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मनोहर पर्रिकर रक्षा अध्ययन एवं विश्लेषण संस्थान

Armenia

Armenia will be represented at EUROSATORY international defence and security exhibition for the first time

Armenpress, June 5, 2024

For the first time, Armenia will be represented at EUROSATORY, the world's number one land and air-land Defense and Security exhibition, which will be held in Paris from June 17 to 21, 2024. According to a press release from the Chamber of Commerce and Industry France Armenia, the exhibition will host over 1,800 exhibitors from 90 countries, with an expected attendance of 98,000 visitors and professionals. The "Armenia" pavilion will house a delegation of companies that are members of the CCI France Armenia and integrated part of the Armenian military-industrial complex. This will be an opportunity for these Armenian companies to showcase their technologies and solutions for the first time in Europe at an international exhibition, with the aim of signing contracts.

<https://armenpress.am/en/article/1138783>

Armenia-Greece technico-military cooperation to expand, deepen

News.am, June 11, 2024

Deputy Minister of Defence Arman Sargsyan submitted for debates in the National Assembly (NA) the Armenian government's legislative initiative to ratify the agreement with the Greek government on technico-military cooperation—and signed on December 14, 2023 in Athens. The purpose of this agreement is to expand and deepen the process of technico-

military cooperation between Armenia and Greece. "The agreement defines the directions of cooperation in the technico-military sector, the process of training the necessary specialists and technical personnel, assistance to organizations operating in the technico-military sector, and the means of implementing cooperation," Sargsyan said, in particular.

<https://news.am/eng/news/828473.html>

Armenia becomes 43rd nation to sign the Artemis Accords

Space and Defense, June 13, 2024

Armenia has become the latest country to sign up to NASA's Artemis Accords. The country became the 43rd signatory during a ceremony at NASA's Washington, D.C. headquarters on June 12, 2024. "NASA is proud to welcome Armenia to the Artemis Accords as we expand the peaceful exploration of space," said Administrator Bill Nelson. "As the 10th nation this year to sign the Artemis Accords, we are proving that exploration unites nations like few other things can."

<https://spaceanddefense.io/armenia-becomes-43rd-nation-to-sign-the-artemis-accords/>

Armenia to quit Russia-led CSTO military alliance

Deutsche Welle, June 13, 2024

Armenia's Prime Minister Nikol Pashinyan announces withdrawal from the CSTO, accusing members of failing to protect Armenia in Nagorno-Karabakh. The move signals increasing regional tensions. The CSTO is a Russia-dominated alliance of former Soviet states that have pledged to

protect one another in the event of an attack. "We will leave," Pashinyan said. "We will decide when to leave. We won't come back, there is no other way." The Armenian leader denounced the CSTO for failing to provide protection, during an address to lawmakers.

<https://www.dw.com/en/armenia-to-leave-russian-led-csto-security-bloc/a-69348061>

Azerbaijan

Kargu loitering munition used in Azerbaijan exercise

Janes, June 11, 2024

The Azerbaijani Ministry of Defence confirmed it has acquired the Kargu loitering munition made by Turkish company STM when it released a video on 10 June showing one being used during the 'Caucasian Eagle 2024' exercise. Exercise 'Caucasian Eagle 2024' began in Baku on 4 June and involves Special Forces from Azerbaijan, Georgia, and Türkiye.

<https://www.janes.com/osint-insights/defence-news/defence/kargu-loitering-munition-used-in-azerbaijan-exercise>

Azerbaijan says Russian peacekeepers have completed withdrawal

The Defense Post, June 12, 2024

Russian peacekeepers on June 12, completed their withdrawal from Azerbaijan's Nagorno-Karabakh region, which Baku recaptured last year from Armenian separatists, officials in Baku said. Azerbaijan and Armenia had fought two wars — in 2020 and in the 1990s — for control of the then-breakaway enclave.

"The process of the full withdrawal of the manpower, weapons, and equipment of Russia's peacekeeping contingent (in Karabakh) from Azerbaijan was completed on June 12," the defense ministry in Baku said in a statement. The withdrawal, which began in April, has been agreed between Russian President Vladimir Putin and his Azerbaijani counterpart Ilham Aliyev.

<https://www.thedefensepost.com/2024/06/12/azerbaijan-russian-peacekeepers-withdrawal/>

Iran, Azerbaijan to hold tactical drill

Mehr News, June 12, 2024

The Islamic Republic of Iran and the Republic of Azerbaijan are scheduled to conduct a tactical drill today. According to the training plan for 2024, on June 12, tactical exercises will be held with the units of the Azerbaijan Army deployed in Nakhchivan, Trend News Agency reported, referring to the Azerbaijani Defense Ministry. The exercises, involving military personnel, combat equipment, aviation vehicles, and unmanned aerial vehicles, are focused on further increasing the decision-making skills of commanders and their level of professionalism, as well as improving the interoperability between the units.

