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Iran

Iran issues statement regarding termination of sanctions

Tehran Times, October 16, 2023

The Iranian Foreign Minister announced the expiration of certain aspects of UNSCR 2231, including ballistic missiles technology limits, eight years after the adoption of the JCPOA. The statement highlighted the automatic termination of restrictions and emphasized Iran's commitment to self-defense within international legal frameworks. Meanwhile, the Ministry of Defense affirmed Iran's intention to bolster missile capabilities in line with national security needs. Lifting arms restrictions led to plans for lawful arms trade and increased participation in international affairs. Iran's Deputy Foreign Minister noted removing all restrictions on individuals and entities outlined in UNSC 2231 and urged compliance with the resolution, emphasizing that maintaining or imposing further sanctions would violate its spirit and text.

<https://www.tehrantimes.com/news/49029/0/Iran-issues-statement-reagrding-termination-of-sanctions>

Iran Strongly Opposes Monopolizing Outer Space

Fars News Agency, October 22, 2023

Asadollah Eshraq Jahromi, Director General of the Foreign Ministry's International Peace and Security Office, expressed Iran's strong opposition to the monopolization of outer space, emphasizing the need for a non-discriminatory multilateral approach within the United Nations to address security risks

posed by strategic missile defense systems. He called on the United States to withdraw opposition to the establishment of a special negotiating committee under the prevention of an arms race in outer space, despite existing sanctions against Iranian space agencies. Despite U.S. sanctions, Iran continues to make significant strides in science and technology, ranking among the top 10 states capable of building and launching satellites. The Defense Minister announced plans to launch two or three satellites by March 2024, highlighting Iran's commitment to advancing space technology.

<https://www.farsnews.ir/en/news/1402072/9000883/Iran-Srngly-Oppses-Mnplizing-Oer-Space>

Iran Equips High Altitude “Karrar” Drone with Air-to-air Missile

Defense Mirror, October 22, 2023

The Iran Army's Air Defense Force (ADF) has upgraded the "Karrar" drone with a heat-seeking air-to-air missile, extending its range to 8 kilometers. ADF Commander Brigadier General Alireza Sabahifard confirmed the modification, utilizing a revamped "Majid" surface-to-air missile developed in the last 12 months. The jet-powered "Karrar" drone, operating at a ceiling of 47,000 feet, has previously issued radar and radio warnings to foreign aircraft approaching Iran's coastal waters. This enhancement equips the drone to effectively engage high-altitude enemy drones and slow-moving reconnaissance aircraft.

https://www.defensemirror.com/news/35266/Iran_Equips_High_Altitude_Karrar_Drone_with_Air_to_air_Missile

Official: Iran kick-starts construction of Karoun nuclear power plant

Iran Front Page, October 25, 2023

Iran FIran has initiated the construction of the Karoun nuclear power plant in the Khuzestan province, according to the head of the Atomic Energy Organization of Iran (AEOI), Mohammad Eslami. Contracts with domestic companies have been signed to equip the plant, which will have a capacity of 300 megawatts. Eslami noted that water and electricity requirements for the project have been met, and a 24-megawatt power facility is also underway for a desalination plant. The Karoun nuclear power plant, designed by local experts and incorporating indigenous technologies, is located on approximately 50 hectares near the Karoun River.

<https://ifpnews.com/official-iran-kick-starts-construction-karoun-nuclear-power-plant/>

Iranian Arash suicide drone used in Eqtedar 1402 military exercise

Iran Press, October 27, 2023

In the ongoing 'Eqtedar 1402 military exercise, the ground forces of the Islamic Republic of Iran Army utilized Arash suicide drones with high precision to target predetermined locations. Conducted on the first day of the exercise, the deployment of these drones aimed at executing coastal defense operations and obstructing the advance of attacking forces. The Arash drones successfully hit both fixed and moving targets. Additionally, multi-purpose drones provided crucial information about the Nasrabad area in Isfahan, central Iran, during the main phase of the exercise. The military drill, spanning

two days, involves coastal defense and offensive operations in the public area of Nasrabad.

