states in the country. “Afghanistan’s first priority is

stability and peace,” Shamkhani wrote on his twitter page. "Ignoring the need for the formation of an all-inclusive government, foreign intervention and the use of military tools instead of talks to meet the demands of ethnic and social groups are the main concerns of the friends of the Afghan people,” he added.

<https://www.farsnews.ir/en/news/14000617000335/Iran's-Tp-Secriy-Official-Underlines-Need-fr-Frmain-f-All-Inclsive-Gv>

### **President Raisi: IAEA's unconstructive approach will disturb negotiations path**

Islamic Republic News Agency, September 8, 2021

Iranian President Ebrahim Raisi said on Wednesday that taking an unconstructive approach towards Iran nuclear deal by the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA) will disturb the path of negotiations. Raisi made the remarks in a telephone conversation with European Council President Charles Michel. President Raisi expressed Iran's readiness to expand relations with the European Union and all the European countries.

<https://en.irna.ir/news/84464780/President-Raisi-IAEA-s-unconstructive-approach-will-disturb>

### **Iran, Russia Call for All-Inclusive Gov't in Afghanistan**

Fars News Agency, September 10, 2021

Iranian Foreign Minister Hossein Amir Abdollahian and his Russian counterpart in a telephone conversation underlined the need for setting up an all-inclusive government in Afghanistan. During the

phone talk, Amir Abdollahian and Lavrov agreed that the crisis in Afghanistan should be resolved by the Afghan people themselves.

<https://www.farsnews.ir/en/news/14000619000275/Iran-Rssia-Call-fr-All-Inclsive-Gv-in-Afghanisan>

### **Iran allows IAEA inspectors to service “identified equipment”, replace storage media**

Islamic Republic News Agency, September 12, 2021

Based on a Joint statement by Head of Atomic Energy Organization of Iran (AEOI) Mohammad Eslami and Director-General of the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA) Rafael Grossi, IAEA's inspectors are permitted to service the identified equipment and replace their storage media which will be kept under the joint IAEA and AEOI seals in the Islamic Republic of Iran. The statement was signed after a meeting between the two officials in Tehran on Sunday.

<https://en.irna.ir/news/84468567/Iran-allows-IAEA-inspectors-to-service-identified-equipment>

### **IAEA, Iran in good path to resolve differences: Grossi**

Islamic Republic News Agency, September 13, 2021

Director General of the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA) Rafael Grossi has evaluated his visit to Tehran as "constructive," saying that the two sides are heading towards resolving differences. Following his one-day trip to Tehran and upon his arrival in Vienna, Austria, Grossi



underlined that the new consensus is not the finalized solution, but it is a tact in order to buy time to promote diplomacy. The director of the UN atomic watchdog also noted that he managed to reach an agreement with the Iranian officials on the critical issue of preventing the loss of data of Iran's nuclear program particularly on heavy water, rotors, centrifuges and uranium enrichment, which is an important achievement.

<https://en.irna.ir/news/84469379/IAEA-Iran-in-good-path-to-resolve-differences-Grossi>

### **Iran sets foot in backyard of the U.S.**

Tehran Times, September 13, 2021

Now, with a serious test of Iran's naval capability for a long-term mission in distant waters, Iran has set its feet in the backyard of the Americans in the North Atlantic Ocean or any other body of water in the world. The 75th Naval Fleet of the Army, consisting of Makran big ship and Sahand destroyer, finally entered the territorial waters of Iran in the past few days after 133 days of navigation and 44,000 kilometers of sea route in the most unprecedented mission in the history of Navy of Iran's Army and docked in Bander Abbas, Fars reported on Sunday.

<https://www.tehrantimes.com/news/465033/Iran-sets-foot-in-backyard-of-the-U-S>

### **Germany arrests man for shipping equipment for Iran's nuclear program**

The Jerusalem Post, September 14, 2021

German police arrested a German-Iranian man suspected of exporting equipment to be used in Iran's nuclear and missile

programs in breach of European Union sanctions, Germany's federal prosecutor said on Tuesday. The suspect, identified only as Alexander J. under privacy rules, had shipped equipment worth 1.1 million euros to an Iranian whose company in Iran was blacklisted by the EU as a front to procure equipment for nuclear and rocket programs. The GBA general prosecutor's office said the suspect was approached in 2018 and 2019 to procure laboratory equipment. He shipped two spectrometers procured for 166,000 euros (\$196,510.80) to Iran in Jan. 2020, and six months later shipped another two, procured for 388,000 euros.