<https://en.mehrnews.com/news/216403/Iran-Azerbaijan-to-hold-tactical-drill>

Bahrain

China, Bahrain establish comprehensive strategic partnership

Xinhua

The State Council Information Office (The Peoples Republic of China), June 1, 2024

Chinese President Xi Jinping and Bahrain's King Hamad bin Isa Al Khalifa on May 31, announced the establishment of a comprehensive strategic partnership between the two countries, a new milestone in bilateral relations. The announcement came as Xi held talks with Hamad, who is in China for a state visit. Hamad also attended the opening ceremony of the 10th ministerial conference of the China-Arab States Cooperation Forum in Beijing on May 30. China firmly supports Bahrain's efforts to safeguard national sovereignty, security and stability, and supports Bahrain's path of independent development, as well as Bahrain's Economic Vision 2030 and its diversified development strategy, he said. China is willing to strengthen cooperation with Bahrain in the fields of energy, investment, transportation, new energy and digital economy, and achieve more results in high-quality Belt and Road cooperation, Xi said.

http://english.scio.gov.cn/m/topnews/2024-06/01/content_117228629.htm

Bahrain participates in Schuman Security and Defence Forum

Bahrain News Agency, June 2, 2024

The Kingdom of Bahrain, represented by a delegation led by Abdulla Faisal Al Doseri, Bahraini Ambassador to Belgium and Head of the Diplomatic Mission to the European Union (EU), participated in the second edition of the Schuman Security and Defence Forum 2024. Participants from more than 60 countries and representatives from international and regional organisations attended the forum. The forum aimed at discussing common security and defense issues between the

EU and international partners, including strategic partnerships, hybrid security threats, human security and the role of women, youth and the environment within the framework of security and defense, maritime security, counterterrorism, and sustainable security partnerships.

<https://www.bna.bh/en/BahrainparticipatesinSchumanSecurityandDefenseForum.aspx?cms=q8FmFJgiscL2fwIzON1%2BDsBL9ayKoRvRbw3sGXsytWo%3D>

Bahrain, France security cooperation discussed

Bahrain News Agency, June 12, 2024

General Shaikh Rashid bin Abdullah Al Khalifa, the Minister of Interior, met with Laurent Nunez, the Chief of Police of the City of Paris. Nunez affirmed the significance of the minister's visit to further enhance security cooperation and coordination between the two countries to achieve common strategic and security objectives. The two parties agreed to establish a joint committee that will meet regularly to monitor progress, coordinate efforts, and facilitate the ongoing exchange of expertise. The meeting focused on enhancing cooperation in various security fields, including homeland security, civil defence and combating economic crimes and keeping pace with the rapidly evolving challenges in this area. The discussion centered on leveraging artificial intelligence (AI) applications to combat crime more effectively. The meeting also discussed cooperation in traffic, judicial police, financial investigations, and combating cybercrime and cross-border crimes.

<https://www.bna.bh/en/news?cms=q8FmFJgiscL2fwIzON1%2BDleMVE2Jhd42%2FsyWDzUk8MU%3D>

Iran

Iran to unveil new generation of long-range defence systems

Mehr News, June 2, 2024

The commander of the Iranian Army's Air Defence Force said on June 2 that a number of long-range defence systems will be unveiled in the near future. "The unveiling of a number of long-range defence systems will be done in the near future, and the Air Defense Combat Organization of the Army will be equipped with powerful and efficient indigenous weapons," Sabahi Fard also said. "According to the threats, the defence power is being upgraded and optimized, and the specialized human resources also have the necessary competency in this regard," he concluded.

<https://en.mehrnews.com/news/216043/Iran-to-unveil-new-generation-of-long-range-defense-systems#:~:text=TEHRAN%2C%20Jun.,unveiled%20in%20the%20near%20future.>

Iran's shifting nuclear doctrine is bad news for Pakistan and the region

Dr. Zafar Nawaz Jaspal

Arab News, June 13, 2024

The international community is closely monitoring Iran's nuclear program. On June 5, the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA) formally censured Iran over advances in its nuclear program and failure to cooperate with it. Tehran's prospective exit from the Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons (NPT) to manufacture nuclear weapons would potentially kick off horizontal nuclear proliferation in the region.

Furthermore, it is telling of the intrinsic relationship between civilian nuclear cooperation and nuclear weapons proliferation.

<https://www.arabnews.pk/node/2530016>

G7 Warns Iran Over Nuclear Escalations

Iranwire, June 14, 2024

The Group of Seven (G7) leaders warned Iran on June 14, regarding its accelerating nuclear enrichment activities and cautioned Tehran against providing ballistic missiles to Russia for use in the Ukraine war. The G7 urged Iran "to cease and reverse nuclear escalations, and stop the continuing uranium enrichment activities that have no credible civilian justifications."

The rebuke comes after a UN nuclear watchdog report on June 13, revealed that Iran has rapidly installed more uranium enrichment centrifuges at its Fordow site and begun setting up additional ones. In its report, the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA) confirmed on June 10, that Iran had started feeding uranium into three cascades of advanced IR-4 and IR-6 centrifuges at its Natanz enrichment facility.

<https://iranwire.com/en/news/130590-g7-warns-iran-over-nuclear-escalations/>

Iraq

Iraq eyes South Korea's M-SAM-II air defence system for \$2.6B: Report

Joe Saballa

The Defense Post, June 4, 2024

Iraq has reportedly requested the M-SAM-II air and ballistic missile defence system

from South Korea in a potential \$2.56-billion deal. Eight M-SAM-II batteries have been included in Baghdad's wish list to be delivered on an "urgent" basis, according to a report by Army Recognition, citing a person familiar with the request. Iraq's planned acquisition comes more than a month after it announced it is again shopping for new air defence systems, for which Seoul is a preference. This coincides with Iraqi Defence Minister Thabet Al-Abbasi's meeting with his South Korean counterpart earlier this year to discuss military cooperation. In March, Baghdad revealed that it had sent military and technical delegations to several countries to explore air defence options, including anti-aircraft weapons.

<https://www.thedefensepost.com/2024/06/04/iraq-air-defense-system-2/>

Iran's allies in Iraq are firing at Israel. Could that trigger a wider war?