<https://iranpress.com/iranian-arash-suicide-drone-used-in-eqtedar-1402-military-exercise>

Iranian Army Demos New loitering drones with 1000g Warheads during Military drills

Defence Mirror, October 30, 2023

During the ongoing Eqtedar 1402 military drills, the Iranian Army revealed its new loitering munitions, Sina and Fateh, with warheads weighing 300 to 1,000 grams. These kamikaze drones, exhibiting an operational endurance of 10 to 15 minutes, demonstrated their precision by successfully engaging designated targets within a 10-kilometer radius. Featuring an intelligent guidance system, the Sina and Fateh drones tracked targets from launch to impact. Ababil-4 drones, on the second day of the drills, deployed Qaem-5 bombs on ground targets with accuracy. The Mohajer 6 drone conducted an offensive operation in Nasrabad, Isfahan, equipped with a twin-arm laser-guided missile launcher. The range of ground and air versions of the Dehlaviyeh missile was extended to 8 kilometres, integrated into the M113 armoured personnel carriers. The air-based Shafaq missile, capable of carrying a 50-kilogram warhead at Mach 2.2 with a 20-kilometer destruction range, was launched. The Almas missile, with an 8-kilometer range, was showcased on Bell Cobra 209 choppers and combat drones.

https://www.defensemirror.com/news/35302/Iranian_Army_Demos_New_Loitering_Drones_with_1000g_Warhead_During_Military_Drills

Iraq

Bombing targets a US military base in Erbil

Shafaq News, October 18, 2023

The armed group claiming responsibility for the shelling is "Teshkil al-Warithin (The Heirs Formation) - Al-Aqsa Flood Operations Room." They announced the targeting of the "American occupation base in northern Iraq - Harir Base" with a drone. The attack follows heightened tensions in the region due to Israel's conflict with Hamas, leading to increased alert levels by the U.S. in anticipation of potential attacks from "Iran-supported" groups.

<https://shafaq.com/en/Iraq-News/Bombing-targets-a-US-military-base-in-Erbil>

US forces thwarts drone attacks on military bases in Iraq

Shafaq News, October 19, 2023

The U.S. Central Command has reported the successful interception of drone attacks on the "Ain al-Asad" and "Hareer" military bases in Iraq. According to the command's statement, two drone attacks in western Iraq were repelled, resulting in the destruction of one drone and minor injuries among coalition forces. A third drone was also destroyed in the Kurdistan Region, preventing casualties or damages. The command emphasized the heightened state of readiness and the commitment of U.S. forces to defend against any threats in Iraq and the region.

<https://shafaq.com/en/Iraq-News/US-forces-thwarts-drone-attacks-on-military-bases-in-Iraq>

US forces in Iraq, Syria face spike in attacks

Iraqi News, October 25, 2023

The recent spike in drone and missile attacks targeting American and allied forces in Iraq and Syria is linked to the ongoing conflict between Israel and Hamas. Although the attacks have not been directly claimed by a known group with documented links to Iran, the U.S. holds Tehran responsible and has threatened decisive responses to actions by its proxies. The "Islamic Resistance in Iraq" is a claiming name, not a distinct group, representing various Iran-backed factions jointly claiming attacks during the Gaza conflict. The U.S. Central Command reported 10 attacks in Iraq and three in Syria between October 17 and 24. While the impact has been limited so far, there is a high potential for escalation, and the U.S. presence in Iraq and Syria is aimed at preventing a resurgence of ISIS. The recent attacks are considered a serious threat, and there are concerns about the situation worsening.

<https://www.iraqinews.com/iraq/us-forces-in-iraq-syria-face-spike-in-attacks/>

US speeds up defense system deployment in 7 countries including Iraq

Iraqi News, October 26, 2023

The United States is deploying about a dozen air defense and missile defense systems in Iraq, Syria, and the Arabian Gulf in response to increased attacks on US forces. The deployment includes the Terminal High Altitude Area Defense (THAAD) system in Saudi Arabia and Patriot air defense missile system battalions in Kuwait, Jordan, Iraq, Saudi Arabia,

Qatar, and the UAE. The move comes ahead of Israel's ground operation in the Gaza Strip. The US Department of Defense revealed that US and coalition forces in Iraq and Syria were targeted at least 13 times last week, with 24 US soldiers sustaining minor injuries in drone and rocket attacks. This escalation is the first of its kind in more than a year, and the US is on high alert for activities by groups backed by Iran amid rising tensions over the Israel-Hamas conflict.

