

Nuclear, Missile & Space Digest

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A Fortnightly Newsletter from the Indian Pugwash Society

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- Iran Showcases Largest Maritime Simulator in West Asia
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- Iran Rejects Western Media Claims over Construction of Deep Underground Nuclear Site
- Iran Unveils New 2,000km-Range Ballistic Missile Capable of Overcoming Air Defense Shields
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- IAEA Cases on Alleged Uranium Traces in Iran Closed Ahead of BoG Meeting
- IRGC Aerospace Commander: Hypersonic Ballistic Missile Tested Successfully
- Iran's Indigenous Transport Airplane Passes Flight Test

H. Israel

- Israel, Montenegro sign \$20 million defense exports agreement
- German army to equip with 50 additional Puma infantry fighting vehicles with Spike LR missiles
- Elbit Systems marks milestone with first two M-346 aircraft arriving in Greece
- Regulus Cyber launched Ring ARM-V
- Elbit UK to deliver ground-based surveillance radars to British Army
- IDF chief on Iran nuke program: 'Negative developments' could prompt Israeli response
- International University of Rabat, Israel Aerospace Industries sign MOU to establish aeronautics & AI center of excellence
- IDF downs drone crossing into Israel from Lebanon
- Elta to provide Peruvian Navy with Fokker 50 SIGINT next month
- Elsight wins Israeli Police drone connectivity contract
- IDF launches major drill focused on preparing for all out multi-front war
- Airobotics to deploy autonomous drone network in Abu Dhabi
- Israeli Minister of Defense briefs CENTCOM commander on "Firm Hand" exercise

I. Jordan

- Five Countries Join IAEA's Radiation Monitoring System

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- US reportedly looking to Oman to broker new Iran nuclear talks

K. Qatar

- Corvette delivery to Qatar completed by Fincantieri
- Qatar Signs \$10B Contract To Develop Gas Field Shared With Iran

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- Report: Saudis want US alliance, nuclear program in exchange for deal with Israel

M. Turkiye

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- Modernization set to make F-16 fighter jets 'truly Turkish'
- Turkish firm's smallest laser-guided missile up for mass production
- Turkish defense giant successfully tests ballistic missile Tayfun
- Türkiye's Baykar inks deal to replace embargoed drone electro-optic systems
- Turkish defense firm introduces unmanned chopper to Malaysian market
- Turkish army receives 27 modernized armored amphibious assault vehicles
- Turkish defense firm, African nation ink \$36.5M border security deal

N. United Arab Emirates

- Japan, UAE sign agreement to transfer defense equipment and technology
- UAE commits \$275 million for landmark nuclear energy initiative

Japan seals deal for defense equipment, technology transfers with UAE

UAE withdraws from US-led maritime coalition

O. East Asia

- At G7, Kishida eyes 'realistic' approach to nukes, with bold steps unlikely
- North Korea accuses US, South Korea of 'nuclear blackmail'
- World leaders warn China and North Korea on nukes as Ukraine's Zelenskyy travels to G7 summit
- South Korean nuclear experts to tour Fukushima plant amid water concerns
- South Korean experts visit Fukushima nuclear plant before release of treated water into sea
- Japan nuclear watchdog asks Fukushima plant operator to assess risk from reactor damage
- North Korea criticises 'sinister' South as live-fire exercises with US start
- IAEA Team in Japan for Final Review Before Planned Discharge of Fukushima Nuclear Plant Water

P. Australia

- China's ambassador to Australia says Aukus an 'unnecessary' use of taxpayer money and 'not a good idea'
- Australian Navy Faces Major Hurdles in Building AUKUS Attack Boats, Says Defense Review
- Pentagon seeks authority to transfer nuclear submarines to Australia
- Albanese urged to take stand against nuclear weapons during G7 summit in Hiroshima
- The US Navy has its eyes on a new submarine base that will help it keep track of China's growing undersea fleet
- AUKUS is moving to intelligent drone swarms

A. India

Kant calls for unfettered access to U.S. nuclear technology to build small modular reactors

The Hindu, May 16, 2023

India's G20 Sherpa Amitabh Kant on May 16 called for an "unfettered access" to nuclear technology from the U.S. to build small modular reactors (SMR) in the country. He also said the private sector needs to be allowed into the atomic energy sector to take advantage of the more efficient SMRs. "India also needs to work with the US so that it is provided unfettered access to cutting edge technology by granting general authorisation to India," Mr. Kant said addressing a session at the energy transition working group of G-20 meeting here.

<https://www.thehindu.com/news/national/kant-calls-for-unfettered-access-to-us-nuclear-technology-to-build-small-modular-reactors/article66857076.ece>

MoD says 2,736 defence items indigenised in self-reliance quest

Hindustan Times, May 16, 2023

The government on Tuesday said that 164 defence items that were under an import ban, and used in platforms including tanks, infantry combat vehicles, missiles and warships, have been indigenised in a fresh push for self-reliance. This has taken the total number of such defence items, including line replacement units, sub-systems and spares, indigenised during the last two-and-a-half years to 2,736.

<https://www.hindustantimes.com/india-news/government-indigenizes-164-defence-items-worth-814-crore-to-reduce-import-dependence-total-number-now-2736-101684244114921.html>

Amid row with China, India moves to boost conventional missile arsenal

Times of India, May 17, 2023

India is now stepping on the gas to produce both short-range and long-range conventional missiles for major non-nuclear

strikes against enemy targets, even as it also separately consolidates the nuclear-triad for strategic deterrence, amid the continuing military confrontation with China. Development of the Pralay ballistic missiles with a strike range from 150 to 500-km has been completed by the DRDO, while the long-range land-attack cruise missiles (LR-LACMs) and submarine-launched cruise missiles (SLCMs), with a 1,000-km range, will also be ready for production within a couple of years, top defence sources told TOI.

<https://timesofindia.indiatimes.com/india/amid-row-with-china-india-moves-to-boost-conventional-missile-arsenal/articleshow/100289836.cms?from=mdr>

G20: US keen on sharing advanced SMR technology in nuclear power with India

Times of India, May 18, 2023

Foreign interest, especially that of US, in helping india in technology transition such as small modular reactors for nuclear power, creation of large battery storage for renewable energy generation targets set for 2030, creating state-wise land-pool identification to set up solar power plants, and taking immediate steps to encourage green hydrogen, biofuel and offshore wind turbines were some of the main highlights of the third three-day energy transition meeting that concluded in Mumbai on Wednesday as part of the G20 summit.

<https://timesofindia.indiatimes.com/india/g20-us-keen-on-sharing-advanced-smr-technology-in-nuclear-power-with-india/articleshow/100312458.cms?from=mdr>

INS 'Vaghsheer': India's sixth Scorpene Class Submarine begins its first sea trials

Economic Times, May 19, 2023

In a significant milestone, final Submarine of Kalvari Class Made in India has started its maiden sea trials. Indian Navy's 6th Kalvari Class Submarine INS 'Vaghsheer' was launched on April 20, 2022. Last submarine under 'Project 75' was

launched from Kanhoji Angre Wet Basin of Mazagon Dock Shipbuilders Ltd. Lethal submarine will be commissioned into the Indian Navy in 2024 after the completion of sea trials. Mazagon Dock Shipbuilders has already delivered 3 Submarines under Project-75 in just 24 months.

<https://economictimes.indiatimes.com/news/defence/ins-vaghsheer-indias-sixth-scorpene-class-submarine-begins-its-first-sea-trials/videoshow/100362737.cms>

India's defence production exceeds \$12 billion for first time

Economic Times, May 19, 2023

India's defence production rose more than 12% last fiscal year and crossed the 1 trillion rupee (\$12 billion) threshold for the first time, the government said on Friday, as the country tries to reduce its reliance on imports from countries such as Russia. India, the world's largest arms importer in the past decade, depends on Russia for nearly half of its military supplies. But the war in Ukraine has held up of Russian spares critical for India to maintain its tank and fighter jet fleets, and delayed the delivery of Russian air defence systems.

<https://economictimes.indiatimes.com/news/defence/india-says-defence-production-exceeds-12-billion-for-first-time/articleshow/100348964.cms?from=mdr>

Indian Navy's latest indigenous guided missile destroyer INS Mormugao hits 'bulls eye'

Economic Times, May 23, 2023

Indian Navy's latest indigenous guided missile destroyer INS Mormugao successfully carried out engagement of a sea skimming supersonic target. The successful maiden MRSAM missile firing by INS Mormugao is yet another milestone in Indian Navy's quest for accurate delivery of Ordnance on Target and showcases Indian Navy's Future Proof Combat Readiness and commitment towards Aatmanirbhar Bharat.

<https://economictimes.indiatimes.com/news/defence/indian-navys-latest-indigenous-guided-missile-destroyer-ins-mormugao-hits-bulls-eye/videoshow/100437245.cms>

Germany Defence Minister Visiting India in June; Rs 50,000 Crore Submarines Deal For Indian Navy On Agenda

Times Now, May 24, 2023

The two-day visit of the new German Defence Minister, Boris Pistorius next month for meetings with defence minister *Rajnath Singh*, is particularly significant as *Germany* is in the race for the Rs 50,000 crore deal for the manufacture of six submarines in India. The RFPs were issued about two years ago and the replies from the two Indian firms— Mazagon Docks Limited (MDL) and Larsen and Toubro (L&T)— are expected in August. *Germany*, *South Korea* and others are in the race.

<https://www.timesnownews.com/india/germany-defence-minister-visiting-india-in-june-rs-50000-crore-submarines-deal-for-indian-navy-on-agenda-article-100468463>

India working on small modular reactors: Jitendra Singh

Economic Times, May 24, 2023

India is working on new technologies such as the small modular reactors that can be factory-built and help make clean energy transition, Science and Technology Minister Jitendra Singh said here. Singh, in an interview to PTI, also said the government had opened up the nuclear power sector for joint ventures with public sector undertakings but not for the private sector. Small Modular Reactors (SMR), with up to 300 MW capacity are flexible in design and require a smaller footprint. Being mobile and agile technology, SMR can be factory-built unlike the conventional nuclear reactors that are built onsite.

<https://energy.economictimes.indiatimes.com/news/power/india-working-on-small-modular-reactors-jitendra-singh/100462489>

Readout of the Inaugural U.S. - India Advanced Domains Defense Dialogue

U.S. Department of Defense, May 25, 2023

Department of Defense Spokesperson Lisa Lawrence provided the following readout:

On May 22, 2023, Principal Deputy Assistant Secretary of Defense for Space Policy Vipin Narang and Director Michael Horowitz of the Emerging Capabilities Policy Office met with their Indian counterparts for the inaugural U.S.-India Advanced Domains Defense Dialogue (AD3) in New Delhi. The Dialogue followed a commitment by U.S. and Indian officials at the 2+2 Ministerial Dialogue in 2022 to deepen collaboration on evolving new defense domains, with an emphasis on space and artificial intelligence. U.S. and Indian officials exchanged views on the unique defense challenges in these domains, their respective defense policies, and areas of convergence and opportunities for further cooperation.

<https://www.defense.gov/News/Releases/Release/Article/3408336/readout-of-the-inaugural-us-india-advanced-domains-defense-dialogue/>

India made quantum leap in space sector in last nine years: Jitendra Singh

Mint, May 26, 2023

Minister of state for science and technology Jitendra Singh on Friday said India has achieved remarkable progress in the space sector during the past nine years of the Modi government. "Prime Minister Modi's policy initiatives have played a crucial role in promoting indigenous design, development, and manufacturing of defense equipment, thereby fostering self-reliance in the defense sector. This has led to a quantum leap in the space sector," said Singh at the India Defence Conclave 2023.