Timour Azhari and Laila Bassam

Reuters, June 4, 2024

Iran-backed Shi'ite armed groups in Iraq have ramped up rocket and missile attacks on Israel in recent weeks, raising concerns in Washington and among some Iranian allies of potential Israeli retaliation and regional escalation should they draw blood. Though the attacks, often from hundreds of miles (kms) away, are not seen by western officials and Israeli experts as posing the same level of threat to Israel as point-blank strikes by Hamas and Hezbollah, they have increased in number and sophistication. At least two have hit their targets and many have had

to be shot down by U.S. and Israeli defences, according to U.S officials and public statements by the Israeli military. New weaponry such as cruise missiles have been regularly used since May and are harder for air defences to destroy.

<https://www.reuters.com/world/middle-east/irans-allies-iraq-are-firing-israel-what-if-they-draw-blood-2024-06-04/>

Israel

Israel tech sector accounts for 20% of economy, Innovation Authority says

Steven Scheer

Reuters, June 4, 2024

Israel's high-tech sector now accounts for 20% of the country's economic output, the Israel Innovation Authority (IIA) said on June 4, as it urged the government to invest more to allow tech to grow faster. In its 2024 State of the High Tech Sector in Israel report, the state-funded authority said that despite the eight-month-old war against Palestinian Islamist group Hamas in Gaza, the tech sector continues to grow - albeit slower than in 2021 and 2022 - and remains Israel's main growth driver. It accounts for 53% of total exports.

<https://www.reuters.com/world/middle-east/israel-tech-sector-accounts-20-economy-innovation-authority-says-2024-06-04/>

Amidst Gaza tensions, Israel signs F-35 deal with US for 25 more warplanes

Seth J. Frantzman

Breaking Defense, June 5, 2024

Israel's Ministry of Defence has signed a \$3 billion deal with the US government

for a third squadron of twenty-five F-35 Joint Strike Fighters, the government announced June 4. The signing of the Letter of Acceptance between US and Israeli government officials seals the order, which was agreed to in July 2023 after years of consideration by the MoD about the right number of the fifth-gen stealth fighters needed by the IDF. “The procurement of the third F-35 squadron reflects the strength of the strategic alliance between Israel and the United States. This capability has a significant impact on arenas both near and far. At [a] time when some of our adversaries aim to undermine our ties with our greatest ally, we only further strengthen our alliance,” Israel’s Minister of Defense Yoav Gallant said.

<https://breakingdefense.com/2024/06/ami-dst-gaza-tensions-israel-signs-f-35-deal-with-us-for-25-more-warplanes/>

You need our air defences, Israeli arms maker tells Europe

Joshua Posaner

Politico, June 6, 2024

Whether they like it or not, Europeans need Israeli arms, Boaz Levy, the CEO of Israel Aerospace Industries (IAI), the country’s biggest ballistic missile defence system-maker, told Politico. As Israel’s air and land offensive in the Gaza Strip drags on, Israeli arms makers like state-owned IAI are on the lookout for fresh deals with European leaders keen to bolster their air defences in light of the threat posed by Russia. Levy’s message to Europeans: You’ll need the kind of air defences that have done so well

protecting Israel from the rockets and missiles fired by Hamas and Hezbollah.

<https://www.politico.eu/article/boaz-levy-israel-aerospace-industries-ballistic-missile-air-defenses-arms-israel-europe/>

Israel’s Aeronautics introduces loitering munition, surveillance drone combination

Seth J. Frantzman

Breaking Defense, June 14, 2024

The Israeli firm Aeronautics, which makes tactical drones, recently announced the latest addition to its family of Orbiter unmanned aerial vehicles, this one envisioned as a one-way loitering munition designed to work in concert with nearby surveillance UAVs. The new platform, named Orbiter 2 LM, for loitering munition, was announced on June 6. The company envision it working with a new system, Orbiter 2 STS or “sensor-to-shooter,” that will pair the loitering munition with nearby surveillance drones that can do battlefield surveillance before a strike and damage assessment afterwards.

<https://breakingdefense.com/2024/06/israel-s-aeronautics-introduces-loitering-munition-surveillance-drone-combination/>

French court bans reps of Israeli defense firms from attending Paris arms show

The Times of Israel, June 15, 2024

A French district court has ruled that organizers of the Eurosatory 2024 defence and security trade show must ban anyone working for or representing Israeli firms from participating in the event. The French

Defence Ministry last month ordered Coges Event to ban the Israeli defence industry from setting up a stand at the show, saying that “the conditions are no longer right to host Israeli companies at the Paris show, given that the French president is calling for the cessation of IDF operations in Rafah.”

<https://www.timesofisrael.com/french-court-bans-reps-of-israeli-defense-firms-from-attending-paris-arms-show/>

Jordan

Ukraine receives first US-purchased Jordanian gepard cheetah anti-aircraft guns

Global Defense News, June 6, 2024

The United States recently completed the purchase of 60 Gepard 1A2 35 mm air defence systems from Jordan for a total amount of \$118,375,740 (approximately €110 million). Originally, these systems, known as Cheetahs or 'pruttels', were sold to Jordan by the Netherlands in 2013 for €21 million (approximately \$22.4 million). The transfer of these vehicles by the Dutch armed forces marked the end of their use of these systems, which were shipped from Eemshaven to Jordan. This operation not only generated funds for Dutch defence but also provided training to Jordanian instructors on the operation and maintenance of these systems. Currently, Ukraine has 67 Gepard systems supplied by Germany. With the imminent arrival of the first batch of 60 Gepard Cheetahs purchased from Jordan by the United States, the close-range air defence capabilities of the Ukrainian forces could soon double. This significant increase in

their anti-aircraft arsenal will allow them to maximize their defence in a cost-effective manner.

