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मनोहर पर्रिकर रक्षा अध्ययन एवं विश्लेषण संस्थान

Armenia

Armenia and Iran signed landmark agreement in August, now set to launch

Aravot, September 26, 2024

The Armenian Automobile Federation (FAA) is pleased to announce an agreement with the Touring & Automobile Club of the Islamic Republic of Iran (TACI), marking a significant step in facilitating cross-border travel for motorists between the two nations. The agreement signed this August, will soon allow Armenian automobile owners to obtain a Carnet de Passage (CPD) document, streamlining customs processes and enabling them to travel to Iran with their Armenian vehicles. The Carnet de Passage, an FIA-delivered and internationally recognized customs document, serves as a passport for vehicles. It allows drivers to temporarily import their cars without paying customs duties or taxes. This initiative will significantly benefit tourists, business travellers, and motorsport enthusiasts by enhancing the ease of travel between Armenia and Iran.

<https://en.aravot.am/2024/09/26/353611/>

Azerbaijan

Azerbaijan's TCFO Project: Paving way for new digital silk road and green energy corridor

Nazrin Abdul

Azer News, September 18, 2024

Azerbaijan, which is progressively enhancing its global influence, is now prioritising the implementation of "green energy" initiatives and the export of "green energy" to international markets within its

energy policy. In a bold stride towards cementing its position on the global stage, Azerbaijan is channelling its energy towards a transformative vision: integrating "green energy" initiatives with pioneering digital infrastructure. A key component of this initiative is the Trans-Caspian fibre-optic cable line project. As Azerbaijan leads the charge in marrying green energy with digital innovation, the Trans-Caspian fibre-optic cable project marks a significant milestone in its quest to become a central player in both realms. During the meeting of Central Asian and German leaders in Astana, the President of Kazakhstan, Kasim-Jomart Tokayev, discussed the project. President Tokayev mentioned that Germany could participate in the construction of a fibre-optic communication line through the Caspian Sea, a project being undertaken by Azerbaijan, Kazakhstan, and Uzbekistan.

<https://www.azernews.az/analysis/231381.html>

Azerbaijan prepares for military cooperation with several countries

AzeMedia, September 19, 2024

This was announced by Samir Agabalayev, head of the Ministry of Defence Industry's department, during a press conference marking the opening of the 5th anniversary ADEX exhibition dedicated to the defence industry. Details of the agreements will be made public later, he added. The exhibition will showcase weapons produced in Azerbaijan, developed by local designers. The Ministry continues to enhance the qualifications of these designers to meet international standards. "We hope that in the coming years, they will develop new

types of weapons. From our side, everything is being done for their mass production,” Agabalayev stated. He further noted that Azerbaijani weapons proved their strength during the 44-day Karabakh war and recent counter-terrorism operations. Meanwhile, 193 types of weapons will be displayed at three stands. For the first time, participants will see a 12.7 mm machine gun and a sniper rifle, said Gulsum Rzayeva, head of the Military-Technical Cooperation Department of the Ministry of Defence Industry.

<https://aze.media/azerbaijan-prepares-for-military-cooperation-with-several-countries/>

Pakistan's GIDS offers Azerbaijan technologies for JF-17C jet fighter and smart weapons

Aydan Alasgarli

Trend News Agency, September 25, 2024

Pakistan's Global Industrial and Defense Solutions (GIDS, Global Industrial and Defense Solutions) offers Azerbaijan technologies for JF-17C fighter jets and smart weapons, the general director of GIDS company Asad Kamal told Trend within the framework of the 5th anniversary of Azerbaijan's international defense exhibition ADEX 2024, which is being held at Baku Expo Center, Trend reports. “This is our third participation in the exhibition, and each time we bring new products. We already have several contracts under implementation regarding security equipment. But this time we are here with a special focus on the JF-17 airplane, which Azerbaijan is buying from Pakistan. Our company “GIDS” produces all the armament that is installed on this airplane -

bombs and long-range weapons for the fighter aircraft,” Asad Kamal said. According to him, the company is also developing smart weapons based on artificial intelligence, which have a striking capability of up to 100 kilometers. GIDS has a line of weapons called “Fatah.” “Fatah” has a range of 140 and 290 kilometers. This is one of the smart weapons that the company offers to Azerbaijan.

<https://en.trend.az/azerbaijan/politics/3949568.html>

Azerbaijan and Uzbekistan to conduct computer-assisted tactical command-staff exercise maharat-2024

Ministry of defence of the republic of Azerbaijan, September 29, 2024

Azerbaijan and Uzbekistan will hold Computer-Assisted Tactical Command-Staff Exercise Maharat-2024 (Mastery) under the Bilateral Cooperation Plan for 2024, signed between the Defense Ministries of 2 countries. The exercise, commencing on September 30 at the War Games Center of the Military Administration Institute, will engage over 100 servicemen from both countries. Its primary objectives are to enhance the interoperability of the operational units of the Azerbaijani and Uzbek armies, strengthen combat capabilities, and develop the military decision-making, initiative, and management skills of the commanders of the operational units.

<https://mod.gov.az/en/news/azerbaijan-and-uzbekistan-to-conduct-computer-assisted-tactical-command-staff-exercise-maharat-2024-53003.html>

New era of Azerbaijan's defence industry: Path towards military self-sufficiency

Akbar Novruz

Azer News, September 30, 2024

Azerbaijan has emerged as a significant player in the global defense market, driven by increased military spending, strategic partnerships, and domestic innovation in recent years. The 5th Azerbaijan International Defense Exhibition (ADEX-2024) showcased the country's achievements, with a marked emphasis on collaboration and a path forward on military self-sufficiency.

<https://www.azernews.az/analysis/231856.html>

Iran

Iran will never give up on its missile program, says president

Asharq Al Awsat, September 16, 2024

Iranian President Masoud Pezeshkian said on September 16, that Tehran would never give up on its missile program as it needs such deterrence for its security in a region where Iran's arch-foe Israel is able to "drop missiles on Gaza every day". Iran has for years defied Western calls to limit its missile program. The United States and its allies have more recently accused Iran of transferring ballistic missiles to Russia for its war in Ukraine, imposing fresh sanctions on Moscow and Tehran. Both countries have denied the claims. "If we don't have missiles, they will bomb us whenever they

want, just like in Gaza," Pezeshkian said, referring to the conflict in Gaza between Israel and Hamas. He reiterated Tehran's official stance, calling on the international community "to first disarm Israel before making the same demands to Iran".