<https://www.livemint.com/news/india/indias-remarkable-progress-in-space-sector-under-modi-government-minister-of-state-for-science-and-technology-11685101811476.html>

First unit of maiden nuclear power plant in Haryana to become operational by June 2028

Indian Express, May 29, 2023

Haryana Chief Secretary Sanjeev Kaushal chaired a meeting of officials of the state government and Gorakhpur Haryana Anu

Vidyut Pariyojana (GHAVP) in Chandigarh Monday, wherein he directed officials of the power utility to expedite the relocation of HT/LT lines and provide 33 KV power connection for the plant's site from an alternative source in order to ensure uninterrupted power supply to the project.

"Such an access route would facilitate the smooth transportation of heavy lifts and Over Dimension Consignments (ODC) to the site," Kaushal said.

<https://indianexpress.com/article/india/first-unit-of-maiden-nuclear-power-plant-in-haryana-to-become-operational-by-june-2028-8635338/>

Modi is eyeing a jet engine to propel India-US ties to new sphere

Economic Times, May 30, 2023

Modi's visit is being seen as a landmark in India-America ties because the last state visit to the US by an Indian PM was in November 2009 when President Obama hosted Dr Manmohan Singh. President Biden has had just one state visit so far, when he hosted French President Emanuel Macron in December 2022. The centrepiece of Modi's visit is a jet engine, which can propel India-America relations to a new sphere altogether. India has been striving to become Atmanirbhar in defence production, especially after the Russia-Ukraine war which exposed its utter dependence on Russia for weapons. Achieving self-reliance in defence and reducing import dependency for military hardware is important for India to maintain its strategic autonomy.

<https://economictimes.indiatimes.com/news/defence/modi-is-eyeing-a-jet-engine-to-propel-india-us-ties-to-new-sphere/articleshow/100619649.cms>

B. Russia

Pressing Russia, U.S. Shares Nuclear Warhead Data Under Treaty

The Moscow Times, May 16, 2023

The United States publicly released data on its nuclear arsenal Monday and pressed

Russia to do the same after Moscow said it was suspending participation in New START, the last arms control treaty between the two powers. The disclosure amounts to a quick shift by the United States, which said in March it would no longer share information under New START, reciprocating the move by Russia whose invasion of Ukraine has led to a nosedive in relations with the West. "The United States continues to view transparency among nuclear weapon states as extremely valuable for reducing the likelihood of misperception, miscalculation and costly arms competitions," a State Department statement said.

<https://www.themoscowtimes.com/2023/05/16/pressing-russia-us-shares-nuclear-warhead-data-under-treaty-a81153>

European Companies Still Supplying Russian Military - The Insider

The Moscow Times, May 17, 2023

Dozens of Europe-based companies have continued to do business with Russian firms that supply Moscow's military with critical goods and equipment as it wages war on Ukraine, according to a report published Wednesday by investigative news outlet The Insider. The outlet found that 25 companies from Germany, France, Switzerland, Hungary, Slovakia, Italy, Estonia, Lithuania, Austria and Poland had fulfilled orders with various companies known to have links to the Russian Armed Forces. Among the items sold by the European companies were microchips for missiles, fiber optics for night vision devices, tactical boots, body armor, components for warship engines and more.

<https://www.themoscowtimes.com/2023/05/17/european-companies-still-supplying-russian-military-the-insider-a81181>

Zaporizhzhia Nuclear Plant Reconnected to Ukraine Grid

The Moscow Times, May 22, 2023

The occupied Zaporizhzhia nuclear plant has been reconnected to Ukraine's electricity grid again after being offline for several

hours, officials in Kyiv said on Monday. Earlier Monday Ukraine's nuclear agency Energoatom had accused Russia of carrying out attacks that caused a power cut. It said it was the seventh time the plant entered "blackout mode" since Moscow's troops took control in March 2022. "The station is switching to power from the Ukrainian energy system," Ukrenergo, Ukraine's state grid operator, said in a statement later Monday. "Despite the enemy's morning attack, Ukraine's energy system is operating in a stable fashion," Ukrenergo said, adding that there was enough electricity to "cover the needs of consumers."

<https://www.themoscowtimes.com/2023/05/22/zaporizhzhia-nuclear-plant-reconnected-to-ukraine-grid-a81226>

Moscow says G7 nuclear rhetoric intended to pressure Russia, China

Money Control, May 23, 2023

Russia's Foreign Ministry said on Monday that Group of Seven nuclear "rhetoric" has the sole aim of exerting psychological, military and political pressure on Moscow and Beijing. In the first ever communiqué on nuclear disarmament issued at the G7 summit last week, the group called on Russia and China to show greater transparency about their nuclear arsenals, akin to steps taken by the United States, Britain and France. In comments on the document, Russia's Deputy Foreign Minister Sergei Ryabkov - the ministry's point man for arms control - said the statement reflects the group's anti-Russian and anti-Chinese tone.

<https://www.moneycontrol.com/news/world/moscow-says-g7-nuclear-rhetoric-intended-to-pressure-russia-china-10640321.html>

Russia Condemns 'Illogical' U.S. Aircraft Carrier Visit to Norway

The Moscow Times, May 24, 2023

Russia's Embassy in Norway on Tuesday harshly criticized a planned visit by a U.S. aircraft carrier to Oslo as an "illogical and harmful" show of force. The 337-meter

(1,106-foot) USS Gerald R. Ford is scheduled to dock in the Norwegian capital this week. "There are no issues in the North that require a military solution, nor issues that require outside intervention," Russian Embassy spokesman Timur Chekanov told AFP by email.

<https://www.themoscowtimes.com/2023/05/23/russia-condemns-illogical-us-aircraft-carrier-visit-to-norway-a81250>

Russia signs deal to deploy tactical nuclear weapons in Belarus

AP News, May 25, 2023

Russia and Belarus signed a deal Thursday formalizing the deployment of Moscow's tactical nuclear weapons on the territory of its ally, although control of the weapons remains in the Kremlin. Russian President Vladimir Putin announced the deployment of the shorter-range weapons in Belarus earlier this year in a move widely seen as a warning to the West as it stepped up military support for Ukraine. When the weapons would be deployed wasn't announced, but Putin has said the construction of storage facilities in Belarus for them would be completed by July 1. Also unclear is how many nuclear weapons would be kept in Belarus. The U.S. government believes Russia has about 2,000 tactical nuclear weapons, which include bombs that can be carried by aircraft, warheads for short-range missiles and artillery rounds.

<https://apnews.com/article/belarus-russia-nuclear-weapons-shoigu-285ff887e8b1c28d20ff68e1d775441e>

Russia Arrests Ukrainians Planning Nuke Power Plant Strikes – FSB

The Moscow Times, May 25, 2023

Russia has arrested two Ukrainians who had allegedly planned to target nuclear power plants in the country, the FSB security service said on Thursday. "A sabotage group from the Ukrainian foreign intelligence service... tried to blow up some 30 power lines of nuclear power plants in Leningrad and Kalinin" in early May with

the aim of stopping the nuclear reactors at the plants, Russian news agencies quoted the FSB as saying in a statement. The aim was to cause "serious economic harm to Russia and damage its reputation," it said. The men had brought down "a pylon carrying a high voltage line and planted mines in four pylons carrying high voltage lines from the Leningrad nuclear power station."

<https://www.themoscowtimes.com/2023/05/25/russia-arrests-ukrainians-planning-nuke-power-plant-strikes-fsb-a81278>

Lukashenko Says Russia Has Begun Moving Nuclear Weapons to Belarus

The Moscow Times, May 26, 2023

Belarusian leader Alexander Lukashenko said Thursday that Russia had begun moving nuclear weapons to its western neighbour and ally, after Russian President Vladimir Putin announced plans to transfer them in March. There were no new comments from Russia on bringing the nuclear weapons to Belarus. "The transfer of nuclear munitions has begun," Lukashenko told reporters during a visit to Moscow. Lukashenko has allowed his territory – which borders Ukraine as well as EU and NATO members Poland and Lithuania – to serve as a launching pad for Russia's Ukraine offensive.

<https://www.themoscowtimes.com/2023/05/25/belarus-5-a81289>

Ukraine claims Russia planning 'massive' incident at nuclear site

Aljazeera, May 27, 2023

Ukraine's defence ministry has warned that Russia plans to simulate a major accident at the Zaporizhzhia nuclear power station, which is under the control of Russian forces, in a bid to thwart the expected counteroffensive by Ukraine to retake its territory captured by Moscow. The Zaporizhzhia plant, which lies in an area of Russian-occupied southern Ukraine, is Europe's biggest nuclear power station and the area has been repeatedly

hit by shelling with both sides blaming each other for the dangerous attacks.

<https://www.aljazeera.com/news/2023/5/27/ukraine-claims-russia-planning-massive-incident-at-nuclear-site>

C. Pakistan

PM Modi puts onus on Pakistan for normal relations: 'free from terrorism and...'

Hindustan Times, May 19, 2023

Prime Minister Narendra Modi has put the onus on Pakistan to create a conducive environment free from terrorism and hostilities for normal and neighbourly relations with India. In an interview with Nikkei Asia, Modi addressed India's complex relationships with its closest neighbours, China and Pakistan. Regarding the ongoing border standoff with China, Modi affirmed India's firm commitment to safeguarding its sovereignty and dignity. He emphasized that New Delhi upholds the principles of sovereignty, the rule of law, and peaceful dispute resolution.

<https://www.hindustantimes.com/india-news/pm-modi-puts-onus-on-pakistan-for-normal-relations-incumbent-upon-them-to-101684500539389.html>

6 Iranian guards killed in clash near Pakistan border: Report

Hindustan Times, May 21, 2023

Six Iranian border guards were killed Sunday during clashes with an armed group in the restive southeastern province of Sistan-Baluchistan, local media reported. The guards were killed in Saravan, near Iran's border with Pakistan, the judiciary's Mizan Online website quoted local prosecutor Mehdi Shamsabadi as saying.

Poverty-stricken Sistan-Baluchistan, which also borders Afghanistan, is a flashpoint for clashes with drug smuggling gangs as well as rebels from the Baluchi minority and Sunni Muslim extremist groups. Sunday's attack was carried out by "a terrorist group that was seeking to infiltrate the country"

but "fled across the border after the clash", Fars news agency reported.

<https://www.hindustantimes.com/world-news/iranian-border-guards-pakistan-border-sistanbaluchistan-101684653812222.html>

Militants kill six at energy plant in Pakistan

Alarabiya, May 23, 2023

Militants stormed a natural gas and oil extraction plant in northwest Pakistan on Tuesday, killing four police and two private guards, police said. The attack by up to 50 militants took place at a plant run by the MOL Pakistan Oil and Gas Company in Hangu district near the Afghan border, said police official Irfan Khan. No group has claimed responsibility. The company did not immediately respond to an emailed request for comment.

Various militant factions, including the Pakistani Taliban, have operated out of remote mountains in the northwest for years, launching attacks on the security forces and infrastructure in their campaign against the state.