<https://www.jpost.com/breaking-news/germany-arrests-man-for-shipping-equipment-for-irans-nuclear-program-679461>

## **IRAQ**

### **Iraq announces supporting the Comprehensive Nuclear-Test-Ban Treaty**

Iraqi News Agency, September 4, 2021

Foreign Minister Fouad Hussein announced on Saturday, Iraq's support for the Comprehensive Nuclear-Test-Ban Treaty - CTBT in the context of achieving the goals for which it was established. This came during a meeting between Hussein and the Executive Director of the Interim Preparatory Committee for the Comprehensive Nuclear-Test-Ban Treaty, Robert Floyd, at Vienna International Center, according to a statement by the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, received by the Iraqi News Agency (INA). Hussein congratulated Floyd on the occasion of assuming the duties of his new position as

executive director of the temporary preparatory committee for the organization, as of 1/8/2021, and showed Iraq's full support for him in the context of achieving the goals for which the CTBT Treaty was established.

<https://ina.iq/eng/13814-iraq-announces-supporting-the-comprehensive-nuclear-test-ban-treaty.html>

### **Number of Policemen Martyred and Injured In Clashes with ISIS in Kirkuk**

Iraqi News Agency, September 5, 2021

The Federal Police forces announced, today, Sunday the martyrdom and the injury of a number of its forces in a clash with ISIS terrorists gangs in Kirkuk. The Security Media Cell stated in statement, received by the Iraqi News Agency (INA), that "The Federal Police Forces engaged with ISIS terrorist gangs in Al-Rashad district of Kirkuk province." "The incident led to the martyrdom and injury of a number of policemen," the statement added.

<https://ina.iq/eng/13824-the-federal-police-scores-martyred-and-injured-in-clashes-with-isis-in-kirkuk.html>

### **Iraqi forces launch security operations against ISIS remnants in Diyala and Salah al-Din provinces**

Iraqi News Agency, September 6, 2021

The commander of Diyala operations for the Popular Mobilization Forces, Talib al-Moussawi, announced, on Monday, the launch of joint security operations in Diyala and Salah al-Din provinces. A statement of the PMF received by the Iraqi News Agency (INA) stated that : "The joint forces of the army, the Federal Police and PMF,

represented by Diyala Operations Command for the Popular Mobilization Forces in all its brigades and the leadership of Kirkuk and East Dijla, represented by the 22<sup>nd</sup>, 9<sup>th</sup> and 88<sup>th</sup> Brigades, with the support of PMF formations from the Directorate of Armor Fighting and Explosive Control And military engineering, media and medicine, and with the air support of the army's aviation, have started implementing a security operation to pursue ISIS remnants in Diyala and Salah al-Din provinces .

<https://ina.iq/eng/13852-iraqi-forces-launch-security-operations-against-isis-remnants-in-diyala-and-salah-al-din-provinces.html>

### **The Peshmerga determines the area of the Turkish movement inside the Iraqi territory**

Iraqi News Agency, September 6, 2021

The Secretary General of the Peshmerga Ministry, Lt. Gen. Jabbar Yawar, confirmed on Monday, that the file of Turkish violations of Iraqi territory is the responsibility of the federal government, noting that the region has no right to make security agreements with the neighboring countries. Yawar told The Iraqi News Agency (INA ) that "the file of Turkish violations is related to the Iraqi sovereignty and is the responsibility of the federal government;" clarifying that "Turkish warplanes penetrate Iraqi airspace daily at an estimated distance of 250 km." He added that "Turkish forces are entering Iraqi territory 45 kilometers wide and 200 kilometers long without any condemnation" noting that "Turkey is using

the fight against the PKK as a pretext to violate the Iraqi sovereignty."