<https://english.aawsat.com/world/5061615-iran-will-never-give-its-missile-program-says-president>

Iran has various defence systems to respond to major threats

Mehr News Agency September 16, 2024

Deputy coordinator of the Iranian Army Air Defence Force told Mehr News Agency that the Islamic Republic has various defence systems to respond to diverse and massive threats. Air defence creates authority by producing power and this leads to the formation of deterrence against enemy threats, Mohammad Khoshghalb said in an interview with Mehr News Agency. He stressed that a large part of the Air Defence Force equipment is domestically-built. "Today, we have a very favorable situation in the field of detection. Regarding radar and detection systems, we use radars in different frequency bands and in different ranges, and we have maximum accuracy and minimum errors in the field of detection," he underlined, adding that regarding identification, they do a multi-layered operation. "We will not allow the enemy to enter the stage of action," he emphasized.

<https://en.mehrnews.com/news/221309/Iran-has-various-defense-systems-to-respond-to-major-threats>

Iran will ‘definitely’ respond to Haniyeh assassination: Army cmdr.

Islamic Republic News Agency, September 17, 2024

Deputy Coordinator of the Iranian Army Rear Admiral Habibollah Sayyari has said that the Islamic Republic will “definitely” respond to the Israeli assassination of former Hamas chief Ismail Haniyeh in Tehran. “Response to the martyrdom of Ismail Haniyeh is definite, but its timing will be decided by Iran,” Sayyari told the Chinese media at the Xiangshan Forum in Beijing on September 17. The former Hamas chief was assassinated in an Israeli targeted strike in Tehran late in July. Addressing the forum, Sayyari cautioned that countries intervening in the region’s security matters from afar should be aware that their presence will only create chaos. He highlighted Tehran's advancements in defense capabilities since the Islamic Revolution, despite ongoing Western sanctions. He also emphasized Iran's opposition to foreign intervention in Middle Eastern affairs. "We are against the interference of foreign countries in the region."

<https://en.irna.ir/news/85599641/Iran-will-definitely-respond-to-Haniyeh-assassination-Army>

Israel to face crushing response for acts of terror in Lebanon: IRGC commander

Islamic Republic News Agency, September 20, 2024

Commander of the Islamic Revolution Guards Corps (IRGC) Major General Hossein Salami in a message to Hezbollah Chief Sayyed Hassan Nasrallah underlined

that Israel will face "a crushing response from the axis of resistance" for its acts of terror in Lebanon which are the result of the regime's despair. In his letter to Hezbollah chief, Major General Salami condemned "the terrorist crime of the occupying regime, which resulted in the martyrdom and mass injury of beloved Lebanese nationals and Hezbollah fighters". "I declare that such terrorist acts, that are undoubtedly due to the desperation and successive failures of the Zionist regime, will soon be met with a crushing response from the resistance front and we will witness complete destruction of this cruel and criminal regime," he said. General Salami praised Nasrallah and Hezbollah resistance fighters, as well as the Lebanese nation, for supporting the Palestinians in their struggle against the Israeli occupation.

<https://en.irna.ir/news/85602016/Israel-to-face-crushing-response-for-acts-of-terror-in-Lebanon>

New Iranian ballistic missiles were unveiled today

Islamic Republic News Agency, September 21, 2024

On the occasion of the beginning of Sacred Defence Week, Iran Armed Forces have unveiled the latest achievements such as Shahed 136B drone and Jihad ballistic missile, in a ceremony on September 21 morning. The Iranian Armed Forces launched extensive military parades across the country on September 21, to observe Sacred Defence Week. The ceremony in Tehran was attended by Iranian President Masoud Pezeshkian and senior military

officials. In Tehran, the ceremony was held in the south of the capital at the mausoleum of the Founder of the Islamic Republic, the Late Imam Khomeini. Forces from the Iranian Army, the Islamic Revolution Guards Corps (IRGC), Police, Border Guards, and Basij have participated in the parades. The march was also organized coincidentally across the country. Shahed 136B drone, the newest Iran-made drone, was showcased at the Armed Forces military parade, Jihad ballistic missile, the newest IRGC ballistic missile, was also showcased at the armed Forces military parade on Saturday morning.

<https://en.irna.ir/news/85602726/New-Iranian-ballistic-missiles-were-unveiled-today>

Iran withheld launchers for missiles sent to Russia

Asharq Al-Awsat, September 21, 2024

Iran did not include mobile launchers with the close-range ballistic missiles that Washington last week accused Tehran of delivering to Russia for use against Ukraine, according to three sources with knowledge of the matter, reported Reuters. The sources - a European diplomat, a European intelligence official and a US official - said it was not clear why Iran did not supply launchers with the Fath-360 missiles, raising questions about when and if the weapons will be operational. The US official, who like the other sources spoke on condition of anonymity, said Iran had not delivered the launchers at the time of the US announcement about Iran's delivery of the weapons. The European intelligence official said without elaborating that they

did not expect Iran to provide launchers. Two experts told Reuters there could be several reasons why the launchers were not sent. One is that Russia may plan to modify trucks to carry the missiles, as Iran has done. Another is that by withholding the launchers, Iran is allowing space for new talks with Western powers on easing tensions.

<https://english.aawsat.com/world/5063218-report-iran-withheld-launchers-missiles-sent-russia>

Iranian army pledges to defend national sovereignty

Mehr News Agency, September 22, 2024

In its statement, the Iranian Army said it remains prepared to make any necessary sacrifice for the stability and honor of the Islamic Republic. Beginning on September 21, the anniversary serves as a reminder of the soldiers who defended the country during the eight-year conflict. The army hailed the Sacred Defence as a defining period in Iran's history, saying that no part of Iranian territory was lost and the invading forces were eventually forced to retreat. The statement highlighted the role of the Iranian Army, alongside the Islamic Revolution Guards Corps, Basij volunteer force, and other national forces, in repelling the invasion by the Iraqi Baath regime that enjoyed full military and political support from big powers. The Army emphasized that lessons from the war continue to guide Iran's defence strategy today.

