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UAE, Bahrain, Israel and U.S. forces in first joint naval drill

November 11, 2021 ynetnews.com reported: "This is the first publicly acknowledged naval exercise between the United States, Israel and the two Gulf countries."

The UAE and Bahrain last year normalized diplomatic relations with Israel under a U.S.-brokered deal known as the Abraham Accords, brought together by shared worries about Iran and hopes of economic gains. The five-day exercise includes training on the USS Portland vessel and will 'enhance interoperability between participating forces' maritime interdiction teams', the statement said.

'Maritime collaboration helps safeguard freedom of navigation and the free flow of trade, which are essential to regional security and stability,' said Vice Adm. Brad Cooper, commander of NAVCENT, U.S. 5th Fleet and Combined Maritime Forces. The U.S. 5th Fleet is based in the Gulf island state of Bahrain and operates in the Arabian Gulf, Gulf of Oman, Red Sea and parts of the Indian Ocean.

On Sunday, Iran announced its own a large-scale sea, land and air military drill to be held east of the Strait of Hormuz, the Sea of Oman, and the northern parts of the Indian Ocean..."

U.S. Inflation Hit 31-Year High in October as Consumer Prices Jump 6.2%

November 10, 2021 wsj.com reported: "U.S. inflation hit a three-decade high in October, delivering widespread and sizable price increases to households for everything from groceries to cars due to persistent supply shortages and strong consumer demand."



The Labor Department said the consumer-price index—which measures what consumers pay for goods and services—increased in October by 6.2% from a year ago. That was the fastest 12-month pace since 1990 and the fifth straight month of inflation above 5%. The core price index, which excludes the often-volatile categories of food and energy, climbed 4.6% in October from a year earlier, higher than September's 4% rise and the largest increase since 1991.

On a monthly basis, the CPI increased a seasonally adjusted 0.9% in October from the prior month, a sharp acceleration from September's 0.4% rise and the same as June's 0.9% pace. Price increases were broad-based, with higher costs for new and used autos, gasoline and other energy costs, furniture, rent and medical care, the Labor Department said. Food prices for both groceries and dining out rose by the most in decades. Prices fell for airline fares and alcohol." ..."

Pakistan Set to Host US, China, Russia, Taliban to Discuss Afghan Crisis

November 10, 2021 voanews.com reported: "Pakistan will host the United States, China and Russia this week for talks on Afghanistan under what is known as the 'troika plus' process."

Officials in Islamabad have confirmed to VOA that Amir Khan Muttaqi, the foreign minister of the Afghan Taliban, has also been invited to the meeting, scheduled for Thursday, describing his participation as an 'important' development. Newly-appointed U.S. Special Representative for Afghanistan Thomas West and his Russian, Chinese and Pakistani counterparts will lead their respective delegations at the talks.

Leaders are expected to reiterate international calls for the Islamist Taliban to ensure inclusivity in the political governance in Kabul and protect rights of all Afghans, including women and minorities..."

IDF Chief of Staff: 'Accelerating military plans to take care of Iran'

November 9, 2021 Arutz Sheva 7 reported: "MK Ram Ben Barak (Yesh Atid) on Tuesday held a meeting of the Knesset's Foreign Affairs and Defense Committee, which he chairs. Prior to the start of the meeting, IDF Chief of Staff Aviv Kochavi said, 'The IDF is accelerating its military plants to handle Iran.'"

'The budget which was approved allows us to deal with a variety of challenges,' he added. 'We have many challenges, and we will continue to act to remove the threats and respond to every hit to our sovereignty.'..."

Chinese Communist Party 'historical resolution' could see President Jinping rule indefinitely

November 9, 2021 news.com.au reported: "China is on the brink of adopting a 'historical resolution' which could secure President Xi Jinping's stranglehold for life."

A four-day, top-secret gathering of hundreds of top-ranking Chinese Communist Party officials is now underway, with the sixth plenary session of the Central Committee held in Beijing set to decide on a so-called ‘historical resolution’ on the country’s achievements.

The ‘draft resolution on the major achievements and historical experience of the [party’s] 100 years of endeavors’ – the first official announcement on Chinese history in four long decades – was delivered by Mr. Xi himself, and insiders expect the resolution to be passed.

If that does happen on Thursday as expected, it will set the tone for a rare congress which will be held next year, in which Mr. Xi is tipped to snag an unprecedented third term. It means his grip on power will be extended indefinitely, with experts predicting it will pave the way for him to rule for life...”

China builds mockups of US Navy ships in area used for missile target practice

November 8, 2021 jpost.com reported: “China’s military has built mockups in the shape of a US Navy aircraft carrier and other US warships, possibly as training targets, in the desert of Xinjiang, satellite images by Maxar showed on Sunday.

These mockups reflect China’s efforts to build up anti-carrier capabilities, specifically against the US Navy, as tensions remain high with Washington over Taiwan and the South China Sea.

The satellite images showed a full-scale outline of a US carrier and at least two Arleigh Burke-class guided missile destroyers had been built at what appears to be a new target range complex in the Taklamakan Desert...”

Iran kicks off massive military exercise

November 8, 2021 Arutz Sheva 7 reported: “Just weeks ahead of the scheduled renewal of talks on a return to the 2015 Joint Comprehensive Plan of Action (JCPOA), Iran has begun a massive military exercise in the Gulf of Oman, Israel’s *Channel 12 News* reported.

The widescale exercise, which kicked off on Sunday, includes the area from north of the Indian Ocean to parts of the Red Sea, and includes among other things, the use of drones, manned aircraft, special forces, and both defensive and offensive missiles systems. The Israeli flag can be seen on the horizon, in an apparent attempt to send a message to the Zionist state, *Channel 12* noted.

The Zolfaghar-1400 drill integrates exercises by Iran’s Navy, Air Force, and Revolutionary Guards, and simulates various scenarios such as naval warfare far from the Iranian coast...”

State Department approves sale of air-to-air missiles to Saudi Arabia

November 5, 2021 Arutz Sheva 7 reported: “The US State Department approved its first major arms sale to the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia under US President Joe Biden with the sale of 280 air-to-air missiles valued at up to \$650 million, the Pentagon said on Thursday, according to *Reuters*.

The Pentagon notified Congress of the sale on Thursday, according to the report. If approved, the deal would be the first sale to Saudi Arabia since the Biden administration adopted a policy of selling only defensive weapons to the Gulf ally.

The State Department had approved the sale on October 26, a spokesperson said, adding that the air-to-air missile sale comes after ‘an increase in cross-border attacks against Saudi Arabia over the past year.’

The sale ‘is fully consistent with the administration’s pledge to lead with diplomacy to end the conflict in Yemen,’ the State Department spokesperson said in a statement...”



Iran increases its stockpile of highly enriched uranium

November 5, 2021 Arutz Sheva 7 reported: “Iran said on Thursday it has significantly increased its stockpile of highly enriched uranium, in an announcement that comes ahead of the resumption of talks on its return to the 2015 deal with world powers.

‘We have more than 210 kilograms (463 pounds) of uranium enriched to 20 percent, and we’ve produced 25 kilos (55 pounds) at 60 percent, a level that no country apart from those with nuclear arms are able to produce,’ said Atomic Energy Organization of Iran (AEOI) spokesman Behrouz Kamalvandi, according to the *IRNA* news agency.

In August, the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA) confirmed that Iran has established a process to accelerate production of highly enriched uranium at its Natanz enrichment plant. The move brought Iran closer to the 90 percent purity level needed for use in a nuclear weapon...”