<https://www.iraqinews.com/iraq/us-speeds-up-defense-system-deployment-in-7-countries-including-iraq/>

Iraq seeks air defence systems to counter possible Israeli airstrikes

The New Arab, October 31, 2023

To deter possible Israeli airstrikes, the Iraqi government has initiated extensive contacts with several countries to purchase air defence systems, Iraqi officials announced. Prime Minister Mohammed Shia Al-Sudani's government, with support from the ruling Coordinating Framework coalition, has initiated extensive contacts with several countries to purchase air defence systems, two Iraqi officials have stated to Al Araby Al-Jadeed, The New Arab's Arabic sister website. As Israel's army continues its war on Palestine's Gaza Strip and southern Lebanon, the step by the Iraqi authorities is viewed as a precautionary measure in case Israel's war spills over to Iraq amid continuous attacks by Iran-backed militias on United States military bases in the country.

<https://www.newarab.com/news/iraq-seeks-air-defence-deter-possible-israeli-airstrikes?amp>

Israel

Israel's 'Saar 6' missile ships used for precision strikes on Gaza

I24 News, October 16, 2023

'Ahi Oz' and 'Ahi Magen' are the two Saar 6 missile ships used on a precise strike in Gaza. Israel's 'Saar 6' model missile ships recently carried out their inaugural operational attack on the Gaza Strip. The successful strike was planned against key Hamas naval assets in the territorial water of the Gaza Strip.

<https://www.i24news.tv/en/news/israel/defense/1697461422-israel-s-saar-6-missile-ships-used-for-precision-strikes-on-gaza>

Israel's ThirdEye to Provide Counter-UAV Systems

Israel Defense, October 23, 2023

ThirdEye, an Israeli company specializing in electro-optical object detection systems for drones and vehicles, has secured a commitment for the purchase of dozens of "Meduza" protection systems valued at approximately 13.5 million NIS, with an option to increase the total to 15 million NIS. Developed to address drone threats on the battlefield, the "Meduza" system utilizes optical sensors and artificial intelligence, providing 360-degree protection from low-altitude drones with a single soldier able to operate the system. The mobile, completely passive system, capable of replacing or complementing radar systems up to 4 km, is designed to work against complex backgrounds below the horizon. ThirdEye CEO Lior Segal emphasized the company's dedication to delivering essential defense systems promptly.

<https://www.israeldefense.co.il/en/node/60038>

Meet the SPICE Smart Bomb Guidance Kit Employed by the Israel Air Force

Israel Defense, October 23, 2023

The "SPICE" system by Israeli defense firm Rafael upgrades conventional air-dropped bombs into smart munitions through electro-optic or GPS guidance. An evolution of the Popeye air-to-surface missile, SPICE kits integrate an inertial navigation system (INS) and GPS for precise guidance and mid-flight adjustments. Compatible with F-15, F-16, F-35, Tornado, and Mirage 2000 aircraft, SPICE suits general-purpose bombs and specific variants, ranging from Spice 250 to Spice 250 ER, with weights between 125 to 900 kilograms and a 150-kilometer range for the ER model. Operational since 2003, SPICE is utilized by the Israeli Air Force and countries like the US, India, Greece, Brazil, Colombia, Singapore, and South Korea.

<https://www.israeldefense.co.il/en/node/60046>

Raytheon, Rafael to Build Facility to Jointly Produce Iron Dome's Tamir Missile

Defense Mirror, October 27, 2023

Raytheon, a subsidiary of RTX, has joined forces with Rafael Advanced Defense Systems to establish a facility in East Camden, Arkansas, dedicated to producing the Tamir missile, a crucial component of both the Iron Dome Weapon System and its U.S. counterpart, SkyHunter. The joint venture, Raytheon-Rafael Area Protection Systems, is investing \$33 million in the new facility, which will be the first all-up-round (AUR) production site in the U.S. for this

air-defense missile. Construction is set to begin later this year, with missile production scheduled for 2025. The Tamir missile, with a cost estimated between \$40,000 to \$50,000 each, has proven effective in the Iron Dome, intercepting thousands of rockets from Gaza since 2011. The U.S. version, SkyHunter, will be manufactured for the U.S. Marine Corps Medium Range Intercept Capability (MRIC) program, countering a range of threats, including cruise missiles and unmanned aircraft.

https://www.defensemirror.com/news/35292/Raytheon_Rafael_to_Build_Facility_to_Jointly_Produce_Iron_Dome_s_Tamir_Missile

