



SIOS NEWS BRIEF (18-22 August)

Iran seeks to rebuild military image after big losses in 12-day war, launches Indian Ocean drills (August 22)

According to the official IRNA agency, Iran launched its first solo military exercise after the end of the 12 day war with Israel, aimed at improving combat preparedness, operational planning, strengthening deterrence, and improving command capabilities. State television reported that, navy units of Iran's armed forces fired drones and missiles at open water targets in the IOR under the "Sustainable Power 1404" drill. Iran also said it was prepared for any new Israeli attack, as it has developed missiles with greater capabilities.

URL: <https://www.thearabweekly.com/iran-seeks-rebuild-military-image-after-big-losses-12-day-war-launches-indian-ocean-drills>

Japan proposes 'economic zone' linking Indian Ocean to Africa, seeks greater role in the region (August 20)

Japan's PM Shigeru Ishiba, kicking off the TICAD (Tokyo International Conference on Economic Development), proposed an economic zone connecting the Indian Ocean to Africa as the country seeks to play an increased role in the African continent. He said, "Japan believes in Africa's future" and "Japan backs the concept of African Continental Free Trade Area", which aims to bolster the region's competitiveness. Japan launched TICAD in 1993, and the three-day summit in Tokyo is being attended by representatives and leaders from about 50 countries from the African continent and officials from international organizations.

URL: <https://www.wral.com/story/japan-proposes-economic-zone-linking-indian-ocean-to-africa-seeks-greater-role-in-the-region/22124915/>

China gifts another Hangor submarine to Pakistan Navy ahead of Modi-Xi SCO Summit (August 19)

China has delivered the third of 8 new Hangor-class submarines to Pakistan, just before Indian PM Narendra Modi and President Xi Jinping are scheduled to meet on the sidelines of SCO Summit. According to China's state-run Global Times, the launching ceremony for the submarine was held in Central China's Hubei province. A Chinese military affairs expert, Zhang Junshe, told the Global Times that the Hangor-class submarine is characterised by its comprehensive sensor systems, high mobility, excellent stealth characteristics, long endurance, and strong underwater combat capabilities.

URL: <https://www.financialexpress.com/world-news/china-gifts-another-hangor-submarine-to-pakistan-navy-ahead-of-modixi-sco-summit/3950688/>