<https://armyrecognition.com/news/army-news/army-news-2024/ukraine-receives-first-us-purchased-jordanian-gepard-cheetah-anti-aircraft-guns?highlight=WyJzZWF>

Jordanian military displays SR5 MRLs for king's silver jubilee

Janes, June 10, 2024

The Jordanian Armed Forces (JAF) is operating Chinese-made SR5 multiple rocket launchers (MRLs), it was revealed during the parade marking the 25th anniversary of King Abdullah II's reign on 9 June. The television coverage of the event showed the parade included examples of most of the JAF's primary systems, including two SR5s that the commentator noted entered service in 2023 and can launch 122, 230, and 300 mm projectiles with a maximum range of 150 km. The SR5s followed two Chinese-made 273 mm MRLs that were known to be in Jordanian service, although the commentator identified the type as the WM-80 rather than the WM-120, as widely presumed, saying it entered service in 2008 and has a maximum range of 83 km. The parade also featured the Royal Jordanian Artillery Corps' counter-battery radars, which the commentator identified as a Cobra, TQ-37 (AN/TPQ-37), and TQ-38, although the latter appeared to be an AN/TPQ-36. The United Kingdom transferred five of its Cobra radars to Jordan in 2016. The radars were followed by a large

unmanned aerial vehicle (UAV) that the commentator identified as the Shaheen and said entered service with the Royal Jordanian Air Force (RJAF) earlier in 2024 and has the ability to engage static and moving targets with guided weapons.

<https://www.janes.com/osint-insights/defence-news/c4isr/jordanian-military-displays-sr5-mrls-for-kings-silver-jubilee>

Digital economy minister says around 60% of government services digitalised

The Jordan Times, June 10, 2024

Minister of Digital Economy and Entrepreneurship Ahmad Hanandeh on June 9, said that full digitisation of services in Jordan has achieved 55-60 per cent. In remarks to Al Mamlaka TV, Hanandeh added that the procedures for systems supporting digital transformation in government institutions have been re-engineered and restructured, or new systems have been built to facilitate these institutions. He noted that the first service centre was established almost a year ago, and today there are four comprehensive service centres in Jordan, and by the end of this year, there will be eight to nine centres. He pointed out that the Kingdom has gone through several stages concerning technology, the first being "automation". The minister added that the digital infrastructure of the government is "excellent" and comparable to its counterparts in the Arab region.

<https://jordantimes.com/news/local/digital-economy-minister-says-around-60-government-services-digitalised>

Kuwait

Kuwait fire: IAF's C-130J super hercules on stand-by at hindan airbase for bringing back bodies of Indians

The Economic Times, June 14, 2024

Kuwaiti authorities are conducting DNA tests on over 40 Indian victims of a deadly fire in the Mangaf area. An Indian Air Force aircraft is ready to repatriate the bodies. Minister of State for External Affairs Kirti Vardhan Singh is in Kuwait to assist the injured and expedite the return of remains. The fire claimed 49 lives, including 42 Indians. Singh met with Kuwait's foreign minister, who promised full support, including medical care and a thorough investigation.

<https://economictimes.indiatimes.com/news/defence/kuwait-fire-iaf-aircraft-on-standby-to-bring-back-mortal-remains-of-indians/articleshow/110969192.cms?fr>

Lebanon

Hezbollah unveils air defence missile for first time against Israeli jet

William Christou

The New Arab, June 7, 2024

Hezbollah announced it used an air defence missile on June 6, which forced an Israeli jet to retreat from Lebanese airspace, the first time the group acknowledged it had the capacity to target fighter jets. The Lebanese group said in a statement that it fired air defence missiles at Israeli warplanes "which were attacking our skies forcing them to retreat beyond the border." Hezbollah did not give further specifications about the anti-aircraft

missile, as it usually does when unveiling new weaponry. "We still do not know much about the air defence missile itself, but it will restrain the ability of Israel to fly freely over Lebanon," retired Lebanese General Amine Hoteit told The New Arab.

<https://www.newarab.com/news/hezbollah-unveils-air-defence-missile-first-time>

Hezbollah launches rockets, drones at northern Israel military sites

Al-Jazeera, June 13, 2024

Hezbollah has said it launched a major drone and rocket attack targeting several Israeli military bases amid growing fears of an all-out war between the Lebanese armed group and Israel. It was the largest attack by the Iran-aligned group since the outbreak of violence between the two sides on October 8, a Hezbollah source told Al Jazeera Arabic on June 13. The group said the attack in northern Israel was in retaliation for the assassination of senior commander Taleb Abdullah – known as Abu Taleb – in an Israeli air raid in the southern Lebanese village of Jouaiya earlier this week.

<https://www.aljazeera.com/news/2024/6/13/hezbollah-launches-rockets-drones-at-northern-israel-military-sites>

UN officials warn of ‘miscalculation’ along Israel-Lebanon border

Al-Jazeera., June 15, 2024

Two United Nations officials based in Lebanon have warned that there is a “very real” threat of miscalculation that could lead to a wider war as cross-border fighting between Hezbollah and Israel rages. The warning on June 15, came from

the UN special coordinator for Lebanon, Jeanine Hennis-Plasschaert, and the head of UN peacekeeping forces in Lebanon, Aroldo Lazaro. In a statement, they said they were “deeply concerned” about the recent clashes along Lebanon’s southern border. “The danger of miscalculation leading to a sudden and wider conflict is very real,” the two officials said. They urged “all actors to cease their fire and commit to working toward a political and diplomatic solution”.