<https://en.mehrnews.com/news/221702/Iranian-army-pledges-to-defend-national-sovereignty>

Iran reveals ballistic missile, suicide drone amid rising regional tensions

Asharq Al Awsat, September 22, 2024

Iran's Revolutionary Guard unveiled on Saturday a new ballistic missile and drone during its annual military parade commemorating the Iran-Iraq War, attended by President Masoud Pezeshkian. Units from the regular army and the Revolutionary Guard showcased various military equipment, including 23 ballistic missiles, on a highway near the grave of the first Iranian Supreme Leader, south of Tehran. The display also featured naval vessels from both the Iranian army and the IRGC in the Strait of Hormuz. Iranian news agencies reported that the suicide drone, "Shahed-136B," is the latest version of the "Shahed-136" manufactured by the IRGC. Additionally, the Guard's missile unit revealed the "Jihad" missile, which uses liquid fuel and has an operational range of 1,000 kilometers, equipped with a highly explosive warhead, according to the Tasnim news agency.

<https://english.aawsat.com/world/5063473-iran-reveals-ballistic-missile-suicide-drone-amid-rising-regional-tensions>

Iran ready for nuclear talks at UN 'if other parties willing', FM Says

Asharq Al Awsat, September 23, 2024

Iran is ready to start nuclear negotiations on the sidelines of the UN General Assembly in New York if "other parties are willing", Foreign Minister Abbas Araqchi said on September 23, in a video published on his Telegram channel. The US, under then-President Donald Trump, withdrew in 2018 from a nuclear accord signed in 2015 by

Iran and six world powers under which Tehran curbed its disputed nuclear programme in return for a lifting of international sanctions. Indirect talks between Washington and Tehran to revive the deal have stalled. Iran is still formally part of the deal but has scaled back commitments to honor it due to US sanctions reimposed on the Islamic Republic. "I will stay in New York for a few more days than the president and will have more meetings with various foreign ministers. We will focus our efforts on starting a new round of talks regarding the nuclear pact," Araqchi said, Reuters reported.

<https://english.aawsat.com/world/5063838-iran-ready-nuclear-talks-un-if-other-parties-willing-fm-says>

Iran enjoys missile with 2000 kilometers range: Cmdr.

Mehr News Agency, September 25, 2024

Iran's Army enjoys missiles with a range of more than 2000 km, an Iranian Army Air Force commander said. The Islamic Republic of Iran has the largest and strongest helicopter unit in the Middle East, Brig. General Qasem Khamooshi said in a ceremony on September 24. Today, Iranian helicopters are equipped with modern equipment which is all made by Iranian young experts, General Khamooshi said. "Now we have missiles with a range of more than 2000 km and we are defending the country at a great distance from the borders, and we must continue this path," he added.

<https://en.mehrnews.com/news/221904/Iran-enjoys-missile-with-2000-kilometers-range-Cmdr>

We will stand by Hezbollah until Holy Quds liberation: Quds Force chief

Islamic Republic News Agency, September 29, 2024

Commander of the Islamic Revolution Guard Corps Quds Force Brigadier General Esmail Qa'ani has signaled the readiness of the force to stand by Hezbollah until the ultimate liberation of the Holy Quds. The Iranian general made the remarks in a message issued on Sunday in which he condoled the martyrdom of Hezbollah Leader Sayyed Hassan Nasrallah and hailed his role in leading the resistance group to the peaks of honor. The late Nasrallah dedicated his lifetime to the fight against the enemies of Islam and Quran and gave "his divine blood and precious life" for the great causes of Islam, support for the oppressed people of Palestine and honor of the Lebanese people, Qa'ani said. He also appreciated Nasrallah's contribution to the fight against the Daesh and Takfiri groups in Iraq and Syria. The commander extended his condolences to the bereaved family of Nasrallah and Hezbollah fighters and the Axis of Resistance in general.

<https://en.irna.ir/news/85612216/We-will-stand-by-Hezbollah-until-Holy-Quds-liberation-Quds-Force>

Iran, Oman kick off first joint ground military maneuver

Islamic Republic News Agency, September 30, 2024

The first joint ground exercise between the ground force of the Islamic Republic of Iran and the Sultanate of Oman, which is called "Mountain Falcons 1" (Saqour al-Jabal 1)

began on Monday in Jebel Al-Khader province of Oman. This exercise is being held with the participation of the ground force of the Islamic Republic of Iran Army and the ground force of Sultanate of Oman army, as well as the support of the Air Force and the Royal Oman Police, with the aim of sharing experiences, joint combat training and improving the level of combat and operational readiness.

<https://en.irna.ir/news/85613527/Iran-Oman-kick-off-first-joint-ground-military-maneuver>

Iraq

Six terrorists, including Daesh leader, are killed by Iraqi warplanes in Kirkuk

Iraqi News Agency, September 19, 2024

Iraqi warplanes killed six terrorists in Kirkuk province on Thursday, according to a statement released by the Joint Operations Command. Among them was a leader of ISIS. "Three strikes by F-16 aircraft on September 19, resulted in the killing of a terrorist detachment consisting of six terrorists, including the terrorist (Omar Salah Nehmeh), aka (Abu Khattab), one of the most dangerous leaders of Daesh and Othman Abu Abed, as well as the terrorist Izz al-Din Hisham," according to a statement from the command obtained by the Iraqi News Agency (INA). The statement was made in response to orders from the Prime Minister, the Commander-in-Chief of the Armed Forces, and with outstanding and accurate intelligence work by the heroes of the Iraqi National Intelligence Service. "A raid and search of the targeted place by the Iraqi National Intelligence Service in conjunction with the

units of the Counter-Terrorism Service was carried out following the operation, wherein the bodies of the terrorists and numerous explosive belts, weapons, technical equipment, and various phones that were used by them were found," the statement continued.