<https://english.alarabiya.net/News/world/2023/05/23/Militants-kill-six-at-energy-plant-in-Pakistan>

25 Years of Security Cooperation Beneath the Nuclear Shadow

Stimson, May 25, 2023

A quarter century ago, India and Pakistan broke the non-proliferation taboo and, in a show of mutual saber rattling, tested a series of nuclear weapons. Among the most notable, albeit overlooked, consequence of the tests was the prohibition of U.S. arms transfers to the two countries, shuttering Islamabad and New Delhi off from the world's most prolific defense exporter. But in the two and a half decades since, changing geopolitical dynamics have reshaped the security cooperation partnerships between Washington and the two nuclear armed rivals. On the 25th anniversary of India

and Pakistan's era-defining nuclear tests, examining the historic arms relationship the United States has shared with India and Pakistan helps illustrate the evolution of the issues, risks, and politics that have defined Washington's approach to the region.

<https://www.stimson.org/2023/25-years-of-security-cooperation-beneath-the-nuclear-shadow/>

CAN PAK-INDIA NUCLEAR DETERRENCE HOLD?

Dawn, May 28, 2023

Exactly 25 years ago, on May 28, Pakistan conducted five nuclear tests (a sixth was done on May 30). The tests were a response to India's five nuclear tests, conducted on May 11 and 13. Both governments, after the tests, declared a moratorium on further testing. A quarter century since May 1998, they have stuck to the moratorium, though neither has signed the Comprehensive Test Ban Treaty (CTBT). The nuclearisation of South Asia can be analysed from different angles. For our present purpose, however, the main question is simple: while there's general consensus among security experts and nuclear establishments within India and Pakistan that nuclear weapons are a deterrent, should we consider that proposition a truism for now and the time to come?

<https://www.dawn.com/news/1756369>

Baloch hold anti-Pakistan protests in Germany against nuclear tests in Balochistan

ANI, May 29, 2023

Baloch political activists organised anti-Pakistan protests in Germany to observe May 28 as Black Day against the Pakistani nuclear tests in Balochistan. The Baloch National Movement (Germany chapter) staged a protest and rally in Germany's Gottingen City on Sunday. On May 28, 1998, Pakistan carried out a nuclear test at Chaghai, Balochistan which led to severe aftermath effects in the region. After the nuclear test was carried out in Balochistan, its radiation affected people causing several chronic diseases.

Children are born with disabilities and other serious diseases such as cancer and other skin diseases are more prevalent in Balochistan.

<https://www.aninews.in/news/world/europe/baloch-hold-anti-pakistan-protests-in-germany-against-nuclear-tests-in-balochistan20230529164725/>

Nuclear deterrence maintains balance of power: Alvi

The Dawn, May 29, 2023

As the nation observed the silver jubilee of Youm-i-Takbeer on Sunday, the president, prime minister and the armed forces paid rich tributes to the scientists, engineers, political and military leadership of the time, for a remarkable feat of achieving nuclear capability. Youm-i-Takbeer is observed on May 28 to commemorate historic nuclear tests Pakistan conducted in 1998. In his message, President Dr Arif Alvi said that on this day 25 years ago, responding to India's nuclear tests, Pakistan carried out successful tests that was essential for maintaining the balance of power in the region. "We must highly appreciate our political and military leadership that took wise decision at that time to achieve nuclear capability making defence of the country unassailable," the president said.

<https://www.dawn.com/news/1756551/nuclear-deterrence-maintains-balance-of-power-alvi>

Pakistan's Nuclear Power Targets: Ambitious Growth In Energy Production

Energy Central, May 30, 2023

Energy plays a vital role in the development of a country. A country's progress is also estimated by its energy demand and consumption. At present, the energy sector of Pakistan has an installed generation capacity of about 37,500 MW.

The minimum total demand at present is about 24,000 MW, whereas the maximum total demand in the summer is enhanced to nearly 29,000 MW. However, the

transmission and distribution capacity of the energy sector in Pakistan is only approximately 22,000 MW. This results in hours of electricity outages in the hot summer months. Besides that, over 50 million people are not connected to the national grid and don't have access to electricity.

<https://energycentral.com/news/pakistans-nuclear-power-targets-ambitious-growth-energy-production>

D. Europe

France to speed up nuclear power deployment

Euractiv, May 17, 2023

A bill to speed up the construction of new nuclear reactors was approved by the French parliament on Tuesday (16 May), with the government hailing it as an environmental step forward. Lawmakers on Tuesday validated the bill to accelerate the construction of new nuclear reactors. The compromise text struck between the National Assembly and the Senate was voted by 399 votes to 100. MPs from the majority (Renaissance, Horizons, Modem), the independents (LIOT), the right (Les Républicains) and the extreme right (Rassemblement national) voted in favour of the text, in addition to a dozen communist MPs. Among the opponents, the Greens, the radical left (La France insoumise) and a handful of Communists voted "against" while the Socialists abstained.

<https://www.euractiv.com/section/politics/news/france-to-speed-up-nuclear-power-deployment/>

Alliance calls for greater European support for nuclear

World Nuclear May 17, 2023

Nuclear could provide up to 150 GWe of generating capacity by 2050 in the European Union, according to a statement issued by 16 European countries following a meeting in Paris with European Commissioner for Energy Kadri Simson. The so-called Nuclear Alliance called on the European Commission to recognise nuclear energy in the EU's

energy strategy and relevant policies. France's Minister for Energy Transition, Agnès Pannier-Runacher, brought together her counterparts from member countries of the Nuclear Alliance on 16 May at the Ministry for Energy Transition. A total of 16 countries were represented. In addition to the host country, Belgium, Bulgaria, Croatia, Estonia, Finland, Hungary, the Netherlands, Poland, the Czech Republic, Romania, Slovenia, Slovakia and Sweden, plus Italy with observer status, were represented. The UK was present as a guest country.

<https://www.world-nuclear-news.org/Articles/Alliance-calls-for-greater-European-support-for-nu>

Year-round navigation of eastern part of Northern Sea Route planned for 2024

World Nuclear News, May 18, 2023

In a government meeting to discuss goods and services chaired by Russian President Vladimir Putin, much of the focus was on the potential of the Northern Sea Route and the role of nuclear-powered vessels, notably the newly developing fleet of ice-breakers. Putin said: "The Northern Sea Route is opening, this is obvious. Colleagues just spoke about climate change, like it or not, this is happening." He added that other countries were keen to be involved in the development of the route, which he called a strategic priority for Russia.

<https://www.world-nuclear-news.org/Articles/Year-round-navigation-of-Northern-Sea-Route-planned>

G7 leaders to address Ukraine war and nuclear disarmament at Hiroshima summit

Euronews, May 18, 2023

The leaders of the world's seven richest democracies will arrive in Hiroshima, Japan, on Friday for a three-day summit to discuss the risk of nuclear proliferation in the face of Russia's war in Ukraine and a recent spate of ballistic missile tests in

nearby North Korea. These high-level talks in the southern port city will take place just days after Ukraine's President Volodymyr Zelenskyy met some of the G7 leaders on a European whistlestop tour to secure more weapons for his country ahead of a widely anticipated counteroffensive to reclaim territory from Russian forces. Hiroshima is perhaps best known as the city that was reduced to ashes in 1945 when the US military dropped an atomic bomb in the first-ever attack of its kind in armed combat.

<https://www.euronews.com/2023/05/18/g7-leaders-to-address-ukraine-war-and-nuclear-disarmament-at-hiroshima-summit>

France gathers majority of EU countries in its Nuclear Alliance

Balkan Green Energy News, May 19, 2023

The energy crisis and advances in the small modular reactor (SMR) technology have boosted political support in the European Union for an expansion of the nuclear power sector. Belgium, Estonia and Sweden joined the informal group of EU member states called the Nuclear Alliance while Italy is an observer and the United Kingdom participated in the latest meeting as a guest. Italy is changing its stance on nuclear power as the government of Prime Minister Giorgia Meloni, which took over in October, got parliamentary support to include the technology in its energy mix. The shift in the balance in the European Union began with the energy crisis in 2021.

<https://balkangreenenergynews.com/france-gathers-majority-of-eu-countries-in-its-nuclear-alliance/>

Romania's NuScale SMR plan gets USD275 million boost

World Nuclear News, May 22, 2023

Funding of up to USD275 million to advance the deployment of a NuScale Power Corporation VOYGR small modular reactor (SMR) plant in Romania was announced at the G7 leaders' summit by the USA and "multinational public-private partners" from Japan, South Korea and the United Arab Emirates. The money announced

includes a Letter of Interest from the US Export-Import Bank (EXIM) for up to USD99 million from the EXIM Engineering Multiplier Program. The funding will support procurement of "long lead materials, Phase 2 Front End Engineering and Design work, provision of project management expertise, site characterisation and regulatory analyses, and the development of site-specific schedule and budget estimates for project execution".

<https://www.world-nuclear-news.org/Articles/NuScale-s-Romanian-SMR-plan-gets-USD275-million-bo>

Belarus official: West left us no choice but to deploy nuclear arms

Reuters, May 29, 2023

Western countries left Belarus no choice but to deploy Russian tactical nuclear weapons and had better take heed not to "cross red lines" on key strategic issues, a senior Belarusian official was quoted as saying on Sunday. Alexander Volfovich, state secretary of Belarus' Security Council, said it was logical that the weapons were withdrawn after the 1991 Soviet collapse as the United States had provided security guarantees and imposed no sanctions. "Today, everything has been torn down. All the promises made are gone forever," the Belta news agency quoted Volfovich as telling an interviewer on state television.

<https://www.reuters.com/world/europe/belarus-official-west-left-us-no-choice-deploy-nuclear-arms-2023-05-28/>

E. Ukraine

IAEA warns of 'increasingly tense military situation' around Ukraine nuclear plant

UN News, May 19, 2023

IAEA Director General Rafael Mariano Grossi said on Friday in a statement, that a location near the town of Enerhodar, home of most of the plant's staff, reportedly came under artillery fire earlier in the day, "in the latest incident

indicating an increasingly tense military situation in the area.” The ZNPP, Europe’s largest nuclear power plant, is located just a few kilometres from Enerhodar. IAEA experts present at the plant reported that it had not been affected “but the proximity once again underlined persistent nuclear safety and security dangers at a time of heightened speculation of future military operations in the region,” said Mr. Grossi.

<https://news.un.org/en/story/2023/05/1136862>

Ukrainian nuclear plant is “extremely vulnerable,” U.N. official warns, after 7th power outage of war

CBS News, May 22, 2023

Ukraine’s Zaporizhzhia Nuclear Power Plant, Europe’s largest atomic power station, spent hours operating on emergency diesel generators Monday after losing its external power supply for the seventh time since Russia’s full-scale invasion of its neighbor, the head of the U.N. nuclear watchdog said. “The nuclear safety situation at the plant (is) extremely vulnerable,” Rafael Grossi, head of the International Atomic Energy Agency, said in a tweet. Hours later, national energy company Ukrenergo said on Telegram that it had restored the power line that feeds the plant.

<https://www.cbsnews.com/news/ukraine-nuclear-plant-zaporizhzhia-power-outage-iaea-warning-extremely-vulnerable/>

Fresh concerns for Zaporizhzhia after external power lost again

World Nuclear News, May 22, 2023

International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA) Director General Rafael Mariano Grossi says agreement on protecting the Zaporizhzhia nuclear power plant is needed urgently, saying “this situation cannot continue” after its link to external power supplies was lost for most of the morning on Monday and it was forced to rely on emergency diesel generators for a seventh occasion. Writing on Twitter, Grossi called the nuclear safety situation at the plant “extremely vulnerable” and said “we

must agree to protect plant now”. According to Ukrainian nuclear power plant operator Energoatom, at 05:26 local time on Monday the only operating 750kV high-voltage power transmission line was lost, which prompted the plant’s fleet of emergency diesel generators to start-up to supply the power required for a variety of safety, cooling and control functions.