<https://www.aljazeera.com/news/2024/6/15/un-officials-warn-of-miscalculation-along-israel-lebanon-border>

Oman

India and Oman strengthen maritime defence relations

Times of Oman, June 6, 2024

The 6th edition of Staff Talks between Indian Navy (IN) and Royal Navy of Oman (RNO) were conducted from June 4 to 5 at New Delhi, the Ministry of Defence informed in a press release. The talks were focused towards further strengthening the existing defence relations between India and Oman in the maritime domain. The delegation from RNO was led by Cmde Jasim Mohammed Ali Al Balushi, DG Ops & Plans. Cmde Manmeet Singh Khurana, Commodore (FC) led the delegation from India. The series of Navy-to-Navy Staff Talks is testimony of the strong bilateral relations between two historical maritime neighbours, the release added.

<https://cdn-2.timesofoman.com/article/146382-india-and-oman-strengthen-maritime-defence-relations>

Oman's top tech minds gather at cyber security and cloud conference

Muscat Daily, June 12, 2024

The inaugural edition of Muscat Daily Cyber Security & Cloud Conference and awards took place with H H Sayyid Dr Adham bin Turki al Said officiating as chief guest at Intercity Hotel Muscat on June 12. Hosted by Interactive Apex (Apex Media), the event brought together nearly 150 delegates, including policymakers, IT leaders, cyber security and cloud solutions providers, consultants, risk and compliance professionals, and innovation leaders engaged in diverse sectors. The conference featured a series of thought-provoking presentations and two engaging panel discussions. It provided a platform to discuss imminent cyber security challenges and the management of these, and also highlighted the role of emerging technologies in enhancing defence mechanisms against sophisticated cyber threats.

<https://www.muscatdaily.com/2024/06/12/omans-top-tech-minds-gather-at-cyber-security-cloud-conference/>

India set to sign FTA with Oman in first 100 days of Modi's third term

Rajeev Jayaswal

Hindustan Times, June 12, 2024

India is set to sign a free trade agreement (FTA) with Oman in the first 100 days of the third term of Prime Minister Narendra Modi, who on June 11 said that strategic ties between the two countries are destined to scale new heights and the matter figured in commerce minister Piyush Goyal's review meeting. Two officials aware of the matter said negotiations between India and

the Sultanate of Oman were almost over during Modi's previous term. However, the FTA deal could not be signed with the enforcement of the model code of conduct on March 16 following the announcement of dates for the Lok Sabha polls. The officials, who requested anonymity, said the deal is likely to be concluded soon. "The India-Oman FTA is almost finalised, awaiting [formal] political nod from both sides," one of the officials said.

<https://www.hindustantimes.com/india-news/india-set-to-sign-fta-with-oman-in-first-100-days-of-modi-s-third-term-101718168748196.html>

Palestine

Israel launches new military operation in central Gaza

David Gritten

British Broadcasting Corporation News, June 6, 2024

The Israeli military says it has taken "operational control" over eastern areas of Bureij refugee camp and the town of Deir al-Balah in central Gaza, as dozens of Palestinians were reported killed. On June 5 morning, the military said troops backed by air strikes had begun an operation against "terrorists and terrorist infrastructure above and below ground". Residents reported intense bombardment and the charity Médecins Sans Frontières said at least 70 dead people - the majority women and children - had been brought to a local hospital since June 4. It came as US, Egyptian and Qatari mediators meet in Doha and Cairo to discuss how to finalise a new ceasefire and hostage release deal.

<https://www.bbc.com/news/articles/cw44w-pj99v7o>

US weapons parts used in Israeli attack on Gaza school: Al-Jazeera analysis

Al-Jazeera, June 6, 2024

Among the rubble of the United Nations-run al-Sardi school in central Gaza's Nuseirat refugee camp were the remnants of the weapons that killed at least 40 Palestinians. The Israeli attack in the early hours of June 6 gave the displaced people sheltering in the school no prior warning. Fourteen children were killed, as well as nine women and at least 74 other people were wounded. The weapons used to carry out the attack – according to an Al Jazeera analysis of the fragments left behind – were US-made. An inertial measurement unit from the missile, used to aid with precision targeting, was manufactured by Honeywell, an American conglomerate that specialises in the design and delivery of sensors and guidance devices that are used in a variety of military weapons.

<https://www.aljazeera.com/news/2024/6/6/us-weapons-parts-used-in-israeli-attack-on-gaza-school-al-jazeera-analysis>

Qatar

Deputy prime minister, minister of state for defence affairs Partakes in 21st shangri-la dialogue opening session

Qatar News Agency, June 1, 2024

The Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of State for Defence Affairs Dr. Khalid bin Mohamed Al Attiyah took part in the opening session of the 21st Shangri-La Dialogue currently held in Singapore under the theme "Cross-Regional Security Order Challenges". His Excellency delivered a speech addressing the State of Qatar's approach to facing regional

challenges, and its keenness to support and respect international treaties and agreements, in addition to the State of Qatar's unwavering call for dialogue and peace. His Excellency also touched on the role of the International Court of Justice (ICJ) regarding the ongoing war on Gaza, and stressed that the State of Qatar seizes every opportunity to affirm its position on the Palestinian cause and the rights of the Palestinian people. The 21st Shangri-La Dialogue is attended by 45 countries and 49 representatives at the ministerial level.