<https://ina.iq/eng/34821-six-terrorists-including-daesh-leader-are-killed-by-iraqi-warplanes-in-kirkuk.html>

South Korean firm to supply Iraq with surface-to-air missile defense system

Yasin Gungor

Anadolu Agency, September 20, 2024

South Korean defence company LIG Nex1 said September 20, it has secured a deal with Iraq's Defence Ministry to supply its Cheongung-II medium-range surface-to-air missile defence system, local media reported. The contract, valued at approximately 3.7 trillion won (\$2.78 billion), marks the third export of the Cheongung-II system, Seoul-based Yonhap News Agency reported. The system, central to South Korea's missile defense strategy, is designed to intercept incoming missiles and aircraft. It has previously been exported to the United Arab Emirates and Saudi Arabia. LIG Nex1 CEO Shin Ick-hyun expressed the company's commitment to enhancing the Korean defense industry's global presence and supporting smaller defense firms in international markets.

<https://www.aa.com.tr/en/asia-pacific/south-korean-firm-to-supply-iraq-with-surface-to-air-missile-defense-system/3336050>

60 km security wall on the Iraqi-Syrian border

Iraqi News Agency, September 26, 2024

Minister of Interior Abdul Amir Al-Shammari inaugurated, today a 60 km long security wall on the Iraqi-Syrian border. The ministry said in a statement received by the Iraqi News Agency (INA), "The Minister of Interior inaugurated a 60 km long wall on the Iraqi-Syrian border, adding to the previous wall, bringing the total distance covered by the wall to 200 km." It added, "The wall is located in one of the most dangerous areas on the border in the Tarfawi area, south of Rabia district in Mosul Governorate."

<https://ina.iq/eng/35029-60-km-security-wall-on-the-iraqi-syrian-border.html>

US announces coalition mission in Iraq to end by 2025, but US 'not withdrawing'

Agnes Helou

Breaking Defense, September 27, 2024

The US formally announced today that the coalition mission in Iraq will come to a close in September 2025, but emphasized that troops will stay in country as part of an "evolution of the military mission in Iraq" and the counter-ISIS mission will continue. "To be clear, the United States is not withdrawing from Iraq," a senior administration official told reporters today. "We are moving towards the type of productive long-term security relationship that the United States has with partners around the world." The US and Iraq have agreed "on a two phase transition plan for operations in Iraq," the official said. "In the first phase, we'll be concluding the global

coalition's military mission in Iraq, the Combined Joint Task Force Inherent Resolve, and ending the presence of coalition forces in certain locations in Iraq as mutually determined." That phase will begin this month and finish by the end of September 2025. The second phase involves an "understanding to allow the coalition to continue to support counter-ISIS operations in Syria from Iraq ... until at least September 2026," the official said.

<http://breakingdefense.com/2024/09/us-announces-coalition-mission-in-iraq-to-end-by-2025-but-not-withdrawing/>

Israel

IDF reveals: Hezbollah rockets, launchers hidden in civilian homes

Israel National News, September 25, 2024

The IDF on September 25, evening published documentation showing the rockets and weapons that had been placed in civilian homes in Lebanon by the Hezbollah terrorist organization. "The Hezbollah terrorist organization in Lebanon is continuing to fire missiles and rockets at civilians across Israel, forcing millions of Israelis into bomb shelters. The weapons used in these attacks - including advanced, strategic missiles and UAVs - have been systematically embedded by Hezbollah inside Lebanese civilian areas and homes over the years," the IDF said in a statement. "The IDF is conducting precise, intelligence-based strikes against Hezbollah's weapons and terrorist infrastructure in Lebanon in order to remove these threats to Israeli civilians and enable the residents of the north to return home in safety and security. "In images

collected in recent days, remnants of the weapons that Hezbollah had hidden in civilian homes in the heart of Lebanese villages can be seen," the IDF stated.

<https://www.israelnationalnews.com/news/396744>

IDF: Hamas has been militarily defeated

Uzi Baruch

Israel National News, September 27, 2024

Almost one year after October 7th, the IDF has determined that the evil terrorist organization Hamas has been militarily defeated. However, there is a long way until Hamas is fully disbanded. This process in the south is Israel's most important goal, but according to the IDF, bringing the hostages home is more urgent and takes priority. According to an IDF source: "If we wait, we are not sure that there will be anyone to bring home". For the first time, the IDF has confirmed that it has plans to maneuver deep into Lebanon as well. Last Monday, in less than 24 hours the IDF attacked 1,920 ammunition sites, in a joint operation by the Air Force, the intelligence, the Northern Command,.

<https://www.israelnationalnews.com/news/396848>

IDF strikes dozens of Houthi targets in biggest air raid in Yemen to date

I24News, September 29, 2024

The Israeli military said in a statement that in "an extensive, intelligence-based aerial operation, dozens of IAF aircraft—including fighter jets, mid-air refueling aircraft, and intelligence aircraft struck military targets belonging to the Houthi

terrorist regime in the Ras Isa and Hudaydah areas of Yemen. The targets included power plants and a seaport used to import oil, which were used by the Houthi terrorist regime to transfer Iranian weapons to the region, in addition to military supplies and oil." "The strikes were carried out in response to the recent attacks by the Houthis against the State of Israel," the statement pointed out. "Over the past year, the Houthis have been operating under the direction and funding of Iran, and in cooperation with Iraqi militias in order to attack the State of Israel, undermine regional stability, and disrupt global freedom of navigation."