<https://ina.iq/eng/13856-the-peshmerga-determines-the-area-of-the-turkish-movement-inside-the-iraqi-territory.html>

### **Rasool: Air strikes destroy Daesh hideouts in different areas**

Iraqi News Agency, September 8, 2021

Spokesman for the Commander-in-Chief of the Armed Forces, Major General Yahya Rasool, announced on Wednesday, the destruction of Daesh hideouts with air strikes in various areas. "According to the directive of the Commander-in-Chief of the Armed Forces, and with intelligence information from the Counter-Terrorism Service and in coordination with the Joint Operations Command, the Air Force and the international coalition aircraft carried out precise strikes on the hideouts of Daesh terrorist gangs in different areas from the country," said Rasool in a statement, received by the Iraqi News Agency (INA). He added, "The strikes resulted in the complete destruction of the dens and the killing of terrorists,"

<https://ina.iq/eng/13927-rasool-air-strikes-destroy-daesh-hideouts-in-different-areas.html>

### **CTS reveals new details about its Ops and identifies areas where ISIS remnants exist**

Iraqi News Agency, September 9, 2021

The Counter - Terrorism Service (CTS) revealed, on Thursday, new details about its recent operations against ISIS terrorist gangs, while identifying areas of terrorist existence. CTS spokesman, Sabah al-

Numan, told the Iraqi News Agency (INA), that "The recent operations carried out by the Counter-Terrorism Service are part of its ongoing operations to pursue ISIS remnants,". In response to a question about the possibility of ISIS return, Al-Numan confirmed, "These gangs exist in separate areas, especially the difficult terrain in Kirkuk province and valleys linking Kirkuk with other provinces such as Nineveh and Diyala up to Sulaymaniyah," explaining that , "ISIS takes these areas as hideouts ,preparing to launch terrorist operations". Al-Numan excluded the return of ISIS terrorist gangs, as he indicated that "there are no indications of the return of these gangs, because all cities are secured, especially Kirkuk."

<https://ina.iq/eng/13931-cts-reveals-new-details-about-its-ops-and-identifies-areas-where-isis-remnants-exist.html>

### **Iraq-US agreement to hold a meeting on ending the military presence**

Iraqi News Agency, September 9, 2021

The Iraqi government agreed with the United States of America, today, Thursday, to hold a meeting on ending the military presence at the end of the year. The media office of the Prime Minister said in a statement received by the Iraqi News Agency (INA), that "the Prime Minister, Commander in Chief of the Armed Forces, Mustafa Al-Kadhimi, received an American military delegation headed by the Commander of the US Central Command, First Lieutenant General Kenneth McKenzie, accompanied by the American ambassador to Iraq Matthew Tueller," noting that "the Prime Minister stressed during the meeting the importance of



concerted international efforts against the threat of terrorism and extremist takfiri ideology, which threatens the region and the world at large.". The statement continued, "It was agreed during the meeting to hold a new meeting of the Iraqi Military Technical Committee and its American counterpart, in order to implement the remaining steps of the strategic dialogue outputs, especially with regard to ending the presence of American combat forces at the end of this year, after the reduction of the level of military representation to the leadership was achieved, in line with the new non-combat phase of its role in Iraq.

<https://ina.iq/eng/13940-us-iraq-agreement-to-hold-a-meeting-on-ending-the-military-presence.html>

### **JOC: No American request to stay in Iraq**

Iraqi News Agency, September 9, 2021

The Joint Special Operations Command, said Thursday that the United States did not submit a request for the presence of its combat troops in Iraq, while confirming that the US side is committed to the outputs of the strategic dialogue and that December 31st, is the next deadline for the withdrawal of its combat troops in Iraq. The spokesman for the Operations Command, Major General Tahsin al-Khafaji, said in a statement to the Iraqi News Agency (INA), that "the Iraqi-US joint committee has begun implementing the outcomes of the strategic dialogue," noting that "the last date for the stay of the US combat forces in Iraq will be December 31, according to what It was agreed upon during the

strategic dialogue rounds between the two countries.