Meprolight Sells Tens of Thousands of Sights to S. American Country

Defense Mirror, October 29, 2023

Meprolight, an Israeli electro-optical systems manufacturer and member of the SK Group, has secured a significant sale of its MEPRO MOR sights to a South American country. The MEPRO MOR sights stand out as a cost-effective solution, integrating a battery-free passive reflector sight, a visible pointer, and an invisible IR pointer in a single product. This consolidation not only results in significant cost savings but also enhances mission flexibility. The sights utilize a battery-free reticle system for accurate firing at all times, even without turning the sight ON. Developed to meet IDF requirements, MEPRO sights support close-range firing in urban and CQB conditions, as well as long-distance shooting in open-terrain operations. The simultaneous zeroing mechanism for all aiming devices further

adds convenience, allowing efficient zeroing day or night and saving time and ammunition.

<https://www.israeldefense.co.il/en/node/60108>

Israel Deploys Arrow Missile Defense System for the First Time in Ongoing Conflict

Defense Mirror, October 31, 2023

In ongoing hostilities, the Israeli Defense Forces employed the Arrow missile defense system, successfully intercepting a Red Sea surface-to-surface missile. The official announcement on Israeli Air Force social media highlighted the system's efficacy in countering ballistic threats. Developed by Israeli Aerospace Industries and Boeing, the Arrow system tracked and engaged the incoming missile at the optimal operational time and place, with coordinated action from Israeli fighter jets addressing additional threats. Comprising Arrow 2 and Arrow 3 hypersonic anti-ballistic missiles and advanced radar systems, the high-cost venture had an initial estimated expense of \$1.6 billion. Each Arrow missile carries a \$3 million price tag, with substantial investments received between 1989 and 2007, a significant portion from the United States. Recent reports suggest Israel Aerospace Industries (IAI) will assist Germany in integrating the Arrow 3 missile defense system into Europe's unified air defense network.

https://www.defensemirror.com/news/35321/Israel_Deploys_Arrow_Missile_Defense_System_for_the_First_Time_in_Ongoing_Conflict

Oman

Oman, Iran explore means of enhancing cooperation in technology, space sciences

Times Of Oman, October 26, 2023

The Sultanate of Oman and the Islamic Republic of Iran are exploring expanded cooperation, focusing on space sciences, technology, academic exchange, and joint training. The Minister of Higher Education, Research and Innovation of Oman, Dr. Rahma Ibrahim Al Mahrouqi, met with Iran's Minister of Information and Communications Technology, Issa Zarepour. Discussions included forming joint research teams, knowledge transfer, supporting the economy, establishing startups, and hosting joint events in research and innovation. The possibility of Iranian universities opening branches in Oman was also considered during the meeting.

<https://timesofoman.com/article/137733-oman-iran-explore-means-of-enhancing-cooperation-in-technology-space-sciences>

Qatar

Qatar Affirms Full Support for Establishment of Nuclear WEAPON Free Zones in Middle East

Ministry of Foreign Affairs, October 17, 2023

The State of Qatar has reiterated its steadfast support for the establishment of the nuclear-weapon-free zone in the Middle-East, emphasizing the urgency to implement Security Council resolutions and General Assembly mandates. During the 78th session off the UN General Assembly, Hussain Mohammed Al Safran,

a member of Qatar's delegation, highlighted the critical juncture of the nuclear non-proliferation system and urge the international community to intensify disarmament efforts. Qatar urged nuclear-weapon state to take verifiable and irreversible steps towards disarmament under the Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons. Expressing concern over global tensions, Qatar called on governments and international organization to fulfil their NPT responsibilities and activate mechanisms for disarmament. Additionally, Qatar committed to nuclear safety under its National Vision 2030, submitted proposals for new IAEA projects, initiated a calibration laboratory, and announced plans for a national forum on peaceful atomic energy in 2024 to promote international cooperation and dialogue for peace and security.

<https://www.mofa.gov.qa/en/all-mofa-news/details/1445/04/02/qatar-affirms-full-support-for-establishment-of-nuclear-weapon-free-zones-in-middle-east>

Saudi Arabia

What's behind Saudi Arabia's quest for a nuclear programme?