<https://www.world-nuclear-news.org/Articles/Fresh-concerns-for-Zaporizhzhia-after-external-pow>

Ukraine says Russia plans to simulate accident at nuclear plant

Reuters, May 27, 2023

Ukraine’s defence ministry on Friday said Russia was planning to simulate a major accident at a nuclear power station controlled by pro-Moscow forces to try to thwart a long-planned Ukrainian counteroffensive to retake territory occupied by Russia. The Zaporizhzhia plant, which lies in an area of Russian-occupied southern Ukraine, is Europe’s biggest nuclear power station and the area has been repeatedly hit by shelling that both sides blame each other for. The defence ministry’s intelligence directorate said Russian forces would soon shell the plant and then announce a radiation leak. This would force an investigation by international authorities, during which all hostilities would be stopped.

<https://www.reuters.com/world/europe/ukraine-says-russia-plans-simulate-accident-nuclear-power-plant-2023-05-26/>

Grossi says Zaporizhzhia principles ‘step in right direction’

World Nuclear News, May 31, 2023

International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA) Director General Rafael Mariano Grossi has outlined to the UN Security Council five principles - “the bare minimum” - to help protect Zaporizhzhia nuclear power plant. Grossi addressed the United Nations Security Council on the situation at the six-unit nuclear power plant, which is the largest in Ukraine, and Europe. It has been under Russian military

control since the start of March 2022 and is on the frontline of Russian and Ukrainian forces. During the conflict it has been damaged by shelling, which both sides blame on the other, and has lost external power on seven separate occasions.

<https://www.world-nuclear-news.org/Articles/Grossi-calls-Zaporizhzhia-principles-step-in-right>

UN nuclear chief urges Russia and Ukraine to ban attacks at Europe's largest nuclear power plant

AP News, May 31, 2023

The U.N. nuclear chief stressed Tuesday that the world is fortunate a nuclear accident hasn't happened in Ukraine and asked Moscow and Kyiv to commit to preventing any attack on Europe's largest nuclear power plant and make other pledges "to avoid the danger of a catastrophic incident." Rafael Grossi reiterated to the U.N. Security Council what he told the International Atomic Energy Agency's board of governors in March: "We are rolling a dice and if this continues then one day our luck will run out."

The IAEA director general said avoiding a nuclear accident is possible if five principles are observed at the Zaporizhzhia nuclear power plant, where fighting on seven occasions, most recently last week, disrupted critical power supplies, "the last line of defense against a nuclear accident."

<https://apnews.com/article/ukraine-russia-nuclear-zaporizhzhia-1d9d3abf99f16ee2a1e04cf4124f1dc5>

F. United States of America

Senators introduce bill to scrap last nuclear arms treaty with Russia

Alarabiya, May 18, 2023

Several US lawmakers on Thursday urged the Biden administration to scrap the last nuclear arms control treaty with Russia after Moscow suspended its participation in February.

Russian President Vladimir Putin said the Kremlin would not allow US inspections of its nuclear sites after Washington began

supporting and arming Ukraine. According to the US, the treaty places "verifiable limits" on all Russian-deployed intercontinental-range nuclear weapons. It was extended to 2026 by the Biden administration. "Treaties aren't effective when one party lies and cheats. We've seen evidence for the last decade that Russia is no longer honoring its obligations under the New START Treaty," Senator Marco Rubio said after a group of Republican senators introduced the "No START Treaty Act."

<https://english.alarabiya.net/News/world/2023/05/19/Senators-introduce-bill-to-scrap-last-nuclear-arms-treaty-with-Russia>

US bomb designed to hit targets like Iran underground nuclear sites briefly reappears amid tensions

AP News, May 23, 2023

As tensions with Iran have escalated over its nuclear program, the U.S. military this month posted pictures of a powerful bomb designed to penetrate deep into the earth and destroy underground facilities that could be used to enrich uranium. The U.S. Air Force on May 2 released rare images of the weapon, the GBU-57, known as the "Massive Ordnance Penetrator." Then it took the photos down – apparently because the photographs revealed sensitive details about the weapon's composition and punch. The publication of the photographs comes as The Associated Press reported that Iran is making steady progress in constructing a nuclear facility that is likely beyond the range of the GBU-57, which is considered the U.S. military last-ditch weapon to take out underground bunkers.

<https://apnews.com/article/iran-nuclear-us-penetrator-bomb-c623a3e172298a244e47d5bf404fc55b>

US issues fresh North Korea sanctions targeting cyber

Alarabiya, May 23, 2023

The United States on Tuesday issued new North Korea-related sanctions against

four organizations and one individual involved in hiding funds and malicious cyber activities, the Treasury Department said. One individual, Kim Sang Man, and the North Korea-based Chinyong Information Technology Cooperation Company were designated jointly by the United States and South Korea in relation to their IT worker activities, Treasury said. The other three groups – 110th Research Center, Pyongyang University of Automation and the Technical Reconnaissance Bureau – had been previously sanctioned by South Korea for engaging in cyber operations and illicit revenue generation that support the North Korea's weapons of mass destruction programs, Treasury said.

<https://english.alarabiya.net/News/world/2023/05/23/US-issues-fresh-North-Korea-sanctions-targeting-cyber>

Israeli Ministers Head to U.S. as Iran Nuclear Program Advances

Haaretz, May 24, 2023

Israel's Strategic Affairs Minister Ron Dermer and National Security Advisor Tzachi Hanegbi will travel on a diplomatic visit to Washington in early June. High on the agenda will be Iran's nuclear advances, promoting normalization between Israel and Saudi Arabia, and the Israeli government's moves regarding Palestinians. It will be the pair's second trip to Washington since the start of 2023.

<https://www.haaretz.com/israel-news/2023-05-24/ty-article/premium/israeli-ministers-head-to-u-s-as-iran-nuclear-program-advances/00000188-4ee7-df79-a19d-feff69a40000>

Nuclear Energy Institute Announces Commercial Nuclear Energy Trade Mission to Poland

U.S. Embassy in Poland, May 24, 2023

The Nuclear Energy Institute (NEI), in partnership with the U.S. Department of Energy and the Polish Ministry of Climate, today announced a commercial nuclear energy trade mission to Poland. The mission will take place September 20-22, 2023. This joint initiative brings together world-leading

U.S. nuclear energy companies spanning the nuclear supply chain. Delegates will include reactor developers and suppliers of crucial components and services.

https://pl.usembassy.gov/nei_press_release/

US, France say Iran ballistic test worrying in light of nuclear escalation

The Jerusalem Post, May 25, 2023

The United States and France on Thursday accused Iran of violating a UN Security Council resolution endorsing the 2015 nuclear deal after it carried out a long-range ballistic missile test, which Paris said was worrying given "uninterrupted escalation" of Tehran's nuclear program. Iran successfully test-launched a ballistic missile with a potential 2,000-km range on Thursday, state media said, the latest in ballistic missile tests and satellite launches.

Iran's development of ballistic missiles poses a serious threat to regional and international security, State Department spokesperson Matthew Miller told reporters on Thursday after Iran carried out a long-range ballistic missile test.

<https://www.jpost.com/middle-east/article-744229>

Russia tells United States: Don't lecture Moscow on nuclear deployments

The Hindu, May 27, 2023

Russia on May 27 dismissed criticism from U.S. President Joe Biden over Moscow's plan to deploy tactical nuclear weapons in Belarus, saying Washington had for decades deployed just such nuclear weapons in Europe. Russia said on May 25 it was pushing ahead with the first deployment of such weapons outside its borders since the 1991 fall of the Soviet Union and Belarusian President Alexander Lukashenko said the weapons were already on the move. Mr. Biden said on May 26 he had an "extremely negative" reaction to reports that Russia has moved ahead with a plan to deploy

tactical nuclear weapons in Belarus. The U.S. State Department denounced the Russian nuclear deployment plan.

<https://www.thehindu.com/news/international/russia-tells-united-states-dont-lecture-moscow-on-nuclear-deployments/article66900224.ece>

Third Nuclear Reactor Reaches 100% Power Output at Georgia's Plant Vogtle

U.S. News, May 29, 2023

A new reactor at a nuclear power plant in Georgia has reached its full power output for the first time and is scheduled to enter commercial operation within the next month. Georgia Power Co. announced Monday that Unit 3 at Plant Vogtle, southeast of Augusta, has reached its full output of 1,100 megawatts of electricity. That's enough to power an estimated 500,000 homes and businesses. The power will be sent to Georgia and other states. Operators are conducting further testing to prove they can run the reactor in ways required for regular operations, Georgia Power CEO Kim Greene in a statement, calling the achievement "an exciting milestone."

<https://www.usnews.com/news/best-states/georgia/articles/2023-05-29/third-nuclear-reactor-reaches-100-power-output-at-georgias-plant-vogtle>

US reportedly looking to Oman to broker new Iran nuclear talks

The Times of Israel, May 31, 2023

US officials have made contact with Omani counterparts to explore the possibility of reviving mediated nuclear talks between Washington and Tehran, with Israeli officials accusing them of seeking an interim agreement that would allow Iran to continue enriching uranium, according to a report Tuesday. The report in Axios came some nine months after indirect talks aimed at reenergizing the 2015 nuclear deal between Iran and world powers collapsed, with the US saying the negotiations were no longer a top priority. But on Tuesday, US President Joe Biden's top official on Iran indicated that the US was looking to try again for a

diplomatic solution to the Islamic Republic's nuclear program, which Israel alleges constitutes an existential military threat.

<https://www.timesofisrael.com/us-reportedly-looking-to-oman-to-broker-new-iran-nuclear-talks/>

US urged not to use bomb-grade uranium in nuclear power experiment

Reuters, May 31, 2023

Former U.S. State Department and nuclear regulatory officials on Tuesday urged the U.S. Energy Department to reconsider a plan to use bomb-grade uranium in a nuclear power experiment, saying that its use could encourage such tests in other countries. The Energy Department and two companies aim to share costs on the Molten Chloride Reactor Experiment (MCRE) at the Idaho National Laboratory and use more than 1,322 pounds (600 kg) of fuel containing 93% enriched uranium. Bill Gates-backed company TerraPower LLC, the utility Southern Co (SO.N) and the department hope the six-month experiment will lead to breakthroughs in reactors that could help reduce pollution linked to climate change.

<https://www.reuters.com/world/us/us-urged-not-use-bomb-grade-uranium-nuclear-power-experiment-2023-05-30/>

West Asia

G. Iran

Atomic Chief Rejects West's Claims about IAEA Trouble in Monitoring Iran's N. Activities

Fars News Agency, May 17, 2023

Head of the Atomic Energy Organization of Iran (AEOI) Mohammad Eslami rejected the Western states' claims that the UN nuclear body is facing a serious challenge in its ability to continue surveillance activities in Iran, and further added that IAEA Director General Rafael

Grossi is in no position to comment on JCPOA revival negotiations. The International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA) head has said in an interview with CBC News it is important to keep interacting with Iran despite slim chances of reviving the US-abandoned nuclear deal between Tehran and major world powers. "Probably there could be a return to the negotiating table, but if the interactions between Iran and the agency are seen or assessed as bad and the cooperation is not good, the chances are zero," he claimed.