<https://ina.iq/eng/13951-joc-no-american-request-to-stay-in-iraq.html>

### **A plan for Military re-industrialization in Iraq**

Iraqi News Agency, September 11, 2021

Military Industrialization Authority announced the preparations of a plan for a military re-industrialization in Iraq, while noting that it discussed with international companies the possibility of building a local military industry. "The importance of these exhibitions lies in the technological exchange with international companies. The authority, in turn, is transferring technology from the world to Iraq and the start of military industrialization inside Iraq," said the head of the authority, Muhammad Sahib Al-Daraji, to Iraqi News Agency (INA), Speaking about the activities of the anti-terrorism exhibition that opened on Saturday, in Baghdad. Al-Daraji added, "We offered the international companies the possibility of participating with them or partnering with each other to build a local military industry,"

<https://ina.iq/eng/13993-a-plan-for-military-re-industrialization-in-iraq.html>

### **Iraqi Air Force strikes an ISIS hideout in Daquq**

Iraqi News Agency, September 12, 2021

The Security Media Cell announced on Monday, that the Iraqi air force conducted a strike targeting an ISIS hideout in Daquq. SMC said in statement, received by the Iraqi News Agency (INA), that "The Iraqi Air Force conducted an air strike under the

supervision of the Joint Operations Command." "Weapons, motorcycles, and many other materials for ISIS terrorist gangs were destroyed in the (Saidi Kokiz) area within Daquq district operations sector," the statement added.

<https://ina.iq/eng/14007-iraqi-air-force-strikes-an-isis-hideout-in-daquq.html>

## ISRAEL

### Israeli Navy holds joint security patrol with US 5th fleet

The Jerusalem Post, September 1, 2021

The Israel Navy participated in a combined maritime security patrol with the US Naval Forces Central Command's 5th Fleet in the Red Sea for the first time on Tuesday. Three Israeli ships – the *INS Eilat* and two patrol boats – sailed alongside the guided-missile cruiser *USS Monterey* and a US Navy P-8A Poseidon maritime patrol aircraft that flew overhead. The forces also drilled on search and rescue scenarios, air defense, high-value unit defense and small boat operations, as well as tactical defensive maneuvers.

<https://www.jpost.com/israel-news/israeli-navy-holds-joint-security-patrol-with-us-5th-fleet-678324>

### New undercover police unit formed to clamp down on crime in Arab communities

Times of Israel, September 1, 2021

The Israel Police on Tuesday unveiled a new undercover unit tasked with tackling rampant crime and violence in Arab Israeli communities. The Sinai Unit was introduced in a ceremony attended by Police Commissioner Kobi Shabtai. It will

include 45 undercover officers, who will target hotspots and organized crime in Arab communities throughout the country. It will be the first undercover unit tasked with combating crime, rather than terrorism, and will be tasked primarily with enforcement among Israeli citizens.

<https://www.timesofisrael.com/police-unveil-new-undercover-unit-to-clamp-down-on-crime-in-arab-sector/>

### Israel inaugurates Chinese-run Haifa port terminal, in likely boost for economy

Times of Israel, September 2, 2021

Israel on Wednesday officially inaugurated a new port terminal in Haifa Bay, the first of two recently built private port terminals that are expected to fuel competition, decrease import costs, and present a boon for the Israeli economy. China's state-owned Shanghai International Port Group (SIPG) won the tender in 2015 to operate the commercial shipping facility for 25 years, an arrangement that stoked controversy in Israel and abroad. \$1.7b terminal operated by state-owned Shanghai firm to handle large vessels of some 18,000 containers; Transportation Minister Michaeli says it will accelerate trade, lower prices. The project's proximity to Israel's submarines, among other issues, raised security concerns, especially after reports revealed that neither the cabinet nor the National Security Council had any input on the deal. The project also raised the ire of the US, which sometimes docks military vessels in Haifa.

<https://www.timesofisrael.com/israel-inaugurates-new-haifa-port-terminal-in-expected-boost-for-economy/>

### **Syrian missile launched towards Israel, debris found in Tel Aviv**

The Jerusalem Post, September 3, 2021

Israel Police's Bomb Disposal Unit recovered pieces of debris from a Syrian surface-to-air missile (SAM) found in northern Tel Aviv on Friday morning.

Russian military sources stated that 21 of 24 Israeli missiles were shot down during the attack last night. IDF released a statement on Friday confirming a Syrian missile was launched towards Israel during the early hours of Friday morning. The missile detonated over the Mediterranean Sea, according to the IDF. The IDF also destroyed the launcher and a number of SA5 batteries right after the missiles were fired from Syria.