<https://www.qna.org.qa/en/News-Area/News/2024-06/01/0024-deputy-prime-minister,-minister-of-state-for-defence-affairs-partakes-in-21st-shangri-la-dialogue-opening-session>

Indian Air Force eyes mirage 2000-N fighters from Qatar, Greece to boost its strength

Srinjoy Chowdhury

Times Now News, June 12, 2024

For the Indian Air Force (IAF), desperately short of fighters (currently at 31 squadrons instead of the 40), temporary relief may be at hand with Qatar offering it 12 little-used Mirage-2000-5 fighters. A team headed by a Group Captain (equivalent to a Colonel in the Army) is likely to visit Doha in the coming weeks to assess the aircraft. The offer is being seriously considered as the offer price is reasonable and it comes with spares, including engines, "testers" and importantly, air-to-air weapons like the MICA. Each aircraft, including the additional engines, spares and weapons come to less than Rs 500 crores, a steal, according to sources. The fighters haven't

been used much-- they have 30 percent of their life, approximately 1,500 hours of flying in them and the Indian ability of "jugaad" could extend their life even further. This, when the indigenous LCA-Mark 1A deliveries may be slightly delayed and the purchase of 12 Sukhoi-30MKI fighters the government has cleared is still going through discussions, is a bonus.

<https://www.timesnownews.com/india/indian-air-force-eyes-mirage-2000-fighters-from-qatar-greece-to-boost-its-strength-article-110933302>

Qatar's strategic cybersecurity initiatives

Milipol, June 13, 2024

Qatar faces a daunting challenge in the realm of cybersecurity, with approximately 5.1 million internal and external cyber-attacks and 45,000 intrusion attempts thwarted recently. This surge in cyber threats underscores the necessity for robust cybersecurity measures, particularly as the emergence of AI complicates the threat landscape. In response, Qatar established the National Cyber Security Agency (NCSA) in 2021, a pivotal move to direct the nation's cybersecurity strategy. This strategy emphasises strong corporate governance, bolstering the cyber workforce, fostering international cooperation, and building cybersecurity capacity. The ultimate goal is to create a cyber-resilient ecosystem capable of withstanding cyber threats and ensuring business continuity.

<https://news.milipol.com/qatar/>

Saudi Arabia

Saudi armed forces college to transform into National Defence University

Arab News, June 2, 2024

The Saudi Armed Forces Command and Staff College will undergo a significant transformation, evolving into the National Defence University, the Saudi Press Agency reported on June 2. The process will unfold through five stages: laying the foundation for change within the college; conducting an in-depth analysis of the college's current position; benchmarking against leading international models; designing the university's structure and programs; and preparing for its operational launch. The vision for the new university is to become a regional institution by 2030, known for its excellence in preparing and qualifying military and civilian leaders in defence and national security.

<https://www.arabnews.com/node/2522151/saudi-arabia>

Saudi Arabia joins China and UAE in digital currency project

Adam Lucente

Al-Monitor, June 5, 2024

Saudi Arabia is the latest country to join a multi-country initiative for central bank digital currency (CBDC), amid increasing interest from the Gulf state in futuristic forms of money.

The Bank for International Settlements (BIS) announced on June 5, that Saudi Arabia is joining Project mBridge as a "full participant." The project explores a multi-central bank digital currency

platform to enable cross-border payments, the bank said in a press release on June 5. BIS is a financial institution that is owned by its member central banks. The bank's goal is to support cooperation between central banks and serve as a bank for the central banks. The central banks of Saudi Arabia, the U.A.E and Israel are among the bank's 63 members.

<https://www.al-monitor.com/originals/2024/06/saudi-arabia-joins-china-and-uae-digital-currency-project>

ARC Aero Systems and Life Shield to invest in UK and Saudi aerospace

Times Aerospace, June 13, 2024

The deal between ARC Aero Systems and the Riyadh-headquartered defence and security manufacturing specialist Life Shield will open the way for upwards of £300m of investment into the two nations' aerospace sectors. Bedfordshire-based ARC Aero Systems is in the advanced stages of developing a specially adapted hybrid-electric powered aircraft which it plans to bring to market by 2026. ARC is also developing a larger nine-seat Linx P9 compound rotorcraft and a C600, one of the largest civilian unmanned aerial vehicles, capable of carrying payloads of up to 100kg across long distances. Supported by Saudi Arabia's National Industry Development Center, this new partnership will see both the Saudi Government and Life Shield make an equity investment in ARC Systems with the creation of a new company, based in the Middle East nation, called Life Shield Aerospace.

<https://www.timesaerospace.aero/news/defence/arc-aero-systems-and-life-shield-to-invest-in-uk-and-saudi-aerospace>

Syria

Syrian National Army launches first military academy

Daily Sabah, June 3, 2024

The Syrian National Army (SNA) of the opposition inaugurated its first military academy in a bid to improve the strength of forces formed amid the Syrian civil war. The Defence Ministry Warfare School, as it is called, will train prospective officers of the army, which is looking to modernize itself. The SNA was created in 2017 by the Syrian Interim Government and is a collection of troops with or without previous military experience. The government has been looking to develop and transform it into a regular army since then. The Warfare School, opened on May 29 in Afrin of Aleppo, will serve this purpose. A ceremony was recently held for the inauguration, with the participation of the Syrian Interim Government and SNA officials. Initially, the school will offer modern military training for 500 personnel.