<https://www.farsnews.ir/en/news/14020227000437/Amic-Chief-Rejecs-Wes's-Claims-ab-IAEA-Trble-in-Mniring-Iran's-N>

Iran Showcases Largest Maritime Simulator in West Asia

Fars News Agency, May 17, 2023

The Iranian Navy unveiled the largest ship navigation and command simulator in West Asia during a ceremony in the Northern city of Nowshahr. The event was attended by Commander of the Iranian Army Major General Abdolrahim Mousavi and Commander of the Iranian Navy Rear Admiral Shahram at the Imam Khomeini Naval University of Nowshahr on Wednesday. The simulator is the largest in West Asia, Second Flotilla Admiral Arya Shafeghat said. He stated that the simulator was a great achievement for the Iranian Armed forces, adding that it was developed using state-of-the-art domestic technology. It comes as the Iranian Navy has set up three ocean commands supervising naval missions to the Indian Ocean, the Pacific Ocean and the Atlantic Ocean.

<https://www.farsnews.ir/en/news/14020227000554/Iran-Shwcases-Larges-Mariime-Similar-in-Wes-Asia>

N. Chief: Global Demand for Iran's Heavy Water, Derivatives on Rise

Fars News Agency, May 24, 2023

Head of the Atomic Energy Organization of Iran (AEOI) Mohammad Eslami hailed the country's progress in the nuclear industry, and said that nine states have purchased Tehran-made nuclear medicine products,

and several companies have requested to buy high-quality heavy water produced in Iran. Speaking at a gathering of the heads of Iranian diplomatic missions held at the Foreign Ministry in Tehran, Eslami highlighted Iran's nuclear achievements, including developing the technology to produce heavy water. He acknowledged that demand has been on the rise from companies and countries around the world for the high-quality heavy water produced in Iran as well as its derivatives.

<https://www.farsnews.ir/en/news/14020303000458/N-Chief-Glbal-Demand-fr-Iran's-Heavy-Waer-Derivaives-n-Rise>

Iran Rejects Western Media Claims over Construction of Deep Underground Nuclear Site

Fars News Agency, May 24, 2023

Head of the Atomic Energy Organization of Iran (AEOI) Mohammad Eslami dismissed The Associated Press news agency report claiming that Tehran is working to build a secret nuclear facility deep inside the Zagros Mountains near Natanz in the Central Iran. Citing experts and satellite imagery, The Associated Press has claimed that Tehran has been digging tunnels in the Zagros Mountains near the Natanz nuclear site located in Central Iran. It comes as Iranian officials have repeatedly reiterated that Tehran has no secret nuclear activities and undeclared atomic sites. Repudiating the report, Eslami stressed that Iran's nuclear activities comply with regulations and safeguards agreements of the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA).

<https://www.farsnews.ir/en/news/14020303000561/Iran-Rejecs-Wesern-Media-Claims-oev-Cnsrcin-f-Deep-Undergrnd-Nclear>

Iran Unveils New 2,000km-Range Ballistic Missile Capable of Overcoming Air Defense Shields

Fars News Agency, May 25, 2023

Iran on Thursday showcased a medium-range precision-guided missiles dubbed "Kheibar", with a range of 2,000 km, which enjoys advanced technologies to

evade radars and penetrate advanced air defense systems.

The advanced missile, designed and manufactured by Iranian experts, was unveiled during a ceremony with Defense Minister Brigadier General Mohammad Reza Ashtiani and other military officials in attendance.

The showcasing of the projectile marks a eye-catching advancement in Iran's ballistic missile capabilities as well as Tehran's firm determination to enhance its deterrent power.

<https://www.farsnews.ir/en/news/14020304000122/Iran-Unveils-New-2-000km-Range-Ballistic-Missile-Capable-f-Overcming>

DM: Reports on Iran Purchasing Russia's Su-35 Jets Speculations

Fars News Agency, May 28, 2023

Iranian Defense Minister Brigadier General Mohammad Reza Ashtiani said that reports on Tehran's purchase of Sukhoi-35 fighter jets from Moscow are based on speculations, reminding that his country is a manufacturer of fighters, transport and training aircraft. Over the past months, there have been media reports of Iran receiving the SU-35 planes from Russia. During an interview on Sunday, Brig. Gen. Ashtiani was asked about reports on Iran's purchase of Sukhoi-35 fighters from Russia and their possible shipment in the near future. "We are a manufacturer ourselves and work in the aviation industry regarding fighters, as well as transport and training aircraft..., but if we feel the need concerning our defense power, we try to get technological facilities or equipment from any country that possesses them," the minister said.

<https://www.farsnews.ir/en/news/14020307000701/DM-Reprs-n-Iran-Prchasing-Rssia's-S-35-Jes-Speclains>

Iran will unveil hypersonic ballistic missile soon: IRGC Comdr.

Islamic Republic News Agency, May 29, 2023

"The hypersonic missile has completed its tests and will be unveiled soon," Brigadier

General Amir-Ali Hajizadeh, commander of the IRGC's Aerospace Force, said on Monday. This missile has an extremely high speed, approximately 12 to 13 Mach, and can maneuver both within and outside the Earth's atmosphere, he added. Among the missile's other features, the commander said, is its ability to bypass all missile defense systems. Hypersonic missiles can fly at speeds at least five times faster than the speed of sound. Their sheer speed and intricate trajectories make their interception almost impossible.

<https://en.irna.ir/news/85125957/Iran-will-unveil-hypersonic-ballistic-missile-soon-IRGC-Comdr>

IAEA Cases on Alleged Uranium Traces in Iran Closed Ahead of BoG Meeting

Fars News Agency, May 30, 2023

Tehran and the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA) resolved two cases of dispute over alleged uranium traces in Western Iran and alleged detection of particles of uranium enriched to 84 percent purity level at Fordow nuclear facility in Central Iran. The IAEA dropped claims over an "undeclared" nuclear site in Iran and closed one of the three cases of dispute over what the UN nuclear watchdog calls "undeclared" nuclear activities as a result of interactions between the two sides, The Fars News Agency said in a report on Tuesday. The report added that the dispute over the discovery of uranium particles enriched to 83.7% purity level at Fordow nuclear site has likewise been resolved following the explanations provided by Tehran.

<https://www.farsnews.ir/en/news/14020309000261/IAEA-Cases-n-Alleged-Uranim-Traces-in-Iran-Clsed-Ahead-f-BG-Meeing>

IRGC Aerospace Commander: Hypersonic Ballistic Missile Tested Successfully

Fars News Agency, May 30, 2023

Islamic Revolution Guards Corps (IRGC) Aerospace Commander Brigadier General

Amir Ali Hajizadeh said that Iran has successfully tested a new hypersonic missile which is capable of overcoming all defense shields with high maneuverability and at the speed of 12 Mach, adding that Tehran is preparing to unveil the advanced projectile in the near future.

Brig. Gen. Hajizadeh said on Monday the hypersonic missile has passed its tests and will be unveiled soon.

He added that the new missile is capable of bypassing all air defense missile systems and targeting the enemy's anti-missile systems.

<https://www.farsnews.ir/en/news/14020309000176/IRGC-Aerspace-Cmmander-Hypersnic-Ballisic-Missile-Tesed-Sccessfly>

Iran's Indigenous Transport Airplane Passes Flight Test

Fars News Agency, May 31, 2023

Iran successfully conducted flight test for a domestically-developed light transit aircraft, dubbed "Simorgh" (Phoenix), developed for civil and military purposes.

The transport plane Simorgh has made its maiden flight one year after it was unveiled. The test flight was carried out successfully in an airbase in the Central Iranian city of Isfahan on Tuesday in a ceremony attended by the Chief of Staff of the Iranian Armed Forces Major General Mohammad Baqeri and Defense Minister Brigadier General Mohammad Reza Ashtiani.

The aircraft has been designed and manufactured by Iran Aviation Industries Organization, which is a subsidiary of the Iranian Defense Ministry.

Authorities stated that the plane has been developed to boost Iran's defensive superiority.

<https://www.farsnews.ir/en/news/14020310000192/Iran's-Indigens-Transpr-Airplane-Passes-Fligh-Tes>

H. Israel

Israel, Montenegro sign \$20 million defense exports agreement

Israel Defense, May 16, 2023

Elbit Systems announced yesterday (Monday) that it was awarded a contract valued at approximately 20 million Euros, as part of a defense export agreement signed between the Israel and Montenegro Ministries of Defense to acquire Elbit Systems-made weapons including mortar munition systems and training equipment.

Director General of the Israel Ministry of Defense, Maj. Gen. (Res.) Eyal Zamir, approved the government-to-government (GTG) agreement between the ministries, the third between the countries in recent years. Director of SIBAT in the Israel Ministry of Defense, Brig. Gen. (Res.) Yair Kulas and Director of Logistics in the Montenegro Ministry of Defence, Col. Vladan Martic, signed the agreement in a ceremony held at the IMoD HQ in Tel Aviv.

<https://www.israeldefense.co.il/en/node/58179>

German army to equip with 50 additional Puma infantry fighting vehicles with Spike LR missiles

Israel Defense, May 17, 2023

Germany's two military vehicle makers, Krauss-Maffei Wegmann (KMW) and Rheinmetall, announced this week that they have been awarded by Germany's Federal Office for Bundeswehr Equipment, Information Technology and In-Service Support (BAAINBw) an order to build a further fifty Puma infantry fighting vehicles. The total value of the order comes to •1.087 billion. Of this amount, •574 million will go to KMW and •501 million to Rheinmetall, both of which are serving as subcontractors in the project. In addition to the fifty armored fighting vehicles, the order encompasses spare part packages and special tool sets as well as

eight MELLIS flight-phase simulators. Furthermore, an option exists for additional driver training vehicles and the integration of a turret-independent secondary weapon system, or TSWA. Delivery is set to start in December 2025 and be complete by the beginning of 2027.

<https://www.israeldefense.co.il/en/node/58201>

Elbit Systems marks milestone with first two M-346 aircraft arriving in Greece

Israel Defense, May 18, 2023

A special event was held at the International Pilot Training Center at 120 ATW Kalamata, where representatives of the Greek Government and the Ministry of Defense, the Hellenic Air Force, as well as representatives of the Israeli Ministry of Defense, the Israeli Air Force and Elbit Systems, welcomed the two first M-346, the modern training aircraft that will undertake the training and familiarization of the Air Force's new generation of Icari to the requirements of modern fighter jets. Present at the 120 ATW Kalamata ceremony were the Minister of Defense, Mr. Nikos Panagiotopoulos, Deputy Minister of National Defense of Greece, Mr. Nikos Chardalias, the Chief of the General Staff of the National Defense, General Konstantinos Floros, the Chief of the General Staff of the Air Force, Lieutenant General Themistoklis Bourolias, the Head of SIBAT, the IMoD International Defense Cooperation Directorate, Brig.-Gen. Yair Kulas, the head of the Israel Air Force Maj.-Gen. Tomer Bar, Mr. Rani Kril, Executive Vice President International Marketing and Business Development and Mr. Yoram Shmuely, General Manager of Elbit Systems Aerospace.