<https://www.jpost.com/breaking-news/syria-counterstrikes-air-missiles-in-damascus-skies-sana-report-678585>

### **Israel's Rafael in talks for sale of LR2 anti-tank missiles to Serbia**

See News, September 3, 2021

Israel's Rafael Advanced Defense Systems is in talks for the sale of Spike LR2 anti-tank guided missiles to Serbia, regional director Al Zaher said. "We are acting in Serbia together with state-owned defence products manufacturer Jugoimport-SDPR and we are working on the promotion of Spike LR2 rockets," Zaher said in a video file posted on the website of Serbian public broadcaster RTS on Thursday. If the business with Jugoimport succeeds, then the Israeli company will also offer other solutions like the Spike ER and NLOS missiles that have a much longer range, Zaher said on the sidelines of Kecskemet

International Airshow in Hungary. The most advanced Spike LR2 version is currently used by Israel, Slovakia, Estonia and Australia. The missiles are made by German-based Eurospike, a subsidiary of Rafael, RTS reported.

<https://seenews.com/news/israels-rafael-in-talks-for-sale-of-lr2-anti-tank-missiles-to-serbia-752916>

### **In Moscow, Lapid Warns a Nuclear Iran Is a Global Danger**

Haaretz, September 9, 2021

Lapid traveled to Moscow on Wednesday evening to meet with Lavrov, ahead of a meeting slated for October between Prime Minister Naftali Bennett and Russian President Vladimir Putin. Speaking at a joint press conference, Lapid said that "Iran's march towards a nuclear weapon is not only an Israeli problem, It's a problem for the entire world," and that the message conveyed to Iran must be strong and clear. "The world needs to stop Iran from getting a nuclear capability, no matter the price. If the world doesn't do it, Israel reserves the right to act," Lapid said. "Unfortunately, there won't be stability in Syria, or in the wider Middle East, while there is an Iranian presence," Lapid said. "Iran is the world's number one exporter of terror."

<https://www.haaretz.com/israel-news/.premium-in-moscow-lapid-warns-a-nuclear-iran-is-a-global-danger-1.10193671>

### **Rocket fired from Gaza intercepted by Iron Dome, in 3rd attack in 3 days**

Times of Israel, September 12, 2021

The Israel Defense Forces says that one rocket was fired from the Gaza Strip toward southern Israel, and it was intercepted by the Iron Dome missile defense system. No injuries or damage have been reported in the attack.

The rocket was the third fired from Gaza in three days, following Saturday's capture of Palestinian security prisoners who escaped from a high-security prison on Monday. The other two rockets fire were also intercepted by the Iron Dome system. The IDF responded to both with strikes on terror targets in the Gaza Strip.

[https://www.timesofisrael.com/liveblog\\_entry/rocket-fired-from-gaza-intercepted-by-iron-dome-in-3rd-attack-in-3-days/](https://www.timesofisrael.com/liveblog_entry/rocket-fired-from-gaza-intercepted-by-iron-dome-in-3rd-attack-in-3-days/)

### **Israeli firm unveils autonomous armed robot to patrol battle zones, borders**

Times of Israel, September 13, 2021

An Israeli defense contractor on Monday unveiled a remote-controlled armed robot it says can patrol battle zones, track infiltrators and open fire. The unmanned vehicle is the latest addition to the world of drone technology, which is rapidly reshaping the modern battlefield. The four-wheel-drive robot presented Monday in Lod was developed by the state-owned Israel Aerospace Industries' "REX MKII." It is operated by an electronic tablet and can be equipped with two machine guns, cameras and sensors, said Rani Avni, deputy head of the company's autonomous systems division. The robot can gather intelligence for ground troops, carry injured

soldiers and supplies in and out of battle, and strike nearby targets.

<https://www.timesofisrael.com/israeli-firm-unveils-autonomous-armed-robot-to-patrol-battle-zones-borders/>

### **Gantz: Israel could accept return to Iran nuke deal if US has 'plan B'**

The Jerusalem Post, September 15, 2021

Israel could accept a return to a US-brokered Iran nuclear deal, but they are calling on Washington to have a demonstration of power ready should negotiations turn sour, Defense Minister Benny Gantz told *Foreign Policy* on Tuesday. "The current US approach of putting the Iran nuclear program back in a box, I'd accept that," Gantz told *Foreign Policy*, referring to US President Joe Biden's efforts, but added that he wants the US to have a plan B with economic sanctions, and referred to Israel's plan C, which involves a military response. "They are making a dangerous mistake," Opposition leader Benjamin Netanyahu said.