<https://www.dailysabah.com/politics/syria-n-national-army-launches-first-military-academy/news>

Syria says no dialogue with Turkey before Ankara announces plans to withdraw its troops

Albert Aji

Associated Press, June 4, 2024

Syria's foreign minister said on June 4 that any dialogue between Syria and Turkey should only take place after Ankara announces that it will withdraw its troops from all Syrian territories it controls. Faisal Mekdad made the comments during

a joint news conference with Iran's acting foreign minister, Ali Bagheri Kani, after Turkey threatened in recent days to act against Kurdish-led authorities in Syria's northeast as they prepare to hold municipal elections next week. Turkey has launched three major cross-border operations into Syria since 2016 and controls some territories in the north. Ankara was a main backer of Syrian opposition fighters who have been trying to remove Syrian President Bashar Assad from power since the conflict began in March 2011. Attempts at reconciliation between Syria and Turkey have failed to achieve progress since early 2023 despite meetings in Moscow between the countries' foreign ministers and defense ministers.

<https://apnews.com/article/iran-syria-turkey-kurdish-military-a5560a37921929690106409fbd2373a3>

Eyeing showdown with Hezbollah, Israel presses shadow campaign in Syria

Arab News, June 10, 2024

Israel has intensified covert strikes in Syria against weapons sites, supply routes and Iranian-linked commanders, seven regional officials and diplomats said, ahead of a threatened full-scale assault on Tehran's key ally Hezbollah in Lebanon. A June 2 air raid that killed 18 people, including an adviser with Iran's elite Revolutionary Guards, targeted a clandestine, fortified weapons site near Aleppo, three of the sources said. In May, an air strike hit a convoy of trucks headed to Lebanon carrying missile parts and another raid killed Hezbollah operatives, four said.

<https://www.arabnews.com/node/2527921/middle-east>

Türkiye

Türkiye's defence, aerospace industry exports hit record \$876M in May

Tuba Ongun

Anadolu Ajansı, June 3, 2024

Türkiye's defence and aerospace industry exports hit its record high monthly figure of \$876 million in May, a month-on-month surge of 59%, said the secretary of Turkish Defence Industries (SSB) on June 3. "We are not only achieving sustainable growth in our sector with our record high high-tech exports, but also increasing our country's value-added export rate with our export value per kilogram exceeding \$65," Haluk Gorgun wrote on X. In January-May, Turkish defence and aerospace industry exports grew 9% from last year to \$2.2 billion, Gorgun added. June 3, Turkish Trade Minister Omer Bolat announced that the country's exports saw a record-high May figure of \$24.1 billion.

<https://www.aa.com.tr/en/turkiye/turkiyes-defense-aerospace-industry-exports-hit-record-876m-in-may/3238810>

Türkiye Begins Serial Production of Altay Tank

Richard Pettibone

Defense Security Monitor, June 3, 2024

Türkiye has begun mass production of its first domestically-made main battle tank, the Altay, according to a top defense official's announcement on May 29th, 2024. BMC Defence has initiated serial production of the Altay main battle tank

at its Ankara facility. This large-scale project envisions the manufacturing of 1,000 Altays for the Turkish Armed Forces. With a targeted production rate of eight tanks per month, BMC aims to deliver an initial batch of 250 Altay tanks. The Turkish Armed Forces (TSK) received two pre-production Altay tanks from BMC in April 2023 for testing purposes. The Altay boasts a 120mm L/55 smoothbore gun, 12.7 mm and 7.62 mm machine guns, and ammunition capacity for 40 rounds of 120mm shells.

<https://dsm.forecastinternational.com/2024/06/03/turkiye-begins-serial-production-of-altay-tank/>

Turkey defence minister says planned elections by Syrian Kurds are ‘unacceptable’

Kurd Press, June 2, 2024

Plans by U.S.-backed Kurdish groups to conduct local elections in northern Syria are “unacceptable” and a threat to Turkey’s national security, Turkey’s defence minister. Turkey considers the move as a step by Syrian Kurdish groups toward the creation of a separate Kurdish entity across its borders. Ankara accuses the Syrian Kurdish groups of ties to a banned Kurdish militant organization. In a written reply to questions from The Associated Press, Yasar Guler reiterated Turkey’s commitment to establishing a secure corridor along its borders with Syria and Iraq to counter the threat posed by Kurdish militants.

<https://en.kurdpress.com/news/159592/Turkey-defense-minister-says-planned-elections-by-Syrian-Kurds>

Türkiye signs letter of offer, acceptance for F-16 jets from US

Daily Sabah, June 7, 2024

Türkiye has signed a letter of offer and acceptance for the purchase of F-16 fighter jets from the United States, the U.S. State Department confirmed, inching closer to the completion of the prolonged process that sometimes fueled tensions between the NATO allies."Getting this particular sale over the finish line took some time," State Department spokesperson Matthew Miller told a news conference late June 6. "We're glad to see it moving forward." Miller said the sale is an "investment in NATO interoperability" and will support the national security interests of the U.S., Türkiye and the NATO alliance.

<https://www.dailysabah.com/business/defense/turkiye-signs-letter-of-offer-acceptance-for-f-16-jets-from-us>

“KAAN” to continue as planned even if the US allow Turkey to buy F-35 once again

Defence Security Asia, June 15, 2024

Effort to develop Turkish fifth-generation fighter jet, known as “KAAN,” will proceed as usual, despite intense speculations suggesting that the Mediterranean country might be allowed once again by Washington to buy the F-35 fighter jet developed by Lockheed Martin. High-ranking officials from Turkish Aerospace Industries (TAI) indicated at the recent DSA & NATSEC 2024 defense exhibition that the KAAN development program would continue unabated, even if Turkey were allowed to re-acquire the American-made F-35 fighters. “By 2028, TAI will begin delivering 20 KAAN Block 10 fighter jets to the Turkish Air Force.