<https://www.israeldefense.co.il/en/node/58213>

Regulus Cyber launched Ring ARM-V

Israel Defense, May 22, 2023

Regulus Cyber, an Israeli expert in software-based GPS/GNSS security, launched the fully-functional Ring ARM-V specifically designed to protect armored vehicles,

convoys and deployed troops from drone attacks, including multirotor, fixed-wing, swarm and dark drones. The company announced that the Ring ARM-V system has recently been installed, integrated and certified in an armored vehicle. This makes it the first armored vehicle ever to have an internal C-UAS capability. The integration was quick and easy and took less than a month. Operational testing is beginning now, and the ARM-V ring will be deployed for testing on other platforms throughout 2023. With dual protection from above and all-round protection, it provides troops with unrivaled C-UAS capabilities in any combat situation without the need for a jam or cyber hack.

<https://www.israeldefense.co.il/en/node/58240>

Elbit UK to deliver ground-based surveillance radars to British Army

Israel Defense, May 23, 2023

Elbit Systems UK announced that it has been awarded a contract from the UK Ministry of Defense to provide a series of ground-based surveillance radar systems (GBSR), manufactured and developed in the UK and Europe, to the British Armed Forces to support front line threat detection for a range of end-users. The company will deliver 90 GBSR systems throughout 2023 and 2024, with a follow-on option of an additional 40 systems. According to Elbit, the GBSR system is easily portable and uses digital signal processing to detect, track and classify targets moving on or close to the ground.

<https://www.israeldefense.co.il/en/node/58275>

IDF chief on Iran nuke program: 'Negative developments' could prompt Israeli response

The Times of Israel, May 23, 2023

Military chief Lt. Gen. Herzi Halevi warned Tuesday of potential "negative developments" regarding Iran's nuclear program that would cause Israel to react.

"Iran has made more progress in uranium enrichment than ever before. We are also

closely examining other aspects of the [Iranians'] path to nuclear capability," the IDF chief of staff said at a conference hosted by the Institute for Policy and Strategy of Reichman University in Herzliya. "Without going into details, there are possible negative developments on the horizon that could prompt action," Halevi said. "We have abilities and others have abilities. We have the ability to hit Iran. We are not indifferent to what Iran is trying to build around us, and it is difficult for Iran to be indifferent to the line we are taking," he added.

<https://www.timesofisrael.com/idf-chief-on-iran-uke-program-negative-developments-could-prompt-israeli-response/>

International University of Rabat, Israel Aerospace Industries sign MOU to establish aeronautics & AI center of excellence

Israel Defense, May 23, 2023

The International University of Rabat (UIR) and Israel Aerospace Industries (IAI) have signed a memorandum of understanding (MoU) to establish a center of excellence focused on aeronautics, artificial intelligence research and innovation. The agreement aims to strengthen cooperation and partnership in applied research, innovation, co-development and incubation. It follows the signing of a partnership agreement a few months ago between Mr. Nouredine Mouaddib, President of UIR, and Eytan Eshel, CTO of IAI.

<https://www.israeldefense.co.il/en/node/58276>

IDF downs drone crossing into Israel from Lebanon

I24 news, May 24, 2023

The unmanned aircraft was monitored through the incident, and the military says it will continue to prevent any attempt to violate Israeli sovereignty. Israel's military recently identified and downed a drone that crossed from Lebanon into Israel. It was monitored by the IDF throughout the incident, and security forces said that any further attempt will be thwarted as they continue to prevent violations of Israeli

sovereignty. IDF chief Maj. Gen. Herzi Halevi on Tuesday spoke about escalating security issues in the region, in particular, the nuclear situation in Iran as well as growing challenges from the Hezbollah terror movement in Lebanon.

<https://www.i24news.tv/en/news/israel/defense/1685022714-idf-downs-drone-crossing-into-israel-from-lebanon>

Elta to provide Peruvian Navy with Fokker 50 SIGINT next month

Israel Defense, May 27, 2023

Elta Systems, an Israel Aerospace Industries (IAI) subsidiary, will deliver the Peruvian Navy a Fokker 50MPA, configured and equipped with signal intelligence (SIGINT) equipment, in the middle of June. According to the Spanish website Defensa.com, the aircraft underwent a series of structural modifications in the aircraft factory "Brigadier San Martin" - FadeA in Córdoba, Argentina. Due to administrative problems and the crisis generated by the Coronavirus pandemic, which delayed the initially planned deadlines, the Fokker 50MPA arrived at the FadeA facilities in mid-September 2020 and returned to Peru in May 2022, where the installation process began. Operational tests of the SIGINT equipment should be completed in the coming days.

<https://www.israeldefense.co.il/en/node/58288>

Elsight wins Israeli Police drone connectivity contract

Israel Defense, May 27, 2023

Elsight, an Israeli drone connectivity solutions company, has won a multi-year public tender to supply the Israeli police and other government departments with solutions for Communication-on-the-Move (COTM). The solutions will be provided to border patrol, drone, K9 and SWAT police units. According to the company, Elsight's Halo platform is the first AI-powered connectivity solution for unmanned vehicles to market and ensures

businesses have continuous and reliable service and communication with their drones. The difference between regular drone connections and ElSight's hardware is its beyond-visual line of sight (BVLOS) capability, meaning increased range for long distance applications.

<https://www.israeldefense.co.il/en/node/58289>

IDF launches major drill focused on preparing for all out multi-front war

The Times of Israel, May 29, 2023

The Israel Defense Forces on Monday launched a large-scale two-week-long drill across the country, simulating a potential multi-front war. A military source said the drill would include the Air Force conducting simulated "strategic" strikes deep in enemy territory in an all out war scenario, and the Navy carrying out mock offensive and defensive actions. The IDF said troops from the standing and reserve army, from nearly all units, would participate in the exercise – dubbed Firm Hand – over the next two weeks. "The forces will practice handling challenges and sudden events on multiple fronts simultaneously," the IDF said. According to the military, the drill was pre-planned, meaning it did not stem from any recent security assessments.

<https://www.timesofisrael.com/idf-launches-major-drill-focused-on-preparing-for-all-out-multi-front-war/>

Airobotics to deploy autonomous drone network in Abu Dhabi

Israel Defense, May 31, 2023

Airobotics, an Israeli developer and provider of autonomous drone infrastructures for smart cities, signed a Term Sheet for Joint Venture (JV) with SkyGo to provide aerial drone services to the city of Abu Dhabi. As a part of the partnership, signed in February, Airobotics has received an initial multi-system purchase order for \$3.5 million from SkyGo, subject to the finalization of required formalities. The purchase order is conditioned by the completion of proof of concept. Through the SkyGo JV, both companies will deploy Airobotics' Optimus

systems at industrial and municipal sites, leveraging the autonomous drone platform for various services and capabilities. The companies expect to deploy more than 20 systems across Abu Dhabi over the next few years to conduct various types of missions, including providing public services in a sustainable and scalable manner.

<https://www.israeldefense.co.il/en/node/58339>

Israeli Minister of Defense briefs CENTCOM commander on "Firm Hand" exercise

Israel Defense, May 31, 2023

Israeli Minister of Defense, Yoav Gallant, held a meeting with CENTCOM Commander, General Michael "Erik" Kurilla at the MoD headquarters in Tel Aviv on Tuesday evening, during which he provided a briefing on the launch of the IDF exercise, "Firm Hand," which simulates a multi-front threat on the State of Israel.

The "Firm Hand" exercise, which began on Monday and is expected to last for approximately two weeks, will simulate a multi-arena battlefield in land, sea, air, and cyber. The exercise will test the IDF's preparedness for a prolonged armed conflict on multiple fronts.

<https://www.israeldefense.co.il/en/node/58347>

I. Jordan

Five Countries Join IAEA's Radiation Monitoring System

IAEA, May 23, 2023

Iraq, Jordan, Malaysia, Saudi Arabia and Thailand recently joined the IAEA's International Radiation Monitoring System (IRMIS), bringing the total number of participating countries to 48. In the event of a nuclear or radiological emergency, IRMIS supports the assessment of the radiological situation and provides critical data to immediately inform emergency response decision makers. The system gathers radiation

monitoring data from over 6000 monitoring stations worldwide, which are part of nationally operated networks.

<https://www.iaea.org/newscenter/news/five-countries-join-iaeas-radiation-monitoring-system>

J. Oman

US reportedly looking to Oman to broker new Iran nuclear talks

The Times of Israel, May 31, 2023

US officials have made contact with Omani counterparts to explore the possibility of reviving mediated nuclear talks between Washington and Tehran, with Israeli officials accusing them of seeking an interim agreement that would allow Iran to continue enriching uranium, according to a report Tuesday. The report in Axios came some nine months after indirect talks aimed at reenergizing the 2015 nuclear deal between Iran and world powers collapsed, with the US saying the negotiations were no longer a top priority. But on Tuesday, US President Joe Biden's top official on Iran indicated that the US was looking to try again for a diplomatic solution to the Islamic Republic's nuclear program, which Israel alleges constitutes an existential military threat.

<https://www.timesofisrael.com/us-reportedly-looking-to-oman-to-broker-new-iran-nuclear-talks/>

K. Qatar

Corvette delivery to Qatar completed by Fincantieri

Naval Technology, May 17, 2023

On 16 May at the Muggiano La Spezia shipyard, the Qatari Ministry of Defence took delivery of the fourth and final Al Zubarah-class corvette, named *Semaisma*. This vessel was ordered from Fincantieri as part of Qatar's national naval acquisition programme. Awarded in 2016, the contract required Fincantieri to deliver an amphibious landing platform dock, four corvettes and two offshore patrol vessels. The Al Zubarah-class corvettes, which adhere to the RINAMIL regulations, are versatile and adaptable vessels that can perform a range of duties, including surveillance and sea

rescue operations, as well as combat missions. The vessels, measuring approximately 107m in length by 14.7m in width, can hold a crew of 112 personnel, and are outfitted with a combined diesel and diesel plant, enabling it to reach a top speed of 28 knots.

<https://www.naval-technology.com/news/corvette-delivery-to-qatar-completed-by-fincantieri/>

Qatar Signs \$10B Contract To Develop Gas Field Shared With Iran

Iran International, May 17, 2023

A \$10 billion project has been agreed to develop a vast natural gas field shared between Qatar and Iran. The deal was signed by QatarEnergy with French-owned Technip Energies for the scheme in the world's largest natural gas field. The Iranian part, known as South Pars, supplies 70% of Iran's gas. In a statement on Tuesday, QatarEnergy stated that the project will include two giant liquefied natural gas (LNG) production lines, with an annual capacity of 16 million tons. The company said the extra LNG capacity would increase the country's total production by 60 percent reaching 126 million tons by 2027. The Russian war on Ukraine and sanctions imposed by Europe and the US on Moscow have increased global demand for Qatar's gas.

<https://www.iranintl.com/en/202305177875>

L. Saudi Arabia

SpaceX sends Saudi astronauts, including first Arab woman, to ISS

Aljazeera, May 22, 2023

A private rocket carrying the first Arab woman astronaut has blasted off on a mission to the International Space Station (ISS). Rayyanah Barnawi, a breast cancer researcher from Saudi Arabia, was joined on Sunday's mission by fellow Saudi Ali al-Qarni, a fighter pilot. The pair are the first Saudi astronauts to voyage into space in decades. They took off on board a

SpaceX Falcon 9 rocket from the Kennedy Space Center at Cape Canaveral in the southern United States at 5:37pm local time (21:37 GMT). The team also includes Peggy Whitson, a former NASA astronaut who will be making her fourth flight to the ISS, and John Shoffner, a businessman from Tennessee who is serving as pilot.