<https://www.jpost.com/middle-east/iran-news/gantz-israel-could-accept-return-to-iran-nuke-deal-if-us-has-plan-b-679581>

## **JORDAN**

### **Israeli president and Jordanian king hold secret talks**

Al-Jazeera, September 4, 2021

Israeli President Isaac Herzog has revealed he met King Abdullah II of Jordan in Amman, an unannounced meeting held against the backdrop of improving diplomatic ties between the two countries.

“Last week I met and had a very long conversation with the king of Jordan, I was in his palace, an entire evening. It was an excellent meeting,” Herzog said in clips from an interview broadcast on Saturday on Israeli television.

<https://www.aljazeera.com/news/2021/9/4/israeli-president-and-jordan-king-hold-secret-talks>

## LEBANON

### US president authorizes \$47 million in assistance to Lebanese Army

Ya Libnan, September 9, 2021

US President Joe Biden on Tuesday issued a memorandum intended to provide \$47 million in assistance to the Lebanese Armed Forces. In the memorandum, Biden said: “I hereby delegate to the Secretary of State the authority under section 552(c)(2) of the Foreign Assistance Act of 1961 to direct the drawdown of up to \$25 million in commodities and services from the inventory and resources of any agency of the United States Government to provide immediate assistance to the Lebanese Armed Forces.” Furthermore, he also authorized an aid of \$22 million in defense articles and services to the army.

<https://yalibnan.com/2021/09/09/us-president-authorizes-47-million-in-assistance-to-lebanese-army/>

### New Lebanese Government Finally Formed

Naharnet, September 10, 2021

The new Lebanese government was formed on Friday, more than a year after the resignation of Hassan Diab’s cabinet and 45

days after Najib Miqati was tasked with putting together a new government.

President Michel Aoun and PM-designate Najib Miqati “have signed the decree of the new government’s formation in the presence of Speaker Nabih Berri,” the Presidency announced. Miqati, who has been prime minister twice before and is the country’s richest man, was designated on July 26 to form a government after his two predecessors – Mustafa Adib and Saad Hariri -- threw in the towel. Lebanon has been run by a caretaker government since August 10, 2020 when Diab and his cabinet resigned en masse following the catastrophic explosion at Beirut port.

<http://www.naharnet.com/stories/en/28396-9-new-lebanese-government-finally-formed>

## SAUDI ARABIA

### At least 65 dead in battle for Marib, Yemen: Military

Alarabiya, September 2, 2021

Sixty-five members of the Iran-backed Houthi militia and pro-government forces have been killed in renewed fighting for the strategic Yemeni city of Marib, a military official told AFP on Thursday. The clashes erupted when the Houthis attacked pro-government positions south of the city, making progress despite losing dozens of fighters in coalition air strikes. “Twenty-two pro-government [forces] were killed and 50 others were wounded, while 43 Houthi [militia] were also killed in the last 48 hours,” a government military official said, in figures that were confirmed by other military and medical sources.



<https://english.alarabiya.net/News/gulf/2021/09/02/At-least-65-dead-in-battle-for-Marib-Yemen-Military>

### **Coalition intercepts, destroys Houthi drone attack on Khamis Mushait**

Saudi Gazette, September 3, 2021

The Saudi-led Arab Coalition forces supporting legitimacy in Yemen on Thursday declared the interception and destruction of a booby-trapped drone launched deliberately and systematically by the "terrorist" Houthi militias" to target residential areas in the southern Saudi city of Khamis Mushait. "Houthi militias' attempts to target civilians and residential areas are barbaric and futile," Saudi Press Agency (SPA) quoted the Coalition as saying on Twitter.

<https://www.saudigazette.com.sa/article/610526/SAUDI-ARABIA/Coalition-intercepts-destroys-Houthi-drone-attack-on-Khamis-Mushait>

### **Saudi air defenses destroys ballistic missile targeting Eastern Region; Aramco facilities safe**

Saudi Gazette, September 4, 2021

Saudi Arabia's air defenses have intercepted and destroyed a ballistic missile launched by the Iran-backed Houthis militia towards the Eastern Region. The Eastern Region is home to significant oil infrastructure, which has been previously been targeted and hit by cross-border attacks claimed by the Houthis. A source told Okaz/Saudi Gazette that there was no impact on facilities belonging to Saudi Aramco and that the attack happened outside the areas of Aramco facilities. The Arab Coalition shortly after said it

intercepted a ballistic missile headed for Najran. The Arab Coalition stressed that the Houthi militia is deliberately targeting civilians and civilian objects.