The New Arab, October 19, 2023

Saudi Arabia's heightened interest in nuclear capabilities has become a focal point of recent regional debates, a sentiment that intensified following a rare interview with Saudi Crown Prince Mohammad bin Salman (MbS) in September. "If they get one, we have to get one," he asserted to *Fox News*, hinting at concerns over Iran's potential ambitions to acquire a nuclear bomb. However, he was quick to emphasise a desire for regional

stability and security, stating, "but we don't want to see that". Saudi Arabia has shown interest in being part of the US-backed Abraham Accords, joining several Arab countries including fellow Gulf states the UAE and Bahrain in normalising relations with Israel. The Kingdom has made it clear that this would come with strings attached, chief among them being the transfer of nuclear technology and advanced weaponry from the United States.

<https://www.newarab.com/analysis/whats-behind-saudi-arabias-quest-nuclear-programme>

Saudi Arabia, Oman sign nuclear, radiation safety deal

Arab News, October 22, 2023

Saudi Arabia and Oman have solidified their commitment to enhancing nuclear and radiation safety through a recently signed agreement. The memorandum of understanding focuses on advancing cooperation in utilizing nuclear technologies for peaceful purposes. The deal outlines the exchange of experiences, information, and best practices in nuclear and radiation safety, as well as environmental protection. Both nations will share regulatory guidelines, operational experiences, studies, and research. The agreement also addresses crisis communications, radioactive waste management, and collaborative emergency and response planning. The co-signatories, Chairman of Oman's Environment Authority Abdullah bin Ali Al-Amri and CEO of the Saudi Nuclear and Radiological Regulatory Commission Khalid bin Abdulaziz Al-Issa, formalized this collaboration during the 66th General

Conference of the International Atomic Energy Agency. This development follows Saudi Arabia's ongoing commitment to nuclear safety, as demonstrated through a previous memorandum with the US Nuclear Regulatory Commission.

<https://www.arabnews.com/node/2395716/business-economy>

Saudi Arabia to Order 54 Rafale from Dassault Aviation

TURFDEF, October 22, 2023

Saudi Arabia is Considering acquiring 54 Rafale fighter jets, and Dassault Aviation has been tasked with submitting a proposal by November 10. The Saudi Arabian Air Force's preference for the Rafale, as reported by La Tribune, follows similar choices made by Egypt, Qatar, and the United Arab Emirates. Dassault's final offer, including the cost of the fighters and a comprehensive support package, is awaited by the November deadline. This decision stems from challenges in obtaining the Eurofighter Typhoon, as Germany, a consortium partner, blocked sales due to concerns related to the Yemen conflict and the Jamal Khashoggi murder. Airbus' Chief Executive, Guillaume Faury, criticized the German government's stance on arms exports in response to these developments.

<https://www.turfdef.com/country/saudi-arabia-news>

Cabinet follows up on KSA diplomatic efforts to stop military operations in Gaza

Saudi Gazette, October 31, 2023

The Cabinet, under the leadership of Crown Prince and Prime Minister Mohammed Bin

Salman, conveyed in Riyadh, focusing on the Kingdom's diplomatic efforts to encourage the international community to intervene in halting military operations in Gaza. Emphasizing the need for humanitarian aid and a just solution for the Palestinian people, the Cabinet was briefed on a call between the Crown Prince and the President of the United States. Additionally, the session addressed developments in Sudan, expressing hope for positive outcomes in the talks facilitated by Saudi Arabia and the United States. The Cabinet commended recent economic activities, notably the success of the Future Initiative, approving draft models for cooperation in the logistic and postal sectors. Authorization was granted for agreements with Mauritania and discussions with Qatar on various cooperation areas, and Cabinet approved a tripartite agreement for the renewal of the Regional Center of Quality and Excellence in Education under UNESCO supervision.

<https://www.suadigazette.com.sa/article/637259/SAUDI-ARABIA/Cabinet-follows-up-on-KSA-diplomatic-efforts-to-stop-military-operations-in-Gaza>

Syrian Arab Republic

Turkey Extends Syria, Iraq Operations by Another two years

Defense Post, October 18, 2023

Turkey's parliament has extended military authorization for cross-border operations in Syria and Iraq by two years, initially granted in 2013 to combat the Islamic State group. Renewed annually, it was extended for the first time in 2021, granting President Recep Tayyip Erdogan an extended period

to address security concerns, particularly against Kurdish militias. The motion, signed by Erdogan, emphasizes the need for measures aligned with international law for Turkey's national security. Notably, it includes a clause expressing openness to deploying foreign troops on Turkish soil to combat terror groups, subject to presidential discretion. This has faced criticism from the opposition CHP party, opposing foreign military presence. The escalation of Turkish cross-border air raids follows a PKK-claimed bombing in Ankara, with the PKK designated a terrorist group by Turkey and Western allies.