<https://www.aljazeera.com/news/2023/5/22/spacex-sends-saudi-astronauts-including-first-arab-woman-to-iss>

Report: Saudis want US alliance, nuclear program in exchange for deal with Israel

The Times of Israel, May 23, 2023

Amid reports that the US is mediating a normalization deal between Israel and Saudi Arabia, Channel 12 reports on apparent Saudi and US demands for the deal to go ahead. The report says that Saudi Arabia is demanding the Biden administration unfreeze several major arms deals, a military alliance with the US and a full nuclear program. Riyadh is also demanding that Israel begin a peace process with the Palestinians that will lead to a two-state solution, the report says. The US is also demanding a peace process from Israel and an end to the controversial judicial overhaul plan, which critics say undermines Israel's democracy.

https://www.timesofisrael.com/liveblog_entry/report-saudis-want-us-alliance-nuclear-program-in-exchange-for-deal-with-israel/

M. Turkiye

Viewpoint: Turkey's ambitions as a nuclear energy player

World Nuclear News, May 16, 2023

With fuel having arrived at the Akkuyu nuclear power plant, the President of the Nuclear Industry Association of Turkey (NIATR), Alikaan Çiftçi, explains that Turkey aspires to be a major regional manufacturing, trade and logistics hub to meet the opportunities for nuclear energy in the Middle East, Africa and Turkey. Nuclear electricity generation capacity in

Turkey, the Middle East and Africa is expected to increase rapidly in the next two decades thanks to the completion of existing projects and projected construction agreements between countries in the region and nuclear vendors.

<https://www.world-nuclear-news.org/Articles/Viewpoint-Turkey's-ambitions-as-a-nuclear-energy-p>

Modernization set to make F-16 fighter jets 'truly Turkish'

Daily Sabah, May 18, 2023

Through the Turkish defense industry's F-16 modernization project "Özgür," the F-16 aircraft in the Turkish army's inventory will be transformed into Turkish planes, Presidency of Defense Industries (SSB) head Ismail Demir said Thursday. Demir made the related statements to Turkish broadcaster NTV. Demir emphasized the significance of reducing foreign dependency in the defense industry, which aligns with Türkiye's main principle. He highlighted that the F-16 is a purchased system, but the "Özgür" project aims to enhance its capabilities and make it genuinely Turkish.

<https://www.dailysabah.com/business/defense/modernization-set-to-make-f-16-fighter-jets-truly-turkish>

Turkish firm's smallest laser-guided missile up for mass production

Daily Sabah, May 18, 2023

Prominent Turkish defense industry company Roketsan's laser-guided mini-missile system Mete, the smallest version of the guided missiles that the company developed, is ready for mass production, Roketsan said in a statement Thursday.

The company shared the update on its official Twitter account with video footage showing test firings of the missile system.

Mete has a range of about 1 kilometer (0.62 miles) and weighs 3 kilograms (6.6

pounds) and can be launched from unmanned land and small unmanned aerial vehicles (UAVs).

<https://www.dailysabah.com/business/defense/turkish-firms-smallest-laser-guided-missile-up-for-mass-production>

Turkish defense giant successfully tests ballistic missile Tayfun

Daily Sabah, May 23, 2023

Turkish missile producer Roketsan Tuesday successfully tested the short-range ballistic missile Tayfun (Typhoon) in the country's Black Sea province of Rize. Ismail Demir, the head of the Presidency of Defense Industries (SSB), congratulated the team involved in the project. Tayfun is Türkiye's longest-range missile so far. The firm previously tested the missile in October 2022, when it hit a target from 560 kilometers (some 348 miles) away. Meanwhile, the images of the Cenk ballistic missile, announced by President Recep Tayyip Erdoğan following the introduction of Tayfun, were displayed for the first time by the SSB head on May 12, 2023.

<https://www.dailysabah.com/business/defense/turkish-defense-giant-successfully-tests-ballistic-missile-tayfun>

Türkiye's Baykar inks deal to replace embargoed drone electro-optic systems

Daily Sabah, May 24, 2023

Turkish defense giant Aselsan and drone magnate Baykar signed a new contract worth \$17.6 million, both companies announced Wednesday. Aselsan made a related statement to the Public Disclosure Platform (KAP). "An order has been received by Aselsan from Baykar Makina for the delivery of the Electro-Optical System in the amount of \$17.5 million. Deliveries will be made in 2023-2024 within the scope of the order," the statement included. Meanwhile, Haluk Bayraktar, general manager at Baykar said on his Twitter account that following the embargo by Canada on Baykar's acquiring of electro-optical systems, which came after the

Baykar-made unmanned combat aerial vehicles (UCAVs) used by Azerbaijan in liberating Karabakh, they now started to use the domestically-developed Aselsan system, Common Aperture Targeting System (CATS).

<https://www.dailysabah.com/business/defense/turkiyes-baykar-inks-deal-to-replace-embargoed-drone-electro-optic-systems>

Turkish defense firm introduces unmanned chopper to Malaysian market

Daily Sabah, May 26, 2023

Turkish defense industry company Titra Technology has signed a strategic cooperation agreement with Malaysia-based drone solutions provider Aerodyne Group for introducing Türkiye's first unmanned mini helicopter, Alpin, to the Malaysian market. Titra participated in the Langkawi International Maritime and Aviation Fair (LIMA 2023), where the company signed the agreement. It signed the agreement with Aerodyne Group, the world's leading provider of drone services, as part of the fair. An exclusive partnership will be established between Aerodyne Group and Titra, which is known for its strong expertise in unmanned systems technology and its ability to deliver innovative solutions.

<https://www.dailysabah.com/business/defense/turkish-defense-firm-introduces-unmanned-chopper-to-malaysian-market>

Turkish army receives 27 modernized armored amphibious assault vehicles

Daily Sabah, May 26, 2023

Some 27 of the Turkish defense industry company FNSS-developed Armored Amphibious Assault Vehicles (ZAHA), which are described as the best in their class in the world, entered the inventory of the Turkish Armed Forces (TSK) with a ceremony on Friday. The ZAHA Vehicles Delivery and Enhanced Armored Personnel Carrier (GZPT) Modernization Project Signature Program was carried

out at FNSS Defense Systems' facilities in the capital Ankara's Gölbaşı district. Speaking at the event, the head of the Presidency of Defense Industries (SSB), Ismail Demir, said there are very effective companies in armored vehicles in Türkiye that produce compatible products.

<https://www.dailysabah.com/business/defense/turkish-army-receives-27-modernized-armored-amphibious-assault-vehicles>

Turkish defense firm, African nation ink \$36.5M border security deal

Daily Sabah, May 28, 2023

ASISGUARD, a prominent player in the Turkish defense industry specializing in armed drones, electro-optics and vehicle modernization, has recently celebrated a major milestone in its export endeavors.

After extensive negotiations, ASISGUARD has successfully secured a contract worth around \$36.5 million with an undisclosed African nation for the procurement of a comprehensive border and internal security system. The agreement was officially signed by ASISGUARD's General Manager Barış Düzgün cementing the partnership between the company and the African country. The project includes products for detection, command and control and precautionary/intervention purposes.

<https://www.dailysabah.com/business/defense/turkish-defense-firm-african-nation-ink-365m-border-security-deal>

N. United Arab Emirates

Japan, UAE sign agreement to transfer defense equipment and technology

Arab News, May 25, 2023

Japan and the UAE signed an agreement in Abu Dhabi on Saturday to transfer defense equipment and technology. This marks the first time such an agreement with a country in the Middle East region has been made, the Foreign Ministry said in Tokyo. Isomata Akio, Ambassador of Japan to UAE and Dr. Mubarak Saeed Ghafan Al Jabri, Major

General Staff of Assistant Undersecretary for Support and Defense Industries of the Ministry of Defense of the United Arab Emirates, signed the accord. The accord establishes a legal framework for both governments to hand defense equipment and technology to be transferred for joint research, development and production and for enhancing cooperation in security and defense.

<https://www.arabnews.com/node/2310406/world>

UAE commits \$275 million for landmark nuclear energy initiative

Oil and Gas Middle east, May 25, 2023

UAE has pledged its support, along with partners from the US, Japan, and South Korea, to invest up to \$275 million in nuclear energy project in Romania. The UAE's contribution, facilitated by the Emirates Nuclear Energy Corporation (ENEC), will be directed towards the deployment of a NuScale Small Modular Reactor (SMR) in Romania. Leveraging its expertise in constructing and operating light water reactors, ENEC will assist with crucial aspects such as procurement, engineering, and project management. This announcement, made by US President Joe Biden during the G7 Summit in Japan, marks the first major initiative under the Partnership for Accelerating Clean Energy (PACE), a global effort to promote clean energy adoption.

<https://www.oilandgasmiddleeast.com/news/uae-commits-275-million-for-landmark-nuclear-energy-project>

Japan seals deal for defense equipment, technology transfers with UAE

Hindustan Times, May 26, 2023

Japan and the United Arab Emirates have agreed a deal on defense equipment and technology transfers, Japan's Ministry of Foreign Affairs said late Thursday, in a move that enables joint research, development and production. While Tokyo has sealed about a dozen similar bilateral deals, including with the US, the

UK and Australia, the ruling Liberal Democratic Party is considering loosening the strict limits on Japanese arms exports more generally. The UAE is the world's 11th largest arms importer, according to the Stockholm International Peace Research Institute. The agreement comes as Japan works on a next-generation fighter aircraft with the UK and Italy, which is likely to be marketed beyond the three countries.

<https://www.hindustantimes.com/world-news/japan-seals-deal-for-defense-equipment-technology-transfers-with-uae-101685085463882.html>

UAE withdraws from US-led maritime coalition

Aljazeera, May 31, 2023

The United Arab Emirates has withdrawn from a United States-led maritime coalition after an extensive evaluation of its security needs, its Ministry of Foreign Affairs says.

"As a result of our ongoing evaluation of effective security cooperation with all partners, two months ago, the UAE withdrew its participation in the Combined Maritime Forces," the ministry said on Wednesday in a statement quoted by state news agency WAM. The UAE also said it was committed to dialogue and diplomatic engagement to advance regional security and stability as well as ensuring navigation safety near its shores in accordance with international law. The decision marks a pivotal moment in the region's geopolitical landscape, altering the dynamics of international cooperation in maritime security.

<https://www.aljazeera.com/news/2023/5/31/uae-withdraws-from-us-led-maritime-coalition>

O. East Asia

At G7, Kishida eyes 'realistic' approach to nukes, with bold steps unlikely

The Japan Times, May 16, 2023

Prime Minister Fumio Kishida has pledged to take "more realistic and practical steps" to promote a "world without nuclear weapons" when he meets other Group of

Seven leaders this weekend for a critical summit in Hiroshima. But don't expect the gathering, which runs from Friday through Sunday, to result in bold actions such as binding commitments to reduce nuclear arsenals or an agreement to end the stationing of nuclear weapons in third countries. Instead, a key aim of the talks will be to pursue new initiatives to foster disarmament and reinvigorate the stalled process of nuclear arms control amid today's dire international security environment.

<https://www.japantimes.co.jp/news/2023/05/16/national/kishida-japan-g7-nuclear-weapons-nonproliferation/>

North Korea accuses US, South Korea of 'nuclear blackmail'

Firstpost, May 19, 2023

Accusing the US and South Korea of "nuclear blackmail", North Korea has pledged to take action against the two countries in the wake of joint military drills.