Should Turkey purchase the F-35, the United States would not be able to fulfill the delivery of these aircraft by 2028,” stated a senior official.

<https://defencesecurityasia.com/en/kaan-to-continue-as-planned-even-the-us-allow-turkey-to-buy-f-35-once-again/>

United Arab Emirates

China, U.A.E ready to trade defence and security experiences

Reuters, June 2, 2024

China and the United Arab Emirates have emphasised a readiness to exchange experiences on defence and security, with a view to upgrading capacities of military personnel and security institutions in both countries, China's foreign ministry said on June 1. China said both sides appreciated their defence, military and security cooperation and coordination, the increased visits between both militaries, as well as mutual participation in training, exhibitions and official activities. This was announced in a joint declaration after UAE President Sheikh Mohammed bin Zayed Al Nahyan had a bilateral meeting with China's President Xi Jinping in Beijing on May 30.

<https://www.reuters.com/world/china-uae-ready-trade-defence-security-experiences-2024-06-02/>

Emirati defence giant joins forces with Indian firm with an eye towards a host of defence systems

Agnes Helou

Breaking Defense, June 12, 2024

As Emirati defence conglomerate EDGE Group is expanding its reach across the

globe, the four-year old firm said it is joining forces with Indian Adani Defence and Aerospace, highlighting potential joint efforts in missile and unmanned cooperation. “This agreement reflects our dedication to bringing our customers the most advanced and sophisticated products to the market, while taking advantage of the global export potential including critical UAE-grown technology. We are keen to setup the joint platform between Adani Defence and EDGE to pioneer new technologies and set new standards in advanced military equipment and defence sector,” EDGE’s CEO Hamad Al Marar said in a June 11 announcement. According to the agreement, EDGE and Adani will explore establishing facilities for production and maintenance, research and development in India and the UAE, respectively, in a deal that could increase both firms’ footprints in Southeast Asia and wider global markets.

<https://breakingdefense.com/2024/06/emirati-defense-giant-joins-forces-with-indian-firm-with-an-eye-towards-a-host-of-defense-systems/>

Yemen

Yemen's Houthis say they targeted 'military site' in Israel's Eilat

The Jerusalem Post, June 3, 2024

Yemen's Houthis say they targeted a military site on Israel's port city of Eilat with a new ballistic missile, the Iranian-backed group's military spokesperson Yahya Saree said on June 3. The Houthi militia, which controls the most populous parts of Yemen and is aligned with Iran, has attacked ships off its coast for months,

saying it is acting in solidarity with Palestinians fighting Israel in Gaza. The group targeted the military site "with a ballistic missile 'Palestine' that is being revealed today for the first time, and the operation has successfully achieved its objective," Saree said in a televised address.

<https://www.jpost.com/breaking-news/article-804871>

Houthis report fresh US-British airstrike in Yemen

Anatolia Agency, June 12, 2024

US and British warplanes launched a fresh airstrike in Yemen's western province of Al Hudaydah on June 12, the Houthi group said. The attack targeted the Al-Jabana area west of Al Hudaydah city, the Houthi-run Al-Masirah television reported. No information was provided about casualties or damage. Al-Jabana area houses a Houthi-run air defence camp, according to Yemeni media. There was no comment from the US or UK on the report. Al Hudaydah is a major Yemeni province with three vital ports and a long coastal strip. Since the beginning of 2024, a coalition led by the US has been conducting airstrikes that it said are targeting Houthi locations in parts of Yemen in response to attacks by the group in the Red Sea. The counterattacks have been occasionally met with retaliation from the group.

<https://www.aa.com.tr/en/middle-east/houthis-report-fresh-us-british-airstrike-in-yemen/3248241>

US targets Houthi radar sites in Yemen after merchant sailor goes missing

Business Standard, June 15, 2024

The United States military unleashed a wave of attacks targeting radar sites operated by Yemen's Houthi rebels over their assaults on shipping in the crucial Red Sea corridor, authorities said on June 15, after one merchant sailor went missing following an earlier Houthi strike on a ship. The attacks come as the US Navy faces the most intense combat it has seen since World War II in trying to counter the Houthi campaign attacks the rebels say are meant to halt the Israel-Hamas war in the Gaza Strip. However, the Iranian-backed rebel assaults often see the Houthis target ships and sailors who have nothing to do with the war while traffic remains halved through a corridor vital for cargo and energy shipments between Asia, Europe and the Mideast. US strikes destroyed seven radars within Houthi-controlled territory, the military's Central Command said. It did not elaborate on how the sites were destroyed and did not immediately respond to questions from The Associated Press.

https://www.business-standard.com/external-affairs-defence-security/news/us-targets-houthi-radar-sites-in-yemen-after-merchant-sailor-goes-missing-124061500140_1.html

NUCLEAR AND ARMS CONTROL CENTRE

Sylloge on West Asia is compiled by Ms. Bhawna

Manohar Parrikar Institute for Defence Studies and Analyses

**No. 1, Development Enclave,
Rao Tula Ram Marg,
Delhi Cantt., New Delhi-110 010
Telephone: 91-11-26717983;
Fax: 91-11-26154191,
Website: www.idsa.in**



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