<https://www.i24news.tv/en/news/israel/dense/artc-idf-strikes-dozens-of-houthi-targets-in-biggest-air-raid-in-yemen-to-date>

Israel likely used US-made bombs in Nasrallah strike

Israel National News, September 30, 2024

Israel likely used US-made 2,000-pound bombs in its strike that killed Hezbollah leader Hassan Nasrallah, The Washington Post reported on September 29, based on an analysis of visuals shared by the IDF. Analysts who reviewed footage of the strike and its aftermath, at the request of The Post, concluded that the damage aligns with the use of multiple 2,000-pound bombs. Three analysts who examined a video released by the Israeli air force on September 28, noted that it depicted fighter jets equipped with several 2,000-pound-class bombs, some of which were identified as US-made BLU-109

bombs and JDAM guidance kits. In the video, eight F-15 jets, carrying at least 16 of these bombs, are seen taking off. Additional photos from the IDF showed individual jets armed with three to six BLU-109 bombs each, according to The Post. Maj. Gen. Patrick Ryder, a Pentagon spokesperson, redirected inquiries about the operation to the IDF. An IDF spokesperson told The Post, "Dozens of munitions hit the target within seconds with very high precision, and this is part of what is required to hit underground sites at this depth." They declined to offer further details about the strike.

<https://www.israelnationalnews.com/news/396939>

Jordan

60% of Jordan's government services 'digitized' so far

Jordan News Agency, September 29, 2024

Minister of Digital Economy and Entrepreneurship, Sami Smeirat, stressed on Sunday the importance of enabling citizens to use high-quality digital government services, to spare time and effort. Speaking at the Information and Communications Technology Association of Jordan (Intaj), he said 60% of Jordan's government services were digitized in 1,440 public services so far, with a plan to digitize 960 others by the end of next year. According to an Intaj statement, the meeting addressed a slew of "strategic" axes aimed to develop the communications and information technology (CIT) sector in Jordan, and enhance the partnership

between the public and private sectors. For his part, Intaj Chairman, Eid Sweis, called on the government to extend exemption of information technology exports from income tax, which will end in 2025, aimed to achieve goals of the Economic Modernization Vision.

https://petra.gov.jo/Include/InnerPage.jsp?ID=63871&lang=en&name=en_news&at=en_news

Jordan and Ireland explore trade and investment cooperation

Arab News agency, September 29, 2024

The chairman of Jordan's Irbid Chamber of Commerce met with the Irish ambassador to the kingdom on Sunday to discuss strengthening trade and investment relations between the two countries. The meeting between Mohammad Shoha and Marianne Bolger covered key sectors such as industry, technology, renewable energy, and agriculture, Jordan News Agency reported. During the talks, Shoha underscored the pivotal role of the chamber in supporting and developing the region's commercial sector, which boasts a membership of around 16,000 businesses. He highlighted the vitality of the Jordanian market and the ambition of local traders and investors to expand their operations both domestically and internationally. Shoha also emphasized the chamber's role in acting as a bridge between the Jordanian government and the private sector. He stressed the importance of dialog in overcoming obstacles and seizing new opportunities for growth.

<https://www.arabnews.com/node/2573253/middle-east>

Kuwait

Kuwait, IAEA celebrate 60 years of diplomatic ties

Kuwait news agency, September 19, 2024

Kuwait and the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA) are celebrating 60 years of diplomatic relations September 19, at the IAEA headquarters in Vienna. This event, hosted by IAEA Director General Rafael Grossi and Kuwait's Ambassador to Austria Talal Al-Fasam, coincides with the 68th annual IAEA General Conference, which began on September 16, at the United Nations Office in Vienna and will conclude tomorrow. The celebration, scheduled for September 19, afternoon will highlight the achievements of the past six decades, covering all areas of technical cooperation. Kuwait has held prominent positions within IAEA, including chairing the IAEA Board of Governors, the second-highest authority in the agency, in 2003, and presiding over the 65th General Conference in 2021. The event, attended by numerous Arab and foreign ambassadors and international officials, will begin with a welcoming speech from Al-Fasam, followed by addresses from Grossi and Acting Director General of the Kuwait Institute for Scientific Research (KISR) Dr. Mashaan Al-Otaibi, and National Liaison Officer (NLO) for IAEA Dr. Nader Al-Awadi, will give a brief presentation on the long-standing cooperation between Kuwait and the agency.

<https://www.kuna.net.kw/ArticleDetails.aspx?id=3183074&Language=en>

Lebanon

Eight killed, hundreds injured in pager sets explosions in Lebanon

Syrian Arab News Agency, September 17, 2024

Lebanese Health Ministry announced on Tuesday that eight people were killed and nearly 3000 were wounded, including 200 critical cases, in explosion of Pager communication sets in several Lebanese areas. Lebanese National News Agency reported earlier that with high-tech, pager sets were exploded, leaving dozens of people injured in several Lebanese areas, noting that ambulance teams are working to transport the wounded to hospitals. The Lebanese Health Ministry called on all health staff to urgently head to their workplaces for providing emergency treatment to the massive numbers of injured as a result of pager explosion incidents. The ministry also called all Lebanese who own pagers to stay away from them until the reasons about the explosions is revealed.

<https://sana.sy/en/?p=338461>

Three martyrs and two wounded in Israeli airstrike on southern Lebanon

Syrian Arab News Agency, September 17, 2024

Three people were martyred and two others were injured in an Israeli airstrike on Blida town, southern Lebanon. The Lebanese National News Agency quoted the Ministry of Public Health as saying in a statement that the Israeli warplanes launched an airstrike on Tuesday on the Blida town, which led to the martyrdom of three people and the injury of two others. In addition, a

hostile Israeli drone targeted the Litani River near the outskirts of Deir Siryan town, causing material damage. One person was also martyred and two others were injured September 16, in an Israeli airstrike on Houla town, southern Lebanon.

<https://sana.sy/en/?p=338450>

Hezbollah has replaced all martyred commanders: Ex-Quds Force chief

Islamic Republic News Agency, September 29, 2024

A former commander of Islamic Revolution Guard Corps (IRGC) Quds Force has reiterated that the Lebanese resistance movement Hezbollah has replaced all commanders and senior officials within its ranks who were martyred in recent days as a result of Israeli aggression on Lebanon. Brigadier General Ahmad Vahidi said on September 29, that he had been informed, as a source with direct knowledge of Hezbollah's decision-making process, that new figures had replaced commanders assassinated by Israel. "As an informed source, I insist that there is no empty place in Hezbollah's leadership structure and all martyred commanders have been replaced by other commanders," said Vahidi.