<https://www.thedefensepost.com/2023/10/18/turkey-extends-syria-iraq-operations/>

Israel strikes Syrian Govt Position in South: NGO

Defense Post, October 19, 2023

The Israeli government reportedly conducted a strike on a Syrian military position in the southern province of Quneitra, according to the Syrian Observatory for Human Rights, a UK-based war monitoring NGO. The strike caused material damage and was not officially reported by Syrian media. Simultaneously, the Israeli army announced strikes on Hezbollah positions in Lebanon, which shares a border with the Golan Heights. The region has seen increased clashes between Hezbollah militants and the Israeli army since the recent conflict initiated by a Hamas attack on Israel. The Israeli strikes have targeted airports in Aleppo and Damascus, both under Syrian government control, rendering them inoperable. Israel has not

officially commented on these specific strikes but has consistently expressed its opposition to Iran expanding its influence in Syria.

<https://www.thedefensepost.com/2023/10/19/israel-strikes-syria-govt-position/>

Iran-Backed Groups Blow Up Gas Pipeline in Syria: Monitor

Defense Post, October 21, 2023

Iran-backed groups reportedly targeted a gas pipeline near Syria's Conoco gas facility in the Kurdish-controlled northeast, close to a US base. The Syrian Observatory for Human Rights confirmed the incident, noting the explosion occurred near the US base. The US-led coalition, deployed in Syria to combat ISIS, maintains bases in the Al-Omar oil field and Conoco gas field, both in Kurdish-controlled territory. The explosion caused flames, with no reported casualties. This event follows heightened regional tensions after Israel's conflict with Gaza-based militants. Additionally, CENTCOM reported shooting down drones in Iraq, causing minor injuries to allied troops. These incidents are possibly linked to threats against US troops due to Washington's support for Israel in its conflict with Hamas. Simultaneously, a recent hospital strike in Gaza triggered widespread outrage and protests across Arab capitals, condemning Israel. The Israeli military reported over 3,700 Palestinian deaths, mostly civilians, in the Gaza bombings since the October 7 Hamas attack.

<https://www.thedefensepost.com/2023/10/21/iran-groups-gas-pipeline-syria/>

Türkiye

Türkiye boosts defense budget by 150%, aims for greater self-sufficiency

Daily Sabah, October 18, 2023

Türkiye will allocate TL 1.13 trillion (around \$40 billion) to its defense budget in 2024, a presentation by Vice President Cevdet Yılmaz showed Tuesday, marking a 150% increase from this year's budget, indicating another move to bolster its defense capabilities in the ever-developing sector.

This year, Türkiye allotted around \$16 billion for defense and security. Along with raising its budget, Türkiye seeks to boost exports, employment and localization in the defense and aerospace industry through the policies and measures to be implemented in the 2024-2028 period, according to the newly presented "12th Development Plan."

"Defense industry exports will be increased from \$6 billion to \$11 billion, and the defense industry's self-sufficiency rate will be increased from 80% to 85%," Yılmaz said during a presentation on Tuesday.

<https://www.dailysabah.com/business/defense/turkiye-boosts-defense-budget-by-150-aims-for-greater-self-sufficiency>

Turkish manufacturers seal \$211M armored vehicle deal with Estonia

Daily Sabah, October 19, 2023

Two Turkish vehicle manufacturers, Otokar and Nurol Makina, inked a contract with Estonia on Wednesday for the supply of 230 armored vehicles worth around 200 million euros (around \$211 million).

A contract signing ceremony for the 230 4X4 and 6X6 vehicles to be delivered to Estonian security forces by the Estonian Centre for Defence Investments (ECDI) was held in Tallinn, the capital of Estonia.

"Additionally, four-wheeled armored vehicles have been purchased for the Explosive Ordnance Disposal Centre of the Estonian Rescue Board. These armored vehicles are intended to safeguard members of the Defence Forces in combat situations, ensuring their rapid and secure deployment on the battlefield," according to a statement from the ECDI.