Lately, US and South Korean forces have been staging intensified series of annual springtime exercises. These include air and sea drills involving a US aircraft carrier and heavy bombers. Calling the exercises "warmongers' madness", North Korea has constantly criticised the two countries for trying to invade its territory.

<https://www.firstpost.com/world/north-korea-accuses-us-south-korea-of-nuclear-blackmail-12618292.html>

World leaders warn China and North Korea on nukes as Ukraine's Zelenskyy travels to G7 summit

AP News, May 20, 2023

Leaders of the world's most powerful democracies warned China and North Korea against building up their nuclear arsenals, pivoting to major northeast Asian crises ahead of the arrival later Saturday of Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelenskyy.

The focus on Asia at the Group of Seven summit comes as leaders tighten sanctions meant to punish Moscow and change the course of its 15-month invasion of Ukraine. Japan confirmed that Zelenskyy's decision to attend the G7 in person stemmed from his "strong wish" to participate in talks that will influence his nation's defense against Russia. U.S. National Security Adviser Jake Sullivan said that President Joe Biden and Zelenskyy would have direct engagement at the summit, a day after Biden announced his support for training Ukrainian pilots on U.S.-made F-16 fighter jets, a precursor to eventually providing those aircraft to Ukraine's Air Force.

<https://apnews.com/article/g7-japan-hiroshima-ukraine-biden-kishida-3ac64076f63786490a1b062f9a408408>

South Korean nuclear experts to tour Fukushima plant amid water concerns

The Japan Times, May 22, 2023

A team of South Korean experts arrived in Japan on Sunday for an unprecedented six-day visit that will include a trip on Tuesday to the crippled Fukushima No. 1 nuclear power plant, where the government is planning to release treated water into the ocean as part of a decadeslong decommissioning process. Concerned about the aftereffects of the March 2011 nuclear disaster, South Korea continues to uphold a ban on seafood and marine imports from the area around the Fukushima No. 1 plant, despite Japanese government insistence the food is safe. Nuclear Safety and Security Commission Chairperson Yoo Guk-hee is heading a 21-member team of government experts, who on Monday met with nuclear officials from plant operator Tokyo Electric Power Company Holdings (Tepco) and various government agencies that oversee Japan's nuclear power industry.

<https://www.japantimes.co.jp/news/2023/05/22/national/south-korean-experts-fukushima-tour/>

South Korean experts visit Fukushima nuclear plant before release of treated water into sea

AP News, May 23, 2023

A team of South Korean government experts began a two-day tour of Japan's tsunami-wrecked Fukushima nuclear power plant on Tuesday to examine a contentious plan to release treated but still slightly radioactive wastewater into the sea.

Officials from the Japanese government and the plant operator, Tokyo Electric Power Company Holdings, were to show the 21-member delegation several facilities related to treatment, safety checks, transport and dilution of the water, Japanese officials said Tuesday. The plan has faced fierce protests from local fishing communities concerned about safety and reputational damage. Neighboring countries, including South Korea, China and Pacific Island nations, have also raised safety concerns.

<https://apnews.com/article/japan-south-korea-fukushima-nuclear-plant-radiation-f35b6483388bdc764ba147ffe02bed2b>

Japan nuclear watchdog asks Fukushima plant operator to assess risk from reactor damage

Ap News, May 25, 2023

A nuclear watchdog has asked the operator of Japan's wrecked Fukushima nuclear power plant to assess possible risks resulting from damage that was found in a key supporting structure inside one of the three melted reactors. A robotic probe sent inside the Fukushima Daiichi plant's Unit 1 primary containment chamber found that its pedestal – the main supporting structure directly under its core – was extensively damaged. Most of its thick concrete exterior was missing, exposing the internal steel reinforcement. About 880 tons of highly radioactive

melted nuclear fuel remain inside the plant's three damaged reactors. Robotic probes have provided some information, but the status of the melted debris is still largely unknown.

<https://apnews.com/article/fukushima-reactor-damage-japan-nuclear-b04bd3c44b501a3939cf390db80994ed>

North Korea criticises 'sinister' South as live-fire exercises with US start

WION, May 26, 2023

The media of North Korea called the plans of South Korea, Japan and the United States to share real-time data on the missile launches by the regime of Kim Jong-un as "sinister measures" as the Jong-un government lashed out at South for carrying out live-fire exercises with the US. The leaders of the US, Japan and South Korea met at the G7 summit in Hiroshima, Japan and discussed new co-ordination in the wake of illicit nuclear and missile threats from North Korea. A series of missile and weapons tests have been undertaken by North Korea in recent months, the most recent being in a new solid-fuel intercontinental ballistic missile (ICBM).

<https://www.wionews.com/world/north-korea-criticises-sinister-south-as-live-fire-exercises-with-us-start-596632>

IAEA Team in Japan for Final Review Before Planned Discharge of Fukushima Nuclear Plant Water

VOA News, May 29, 2023

An International Atomic Energy Agency team arrived in Tokyo on Monday for a final review before Japan begins releasing massive amounts of treated radioactive water into the sea from the wrecked Fukushima nuclear plant, a plan that has been strongly opposed by local fishing communities and neighboring countries.

The team, which includes experts from 11 countries, will meet with officials from the government and the plant operator, Tokyo Electric Power Company Holdings, and visit

the Fukushima Daiichi nuclear power plant during their five-day visit, the economy and industry ministry said.

<https://www.voanews.com/a/iaea-team-in-japan-for-final-review-before-planned-discharge-of-fukushima-nuclear-plant-water/7114863.html>

P. Australia

China's ambassador to Australia says Aukus an 'unnecessary' use of taxpayer money and 'not a good idea'

The Guardian, May 18, 2023

China's ambassador to Australia, Xiao Qian, has denounced the Aukus nuclear-powered submarine plan as an "unnecessary consumption of the hardworking Australian taxpayers' money".

Xiao said the multi-decade defence plan would consume "tremendous" amounts of money "which could be used for other purposes like infrastructure, like reducing the cost of living, and giving the Australian people a better future". Xiao made the pointed remarks during a press conference at the Chinese embassy in Canberra on Thursday, when he suggested further improvements in the diplomatic and trading relationship were possible but would take "mutual respect".

<https://www.theguardian.com/world/2023/may/18/chinas-ambassador-to-australia-says-aukus-an-unnecessary-use-of-taxpayer-money-and-not-a-good-idea>

Australian Navy Faces Major Hurdles in Building AUKUS Attack Boats, Says Defense Review

USNI News, May 18, 2023

The Royal Australian Navy faces the greatest challenge of the Australian Defense Force as it pursues a nuclear-powered submarine fleet, according to the nation's latest defense blueprint. Building

the new boats under the AUKUS agreement is central to Australia's new strategy of denial to meet the increasingly aggressive threat from China. Australia's shift from a balanced force that addressed low-level regional challenges to a force focused on long-range response to threats with little warning was necessary, Sir Angus Houston, the co-leader of the Defense Strategic Review, said Wednesday. "The strategic circumstances have been going down for a long time." The review aimed "to make [the force] more ready" for warfare in an age of great power competition, he said.

<https://news.usni.org/2023/05/18/australian-navy-faces-major-hurdles-in-building-aukus-attack-boats-says-defense-review>

Pentagon seeks authority to transfer nuclear submarines to Australia

Defense News, May 18, 2023

The U.S. Department of Defense asked Congress to authorize the transfer of nuclear-powered submarines to Australia as part of the trilateral AUKUS agreement with the U.K. Three legislative proposals, submitted on May 2 and first posted online Tuesday, would greenlight the sale of two Virginia-class submarines to Australia, permit the training of Australian nationals for submarine work and allow Canberra to invest in the U.S. submarine industrial base. Rep. Joe Courtney of Connecticut, the top Democrat on the Armed Services Committee's sea power panel, praised the proposals in a statement to Defense News, saying "I look forward to working with all my colleagues in Congress to fulfill these goals."

<https://www.defensenews.com/congress/2023/05/17/pentagon-seeks-authority-to-transfer-nuclear-submarines-to-australia/>

Albanese urged to take stand against nuclear weapons during G7 summit in Hiroshima

The Guardian, May 19, 2023

Anthony Albanese is being urged to take a firm stand against nuclear weapons when

he attends the G7 summit in Hiroshima this weekend. The prime minister has been invited to attend the summit in Hiroshima, which along with Nagasaki was devastated by the US atomic bombing in the closing stages of the second world war. Albanese is due to arrive in the city on Friday afternoon and will join the mayor of Hiroshima for a visit to the Peace Memorial Park, including the ruins of the former industrial promotion hall now known as the A-bomb dome.

<https://www.theguardian.com/australia-news/2023/may/19/albanese-urged-to-take-stand-against-nuclear-weapons-during-g7-summit-in-hiroshima>

The US Navy has its eyes on a new submarine base that will help it keep track of China's growing undersea fleet

Business Insider, May 22, 2023

US and British submarines will soon be operating out of Australia, giving the allies greater reach and presence in the Indian and Pacific oceans, where undersea activity by friends and foes alike has been intensifying. In March, President Joe Biden and his British and Australian counterparts announced a timeline for Australia to acquire new nuclear-powered submarines, first buying US-built subs in the early 2030s and then receiving the first Australian-built boats by the early 2040s. In the next few years, however, US and British subs will visit Australia more frequently, and as soon as 2027, those navies will begin basing attack submarines – one British and as many as four from the US – at HMAS Stirling, an Australian navy base near the city of Perth on the Indian Ocean coast.

<https://www.businessinsider.in/international/news/the-us-navy-has-its-eyes-on-a-new-submarine-base-that-will-help-it-keep-track-of-chinas-growing-undersea-fleet/articleshow/100400211.cms>

AUKUS is moving to intelligent drone swarms

Asia Times, May 27, 2023

From nuclear submarines to hypersonic weapons, AUKUS is now developing AI-powered drone swarms and target identification capabilities that may prove decisive in a Taiwan Strait conflict. Breaking Defense reported that the UK Ministry of Defense (MOD) announced the first-of-its-kind AI and autonomy trial for aerial and ground vehicles occurred last month, with several claimed “world firsts” at the event showcasing AUKUS Pillar 2’s capabilities. AUKUS’ advanced technology-sharing follows a two-pillar framework. Pillar 1 is a trilateral effort focused on supporting Australia to build a nuclear attack submarine (SSN) fleet.

<https://asiatimes.com/2023/05/aukus-moving-from-uke-subs-to-ai-drone-swarms/>

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Indian Pugwash Society welcomes research articles from students, researchers and faculties on Space, Missile, nuclear technology, WMD proliferation, arms control, disarmament, export controls and other related issues. Articles should be crisply written and should address contemporary debates in the policy arena. Manuscripts submitted for the consideration of the Indian Pugwash Society should be original contributions and should not have been submitted for consideration anywhere else. For further assistance, please contact us at : indianpugwashsociety@gmail.com

The Indian Pugwash Society aims to promote the study, discussion, and knowledge of and to stimulate general interest in, and to diffuse knowledge in regards to problems relating on WMD proliferation, arms control, disarmament, space security, export controls, nuclear technology and other related issues. This newsletter is part of the project "Emerging Nuclear Order in Asia: Implications for India" sanctioned to us by Department of Atomic Energy-Board of Research in Nuclear Sciences (DAE-BRNS).

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