<https://en.irna.ir/news/85612287/Hezbollah-has-replaced-all-martyred-commanders-Ex-Quds-Force>

Israel says 'next phase' of war with Hezbollah in Lebanon to 'begin soon'

Al-Jazeera, September 30, 2024

Israel has warned that it will use "all the means" at its disposal to attack the Lebanese armed group Hezbollah amid

growing fears of a ground assault on Lebanon. “The next phase in the war against Hezbollah will begin soon,” Israeli Defence Minister Yoav Gallant told a meeting of local council heads in northern Israel on September 30. He said the next stage of the war would support the aim of returning Israelis who have fled Hezbollah attacks during nearly a year of border warfare. Earlier, Gallant told troops that Israel would “use all the means that may be required ... from the air, from the sea, and on land.” Hezbollah began low-intensity strikes on Israeli targets a day after Israel launched its assault on Gaza last October in response to an attack by the Palestinian group Hamas. Israel and Hezbollah have since traded near-daily fire across the Israel-Lebanon border, prompting tens of thousands of people on both sides to flee their homes. Some Israeli forces have already conducted small-scale ground operations in Lebanon, several international media outlets reported, and Israel’s air force has bombarded targets across the country in recent days.

<https://www.aljazeera.com/news/2024/9/30/israel-says-next-phase-of-war-with-hezbollah-in-lebanon-to-begin-soon>

Oman

Indian air force successfully completes exercise eastern bridge viiat rafo masirah

Ministry of Defence, September 21, 2024

The Indian Air Force (IAF) has successfully completed Exercise Eastern Bridge VII with the Royal Air Force of Oman (RAFO) at the RAFO airbase in Masirah. The IAF contingent has returned

to India after participating in a comprehensive series of training missions, which featured the participation of MiG-29 and Jaguar aircraft from IAF, F-16 and Hawk from RAFO. This exercise significantly enhanced strategic relations with Oman besides operational coordination and tactical skills between the two air forces. Exercise Eastern Bridge VII was aimed to strengthen military cooperation and enhance the interoperability of both forces. The exercise included complex air operations, air-to-air combat drills, and mission scenarios designed to improve strategic and tactical capabilities. The IAF contingent gained valuable insights into RAFO tactics and operational philosophies, enriching combat strategies.

<https://pib.gov.in/PressReleasePage.aspx?PRID=2057325>

Palestine

Palestinian president urges international community to hold Israel accountable for ‘full-scale war of genocide’, on day three of annual general debate

United Nations, September 26, 2024

All-out Mideast War Must be Averted, World Leaders Implore, Also Calling for Greater UN Support, Intervention to End Widening Crises in Sudan, Haiti. World leaders addressed multiple flashpoints and volatile crises in the Middle East and elsewhere during the third day of the General Assembly’s annual high-level general debate, with Mahmoud Abbas, President of the State of Palestine, urging the international community to hold Israel to account for carrying out a “full-scale war

of genocide” and stressing that the Palestinian people “will not allow a single centimetre of Gaza to be taken”. For almost a year, the Palestinian people have been “subjected to one of the most heinous crimes of our era”, said Mr. Abbas. Israel has killed more than “40,000 martyrs in Gaza alone, and thousands remain under the rubble”. Whole families have been wiped out, while more than 2 million Palestinians in Gaza have left their homes multiple times in search of safety. The West Bank is under daily Israeli aggression, he went on to say. “They are building everywhere in Palestine, as if all of Palestine is theirs,” he stressed.

<https://press.un.org/en/2024/ga12635.doc.htm>

Qatar

Ashghal launches construction technology platform as part of conteQ expo 2024

Qatar News Agency, September 17, 2024

The Public Works Authority (Ashghal) announced September 17, the launch of the Ashghal construction technology platform, which highlights the latest innovations that are developing the construction sector, as part of the activities of the Advanced Technology for Construction and Services Expo (ConteQ Expo 2024), held at the Qatar National Convention Center and runs for three days. The new platform aims to create a future where revolutionary technology transforms infrastructure, raising it to unprecedented levels of flexibility, sustainability, and efficiency, and where construction sites become hubs of productivity and safety, introducing

advanced technologies such as robotics, drones, and wearable devices to enhance efficiency and safety on work sites, as well as expanding modular construction and 3D printing, which reduces waste and enhances scalability, cost-effectiveness, and labour efficiency. The new platform enables construction professionals to leverage the latest technological developments to achieve greater efficiency, productivity, and quality in their projects, providing a collaborative environment that enables stakeholders to connect, share knowledge, and gain insights from each other's experiences.

<https://www.qna.org.qa/en/News-Area/News/2024-09/17/0052-ashghal-launches-construction-technology-platform-as-part-of-conteq-expo-2024>

‘Strategic partnership’: US admits Qatar to visa waiver programme

Al -Jazeera, September 24, 2024

Qatar has become the first Gulf country admitted into the US visa waiver programme, the United States has announced, in a move that will allow Qatari citizens to travel visa-free to the country for up to 90 days. In a joint statement on September 24, the US State Department and the Department of Homeland Security said Qatari citizens would be able to apply no later than December 1. “Qatar’s fulfillment of the stringent security requirements to join the Visa Waiver Program will deepen our strategic partnership and enhance the flow of people and commerce between our two countries,” US Secretary of State Antony Blinken said. “Qatar’s entry will make travel between the

United States and Qatar safer, more secure, and easier for both Americans and Qataris.” Qatar and the US have enjoyed close ties for years, and Washington formally designated Doha as a “major, non-NATO ally” in 2022 in a sign of the countries’ deepening military and economic partnership.