<https://www.dailysabah.com/business/defense/turkish-manufacturers-seal-211m-armored-vehicle-deal-with-estonia>

Turkish drone magnate Baykar to donate \$10M for Gaza aid

Daily Sabah, October 20, 2023

Selçuk Bayraktar, the chief technology officer (CTO) and chairperson of the board of the Turkish drone magnate Baykar, announced that the company would make a \$10 million donation for critically-needed humanitarian assistance to Gaza. In a message he posted on X, formerly Twitter, Bayraktar harshly criticized Israel's indiscriminate attacks, as he said the country is committing war crimes by targeting hospitals, schools and places of worship. On Oct. 17, Israeli warplanes hit the Al-Ahli Baptist Hospital in Gaza, killing at least 500 people. On Wednesday, the country targeted a mosque inside a refugee camp, while it targeted the Greek Orthodox Church in Gaza late Thursday.

<https://www.dailysabah.com/business/defense/turkish-drone-magnate-baykar-to-donate-10m-for-gaza-aid>

Türkiye's sea-based combat drone completes high-speed roll test

Daily Sabah, October 25, 2023

Türkiye's pioneering drone maker said Wednesday it had successfully completed the latest high-speed roll test of its new unmanned combat aerial vehicle (UCAV), which is tailored for the country's newly commissioned aircraft carrier. TB3, a short-runway-capable version of Baykar's famed TB2 platform, rolled out on a runway in northwestern Türkiye, according to a video shared by Selçuk Bayraktar, the company's chief technology officer (CTO). The video on social media platform X, formerly known as Twitter, showed TB3 briefly taking off before landing at the Çorlu Flight Training and Test Center. It marked TB3's third high-speed roll test this month. The company earlier said the platform would soon perform its maiden flight.

<https://www.dailysabah.com/business/defense/turkiyes-sea-based-combat-drone-completes-high-speed-roll-test>

Sea-based drone completes maiden flight to mark Türkiye's centenary

Daily Sabah, October 27, 2023

Türkiye's new unmanned combat aerial vehicle (UCAV), tailored for the country's newly commissioned aircraft carrier, on Friday successfully took to the sky for its inaugural flight, its developer announced. The milestone comes as Türkiye celebrates its centenary, encouraged by the profound transformation achieved in its defense industry, marked by a range of homegrown air, land and marine platforms spearheaded by combat drones. "On the Republic of

Türkiye's centennial, the Bayraktar TB3 unmanned aerial vehicle successfully completed its maiden flight," Selçuk Bayraktar, Baykar's chief technology officer (CTO), said in a video on the social media platform X, formerly known as Twitter.

<https://www.dailysabah.com/business/defense/sea-based-drone-completes-maiden-flight-to-mark-turkiyes-centenary>

United Arab Emirates

FANR reviews Barakah Nuclear Power Plant progress; signs agreement with French research institution

Zawya, October 30, 2023

FANR presented to the Board the latest progress of the four units of the Barakah Nuclear Power Plant, where units 1, 2 and 3 are currently operational, and the review of Unit 4 Operating Licence Application is ongoing and will be issued when Nawah Energy Company meets all regulatory requirements. ABU DHABI - The Board of Management of the UAE's Federal Authority for Nuclear Regulation (FANR) has recently convened, during which FANR's Director-General Christer Viktorsson briefed members of the Board on its recent regulatory activities including the oversight and inspection of the Barakah Nuclear Power Plant to ensure its compliance with FANR's regulatory requirements.

<https://www.zawya.com/en/business/energy/fanr-reviews-barakah-nuclear-power-plant-progress-signs-agreement-with-french-research-institution-uxda4xvx>

Yemen

US Navy Intercepts 3 Missiles Fired From Yemen 'Potentially' at Israel: Pentagon

The Defense Post, October 20, 2023

A US Navy ship in the Red Sea intercepted three land-attack cruise missiles and drones fired by Iran-backed Houthi rebels in Yemen. The USS Carney, part of the increased US military presence ordered by President Biden after the Israel-Hamas conflict, thwarted the potential threat aimed at Israel. The Pentagon confirmed no US casualties, and the missiles likely fell into open water. Biden's deployment of additional assets aims to prevent further escalation in the Middle East. The Pentagon has 2,000 personnel on standby for support roles, with no intention of putting combat forces on the ground. Reports about the US fighting alongside Israeli troops in response to a Hezbollah attack were denied by Biden, but discussions are ongoing about potential alternatives in case of a Hezbollah threat.

<https://www.thedefensepost.com/2023/10/20/us-navy-intercepts-missiles-yemen/>

NUCLEAR AND ARMS CONTROL CENTRE

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