<https://www.saudigazette.com.sa/article/610575/SAUDI-ARABIA/Saudi-air-defenses-destroys-ballistic-missile-targeting-Eastern-Region-Aramco-facilities-safe>

### **Yemen's Iran-backed Houthis attack Mokha aid port with missiles: Government**

Alarabiya, September 11, 2021

A missile attack blamed by the government on Houthi militia in Yemen on Saturday targeted a key port used to bring humanitarian aid into the war-ravaged country. The Red Sea port of Mokha in southwest Yemen is the headquarters of government forces in the region. "Three missiles and Houthi drones targeted the port of Mokha near Bab al-Mandab," a government military official told AFP, adding that no casualties were reported.

<https://english.alarabiya.net/News/gulf/2021/09/11/Yemen-s-Iran-backed-Houthis-attack-Mokha-aid-port-with-missiles-Government>

### **Arab Coalition destroys Houthi drone targeting Abha airport**

Saudi Gazette, September 15, 2021

The Saudi Air Defense destroyed an explosives-laden drone that was launched by the Iranian-backed Houthi militia towards Abha International Airport, the third attempt on the southern Saudi airport in two weeks. The Iranian-backed group continues to violate international humanitarian law by launching attacks on

the Kingdom, the Arab Coalition said in a statement on Wednesday. The coalition will “firmly” deal with any threats to civilians and civilian objects, the statement added.

<https://www.saudigazette.com.sa/article/610927/SAUDI-ARABIA/Arab-Coalition-destroys-Houthi-drone-targeting-Abha-airport>

## UNITED ARAB EMIRATES

### UAE connects second Barakah nuclear plant unit to national power grid

Alarabiya, September 14, 2021

The United Arab Emirates has connected the second unit of its Barakah nuclear power plant to the national power grid, state news agency WAM said on Tuesday. The plant in the Al Dhafrah region of Abu Dhabi, one of the seven emirates making up the UAE and the nation’s capital, is the first nuclear power station in the Arab world and part of the Gulf oil producer’s efforts to diversify its energy mix. When completed Barakah, which is being built by Korea Electric Power Corp (KEPCO), will have four reactors with 5,600 megawatts (MW) of total capacity - equivalent to around 25 percent of the UAE’s peak demand.

<https://english.alarabiya.net/News/gulf/2021/09/14/UAE-connects-second-Barakah-nuclear-plant-unit-to-national-power-grid>

## SYRIA

### Syria, India discuss means of enhancing bilateral relations

Syrian Arab News Agency, September 8, 2021

Prime Minister, Eng. Hussein Arnous, on Wednesday discussed with Indian

Ambassador in Damascus Mahender Singh Kanyal, means of enhancing and developing bilateral relations in the technical, industrial, scientific, cultural and health fields, and capacity-building, human resources and scholarships, in addition to cooperation in the field of renewable energies and information technologies. Eng. Arnous stressed the importance of activating the work of the Syrian-Indian joint committee, implementing MoUs and bilateral agreements, and completing cooperation projects to serve the common interest and reflect the deep-rooted historical relations between the two friendly countries and peoples. Arnous also expressed thanks to India’s leadership, government and people for their supportive stances to Syria in international forums and rejection of the unjust siege imposed on it and the attempts of external interference in its internal affairs.

<http://www.sana.sy/en/?p=248011>

### Russian MoD: terrorists carry out 23 attacks from Idled de-escalation zone

Syrian Arab News Agency, September 9, 2021

The Russian Ministry of Defense has announced that over the past 24 hours, the terrorist organizations deployed to the de-escalation zone in Idlib have carried out 23 attacks. In a statement to SANA, Deputy Head of the Russian Coordination Center in Hmeimim Airport, Rear Admiral Vadim Kolet, said that attacks were launched from the areas in which terrorist organizations are deployed as they included 10 attacks in Idlib, 8 in Lattakia, 1 in Hama and 4 in Aleppo.