<https://www.aljazeera.com/news/2024/9/24/strategic-partnership-us-admits-qatar-to-visa-waiver-programme>

Saudi Arabia

Saudi Arabia will not recognize Israel without Palestinian state, says Crown Prince

Al Arabiya, September 18, 2024

Saudi Crown Prince Mohammed bin Salman on September 18, said that Saudi Arabia would not recognize Israel without a Palestinian state and strongly condemned the “crimes of the Israeli occupation” against the Palestinian people. “The Kingdom will not stop its tireless work towards the establishment of an independent Palestinian state with East Jerusalem as its capital, and we affirm that the Kingdom will not establish diplomatic relations with Israel without that,” the Crown Prince, known as MBS, said. He emphasized that the Palestinian cause remains a top priority for Saudi Arabia and expressed gratitude to the nations that have recognized the Palestinian state. MBS said Saudi Arabia aims to enhance regional and international security through diplomatic solutions, emphasizing the Kingdom’s commitment to a policy of good neighborliness. The Saudi leader made the remarks at an annual speech to the advisory

Shura Council, which he gave on behalf of King Salman. The council swore an oath of office before MBS on September 18, before he addressed it.

<https://english.alarabiya.net/News/saudi-arabia/2024/09/18/saudi-arabia-won-t-establish-ties-with-israel-without-palestinian-state-mbs>

Intersec Saudi Arabia to return in october with expanded focus

Saudi Press Agency, September 19, 2024

Riyadh will host the 6th edition of Intersec Saudi Arabia, a major trade fair for the security, safety, and emergency response industries. The event will take place from October 1 to 3 and feature over 300 companies from 28 countries at the Riyadh International Convention and Exhibition Center. Organized under the supervision of the General Directorate of Civil Defence and the High Commission for Industrial Security, Intersec Saudi Arabia aims to address the needs of the Saudi market and government agencies. The exhibition provides a platform for connecting with service providers and exploring the latest technologies and best practices in firefighting, security, emergency response, safety, and cybersecurity.

<https://spa.gov.sa/en/N2174003>

US secretary of defence talks security challenges with Saudi defence minister

Al Arabiya, September 22, 2024

US Secretary of Defence Lloyd J. Austin spoke Friday with Saudi Minister of Defense Prince Khalid bin Salman and discussed regional security challenges, Pentagon Press Secretary Maj. Gen. Pat

Ryder said in a readout. They also discussed the two nations' "mutual interest in deterring aggression and reducing tensions across the region," according to the Pentagon. "They agreed to continue strengthening the United States-Kingdom of Saudi Arabia defense partnership to help restore stability and calm to the region," the statement added. On September 22, Austin spoke to Yoav Gallant for the first time. The Pentagon published a readout of the call on September 23, and Austin posted a clear statement on X, part of which read: "Israel should support diplomatic negotiations to de-escalate tensions with Lebanese Hizballah along the Lebanon-Israel border." Around 70,000 Israelis are believed to have been forced to leave the northern part of Israel and seek refuge further south. On the other side, around 100,000 people have been forced to leave their homes and move further north or closer to the capital of Beirut.

<https://english.alarabiya.net/News/saudi-arabia/2024/09/22/us-secretary-of-defense-talks-security-challenges-with-saudi-defense-minister>

At UN, Saudi Arabia announces international alliance to establish Palestinian state

Ibrahim Sipahi

Anadolu Agency, September 27, 2024

Saudi Arabia has announced the creation of an international alliance aimed at establishing a Palestinian state and implementing a two-state solution. "Today, on behalf of the Arab and Islamic nations, along with our European partners, we announce the launch of the International

Alliance to Implement the Two-State Solution. We invite you to join this initiative," Saudi Foreign Minister Faisal bin Farhan told a Thursday ministerial meeting on the Palestinian issue and efforts for peace. Speaking on the sidelines of the UN General Assembly in New York, he did not give further details on the alliance, but made the case for such an international effort. Faisal decried the "catastrophic humanitarian crisis" caused by the war in Gaza and the "severe violations committed by Israeli occupying forces in the West Bank," said the Saudi Press Agency (SPA). He described these actions as part of a "broader policy of occupation and violent extremism."

<https://www.aa.com.tr/en/middle-east/at-un-saudi-arabia-announces-international-alliance-to-establish-palestinian-state/3343100>

Syria

Syria participates at international conference on Islamic Unity held in Tehran

Syrian Arab News Agency, September 19, 2024

With the participation of Syria, the 38th International Conference on Islamic Unity began on September 18, in Tehran, entitled "Islamic Cooperation to Achieve Common Values and focus on Palestinian Case". The conference will be attended by Syrian Ambassador to Tehran, Dr. Shafiq Dioub, and 2,500 civil and military figures, as well as a group of elites and thinkers from Islamic countries. As well, more than 230 religious scholars and intellectuals will deliver speeches in 16 virtual meetings. The conference secretariat received more

than 313 articles as a summary of these articles will be scheduled to be published in a booklet.

<https://sana.sy/en/?p=338535>

Syrian-Omani talks on bolstering bilateral relations

Syrian Arab News Agency, September 22, 2024

Chairman of Omani the Shura council, Khalid Bin Hilal Al Maawali met Sunday Special Adviser at the Presidency of the Republic, Buthaina Shaaban. Al Maawali stressed the Omani leadership's keenness to support and assist Syria in facing the repercussions of the war, especially the economic issue and the necessity of improving the living conditions of the Syrian people, pointing out that the Sultanate of Oman has always been at the forefront of the countries supporting to strengthen Syria's relations with its Arab surroundings. The two sides pointed out the importance of documentation and history in preserving the identity of the two countries and their heritage, as well as preserving the credibility of events in the region, on top, the war that took place in Syria and the genocide that is taking place against the Palestinian people.

<https://sana.sy/en/?p=338733>

Syria strongly condemns the Israeli brutal aggression on Lebanese people-foreign ministry

Syrian Arab News Agency, September 23, 2024

The Syrian Arab Republic on Monday strongly condemned the Israeli brutal aggression on the Lebanese brotherly

people under the protection of USA. "In continuation of the genocidal war waged by the Israeli enemy on the region, this usurping entity continues to shed the blood of innocents and commit massacres against defenseless civilians on a daily basis, in a precedent which modern history has never witnessed," Foreign and Expatriates Ministry said in a statement. The statement added that since this morning, the Israeli enemy has launched a continuous aggression against the brotherly Lebanese people, with its missiles and warplanes bombing people and stones, targeting residential buildings in the southern Lebanese regions, ambulances, medical centers, and convoys of civilian cars, which led to the martyrdom of hundreds and the injury of thousands of innocent civilians, children and women.

<https://sana.sy/en/?p=338840>

More than 30,000 people crossed into Syria from Lebanon: UN

Al- Jazeera, September 27, 2024

More than 30,000 people, mainly Syrians, have crossed into Syria from Lebanon in the past 72 hours, according to the United Nations refugee agency (UNHCR). The escalating conflict between Israeli forces and Hezbollah has displaced more than 90,000 people since September 23, the agency said on September 27. About 80 percent of those crossing over are Syrians and about 20 percent are Lebanese, said Gonzalo Vargas Llosa, the UNHCR representative in Syria. "They are crossing from a country at war to one that has faced a crisis conflict for 13 years," an extremely difficult choice, he told a news conference. Lebanon is home to about 1.5 million

Syrians who fled civil war in their country. Israel has dismissed global calls for a ceasefire with Hezbollah and continues a bombing campaign that has killed more than 700 people in Lebanon since September 30.

<https://www.aljazeera.com/news/2024/9/27/more-than-30000-people-crossed-into-syria-from-lebanon-un>

Turkiye

Turkiye provides 30 tons of humanitarian support to Lebanon

Daily Sabah, September 25, 2024

An airplane carrying humanitarian aid from Türkiye has arrived at Rafik Hariri International Airport in Beirut, Lebanon. The plane was welcomed by Lebanon's Health Minister Firas el-Ebyad and Türkiye's Beirut Ambassador Ali Barış Ulusoy. Minister Ebyad stated in an interview with Anadolu Agency (AA) that the humanitarian aid arriving in Beirut by military cargo plane from Türkiye consists of 30 tons of medical supplies and medication. Ebyad emphasized that the Turkish government contacted the Lebanese Ministry of Foreign Affairs on September 23, when Israel's attacks on Lebanon began, and he noted that Türkiye rapidly delivered the humanitarian aid, adding that Ambassador Ulusoy communicated their readiness to do everything possible for Lebanon's health care needs.

<https://www.dailysabah.com/turkiye/turkiye-provides-30-tons-of-humanitarian-support-to-lebanon/news>

United Arab Emirates

UAE-India defence industry forum discusses boosting strategic partnership

Emirates News Agency, September 18, 2024

The UAE-India Defence Industries Cooperation Forum, co-organised by the Emirates Defence Companies Council (EDCC) and the Society of Indian Defence Manufacturers (SIDM), was held today in Abu Dhabi. The event brought together a distinguished group of experts, specialists, and business leaders from the two countries to explore opportunities for collaboration and future partnerships. The forum was attended by senior government and military officials from the Defence Ministries of the UAE and India, along with representatives from the Indian Embassy in the UAE. During the Forum, defence industry companies discussed ways to enhance cooperation and expand partnership horizons in this vital sector, while a series of bilateral meetings focused on exchanging expertise, and insights, and identifying future collaboration opportunities.

<https://www.wam.ae/en/article/b58zbpduae-india-defence-industry-forum-discusses>

UAE's defence conglomeration EDGE looks to space with new FADA entity

Breaking Defense, September 23, 2024

In its first large stride in the space domain, the United Arab Emirate's defense giant EDGE Group launched today a new company dubbed FADA to spur the country's defense-related space sector, the company announced today in a statement.

“EDGE is fully committed to advancing the UAE’s strategic interests in defence and advanced technology, and FADA’s mission is to develop sovereign space capabilities and homegrown technologies in the UAE,” according to the statement. Named FADA, the Arabic word for space, the new entity is expected to help build a national space sector to support the country’s requirements and will expand international partnerships to benefit from Transfer of Technology (ToT) and transfer of Knowledge (ToK). “FADA will establish state-of-the-art facilities for the development, manufacturing, assembly, integration, and testing of various satellite systems and subsystems, serving as a one-stop shop for all space-related activities and providing end-to-end solutions and services to local and international customers, including: Synthetic Aperture Radar (SAR), Optical (EO) and Infrared (IR) payloads, as well as satellite platforms, and satellite cybersecurity and protection services in addition to other space activities,” according to the statement.

<https://breakingdefense.com/2024/09/uaes-defense-conglomeration-edge-looks-to-space-with-new-fada-entity/>

UAE designation as US Major Defence Partner to tighten security ties, could aid F-35 deal: Experts

Breaking Defence, September 24, 2024

America’s declaration that the United Arab Emirates is now officially its second-ever Major Defence Partner is expected draw the two friendly nations even closer on military matters and may offer a boost to the UAE’s beleaguered effort to join the international F-35 program, analysts told Breaking

Defence. “Acknowledging the U.S. and UAE’s deepening security partnership and cooperation in advanced technology and acquisition, shared interest in preventing conflict and de-escalation, President [Joe] Biden today recognized the United Arab Emirates as a Major Defense Partner of the United States, joined by only India, to further enhance defense cooperation and security in the Middle East, East Africa, and the Indian Ocean regions,” the White House said September 23.

<http://breakingdefense.com/2024/09/uae-designation-as-us-major-defense-partner-to-tighten-security-ties-could-aid-f-35-deal-experts/>

Yemen

Israeli army launches air raids on Yemen’s Ras Isa and Hodeidah

Al-Jazeera, September 29, 2024

Israel’s military says it has launched a series of air raids on Houthi targets in Yemen, further heightening fears of a wider regional conflict in the wake of intensified Israeli attacks on Gaza and Lebanon. In a statement on September 29, the military said dozens of aircraft, including fighter jets, attacked power plants and sea port facilities at the Ras Isa and Hodeidah ports. The attack killed at least four people – one port worker and three electric engineers – the Houthi-affiliated Al Masirah TV reported citing health officials. The attack came a day after the Houthis said they fired a ballistic missile at Ben Gurion International Airport near Tel Aviv in Israel.

<https://www.aljazeera.com/news/2024/9/29/israeli-army-launches-air-raids-on-yemens-ras-isa-and-hodeidah>

NUCLEAR AND ARMS CONTROL CENTRE

Sylloge on West Asia is compiled by Ms. Bhawna

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