<http://www.sana.sy/en/?p=248071>

### **Syrian-Russian Summit in Moscow between Presidents al-Assad, Putin... talks touch on bilateral cooperation, combating terrorism-video**

Syrian Arab News Agency, September 14, 2021

A Syrian-Russian summit was held in Moscow between Presidents Bashar al-Assad and Vladimir Putin during which they discussed the files of the standing bilateral cooperation between the two countries and the measures taken to expand and develop it to achieve the common interests. Talks also tackled the steps taken on the political track, as the two sides stressed the importance of completing work on this track in order to reach consensus between the Syrians without any foreign interference. The discussions also touched on areas of economic cooperation between the two countries.

<http://www.sana.sy/en/?p=248535>

### **Turkish-backed Syrian forces intensify attacks on US-aligned Syrian Kurdish group**

Al-Monitor, September 14, 2021

The Turkish army has intensified its attacks against the Kurdish-led Syrian Democratic Forces (SDF) in northeast Syria over the past few weeks. Turkish airstrikes have targeted for assassination prominent field commanders, while Turkish-backed Free Syrian Army (FSA) factions have launched heavy artillery and missiles at SDF-held areas. Meanwhile, FSA factions have increased military readiness and mobilized additional forces on the frontlines. These developments have raised questions about the goals behind the escalation and on the

possibility of a Turkish-backed military operation against the SDF, which is backed by the US-led international coalition.

<https://www.al-monitor.com/originals/2021/09/turkish-backed-syrian-forces-intensify-attacks-us-aligned-syrian-kurdish-group#ixzz76wvWCj6P>

## **TURKEY**

### **'Greece violates Turkey's airspace, territorial waters in Aegean'**

Daily Sabah, September 6, 2021

Greece has continued to violate Turkey's airspace, territorial waters and the status of the demilitarized islands in the Aegean Sea, the Turkish Defense Ministry said on Sunday. So far in 2021, Greece carried out 206 airspace violations, 27 territorial water violations, 95 aerial vehicle harassment and 790 violations by ships on islands with demilitarized status, said Maj. Pinar Kara, spokesperson of the Defense Ministry. Apart from Greece's arming of islands near Turkey, in violation of long-standing treaties, Turkey also condemns Greek efforts to claim maximalist maritime territory in the Eastern Mediterranean and to confine Turkish waters to a small area in the south, although Turkey has more Mediterranean coastline in the region than any other country.

<https://www.dailysabah.com/politics/diplomacy/greece-violates-turkeys-airspace-territorial-waters-in-aegean>

### **Erdogan heralds massive military complex to coordinate military, security agencies**

Al-Monitor, September 8, 2021

Turkey has launched the construction of the massive military complex, the Crescent and Star, named after the symbols of its national flag, to bring the Defense Ministry, the chief of General Staff, and the headquarters of the land, air and navy forces under a single roof, with the stated aim of enhancing coordination between military institutions and their operational effectiveness. Dubbed "Turkey's Pentagon," the project will sprawl on an area of some 12.6 million square meters and have indoor spaces of 890,000 square meters to house up to 15,000 employees. A crescent-shaped structure in the middle of the complex will contain various conference halls, curving around a ceremonial ground of 23,000 square meters and facing a star-shaped structure to the south. The complex will be erected in Ankara's suburb of Baglica, not far from the new, high-security headquarters to which the National Intelligence Organization (MIT) moved last year.

<https://www.al-monitor.com/originals/2021/09/erdogan-heralds-massive-military-complex-coordinate-military-security-agencies#ixzz76x5DIULU>

### **Turkey, Azerbaijan, Pakistan launch joint military drills in Baku**

Daily Sabah, September 12, 2021

Turkish, Azerbaijani and Pakistani militaries launched their first-ever joint exercises in Baku on Sunday. The "Three

Brothers – 2021" exercises kicked off with a solemn opening ceremony. While national anthems of the participating countries were played and their flags raised, a minute of silence was also observed to commemorate their martyrs. Speaking at the ceremony, Lt. Gen. Hikmat Mirzayev, Azerbaijan's special forces commander, said he was pleased to see the representatives of Turkish and Pakistani special forces in his country.

<https://www.dailysabah.com/politics/diplomacy/turkey-azerbaijan-pakistan-launch-joint-military-drills-in-baku>