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मनोहर पर्रिकर रक्षा अध्ययन एवं विश्लेषण संस्थान

Armenia

Armenia wants to buy Indian fighter jets

Indian Defence News, November 1, 2024

Is the Russian aviation industry starting to pay for its recurring flaws? At the end of October 2024, the Armenian Ministry of Defence announced that it had started negotiations with the Indian aircraft manufacturer HAL in order to equip itself with a batch of locally produced Su-30MKI Flanker-H fighters as well as dedicated weapons. In doing so he intends to cancel the order of eight Su-30SM Flanker-C extra that has been dragging... for 5 years. . This would then be the first contract since India chose d'export your own Su-30MKI. Currently the Armenian fighter fleet consists of four Sukhoi Su-30SM Flanker-C received new in spring 2019 and around fifteen Su-25K "Frogfoot" much older. However, a few weeks after receiving its fighters, Armenia chose to order eight additional Su-30SMs. If they were partially paid, up to 70% of the contract, no aircraft have since been delivered. For one simple and good reason: Sukhoi produced none and the only Su-30s to date to come out of its factories have been for the needs of Russia itself. Five years later it seems that the patience of the Armenians has come to an end.

<https://www.indiandefensenews.in/2024/11/armenia-wants-to-buy-indian-fighter-jets.html>

"Armenia-Iran: The process of cooperation and new perspectives" conference kicks off

Armenpress, November 5, 2024

The three-day expert conference titled "Armenia-Iran: The Process of

Cooperation and New Perspectives," organized by the Public Relations and Information Center, has kicked off. According to the center's director, Gor Tsarukyan, representatives from Iran's leading think tanks and news agencies met with Armenian Deputy Prime Minister Mher Grigoryan, Secretary of the Security Council Armen Grigoryan, and Deputy Ministers of Territorial Administration and Infrastructure Armen Simonyan and Kristine Ghalechyan. The Iranian guests were briefed on the process and vision for diversifying and deepening Armenia-Iran cooperation, Armenia's positions regarding the regional transport blockade, border delimitation, the regulation of Armenia-Azerbaijan relations, and the "Crossroads of Peace" project. The next two days of the conference will be held in the Syunik region, where an Armenian-Iranian expert workshop will take place in Kapan.

<https://armenpress.am/en/article/1204147>

India's BEL ships first Akash weapon system battery to Armenia

Airforce Technology, November 12, 2024

India-based public sector undertaking Bharat Electronics Limited (BEL) has shipped the first Akash weapon system battery to Armenia, making it the second missile system to be exported. This follows the export of the BrahMos supersonic cruise missile to the Philippines in 2022, marking India's first defence export order. During the same year, Armenia signed a deal with India to procure 15 Akash missile systems for approximately Rs600bn (\$7.11bn). Comprising a surface-to-air missile (SAM), the Akash weapon system is

capable of engaging various aerial targets within a range of 25km. Developed by the Defence Research and Development Organisation (DRDO), the Akash system is designed to intercept and destroy threats such as fighter jets, cruise missiles, air-to-surface missiles, drones, and other aerial assets. The manufacturing of the system is a collaborative effort between BEL and Bharat Dynamics (BDL). BEL has supplied essential ground support equipment, which includes surveillance radars; missile guidance radars; and command, control, communications, computers, and intelligence (C4I) systems.

<https://www.airforce-technology.com/news/akash-weapon-system-battery-armenia/?cf-view>

China ready to support Armenia's development, says diplomat

Davit Mamyan

Armenpress, November 12, 2024

Beijing hopes that the Armenian-Chinese relations reach new achievements and is ready to support the development of bilateral ties and Armenia's development, China's Chargé d'Affaires (a.i.) in Armenia, Chen Ming, said on November 12. "We hope the Armenian-Chinese relations have new achievements," he told reporters during the China's Modernization: Armenia-China Relationship international seminar at the National Academy of Sciences of Armenia. "I have to note that the Armenian-Chinese relations are developing very well. I've had many occasions to speak about the developments and further trends of the Armenian-Chinese relationship." He recalled

Armenian Prime Minister Nikol Pashinyan and Chinese President Xi Jinping's brief conversation on the sidelines of the BRICS summit in Russia. "We have to note that this was the first meeting since 2019. During that meeting the two sides talked about the development of bilateral relations. Of course, we are ready to support the Armenian-Chinese relations and Armenia's general development," the Chinese diplomat said, expressing hope that the discussions during the seminar will be productive in terms of development of the Armenia-China ties.

<https://armenpress.am/en/article/1204677>

Armenia MoD: No task of returning Azerbaijani-occupied territories by military means

News.am, November 13, 2024

There is no task of returning Armenia's Azerbaijani-occupied territories by military means. Minister of Defense Suren Papikyan stated this during November 13, debates on the 2025 state budget draft at the session of the National Assembly of Armenia. According to the defense minister, the Armenia-Azerbaijan border delimitation process provides an opportunity to resolve the aforesaid issue through peaceful negotiations.

<https://news.am/eng/news/852258.html>

Military's only mission is protection of 29,743 square kilometers Armenian sovereign territory, says Defence Minister

Armenpress, November 13, 2024

Armenia doesn't seek to militarily retake the nearly 200 square kilometers of its

sovereign territory currently under Azerbaijani occupation because the delimitation process gives the chance to resolve the issue peacefully, Defence Minister Suren Papikyan has said. “The ongoing reforms, expenditures and investments in the military are aimed at one important goal, to have a professional, combat-ready and modern army that will be capable of defending the 29 thousand 743 square kilometers sovereign territory of the Republic of Armenia. And this is the only mission of the military. We have the duty to sacredly fulfill this,” Papikyan said in parliament during 2025 budget debates. Regarding the issue of the nearly 200 square kilometers of sovereign Armenian territory currently under Azerbaijani occupation, the minister said, “We don’t have a goal of resolving that issue militarily because the delimitation process gives the opportunity for resolving that issue through peaceful negotiations.”

<https://armenpress.am/en/article/1204806>

General Director of Ucom participated in Silicon Mountains technological summit

News.am, November 15, 2024

Ralph Yirikian, General Director of Ucom, participated in the annual Silicon Mountains 2024 technological summit held in Yerevan. This year's summit was dedicated to the application of artificial intelligence (AI) in the economy and the challenges it presents. The summit featured two keynote speeches and three panel discussions focusing on Industry.ai, Invest.ai, and Impact.ai. The final panel explored the impact of AI on Armenia's

manufacturing, economy, education, and other sectors. Besides Ralph Yirikian, the panel included the RA Minister of Education, Science, Culture, and Sports Zhanna Andreyan; Evgeny Lisnyak, Director for Strategic Partnerships with Fintech Companies and Enterprises in the CIS and Southeast Europe Visa; Paolo Prinetto, Director of the National Cybersecurity Laboratory CINI and a member of CNRS Scientific Council; and Luiza Ayvazyan, Head of CIPE’s Armenia office (Center for International Private Enterprise). The event also featured a postmark cancellation ceremony dedicated to the Silicon Mountains summit. Ucom served as the platinum partner of the summit.

<https://news.am/eng/news/852610.html>

Azerbaijan

Azerbaijan to host 12th OTS Summit

Azerbaijani Press Agency, November 6, 2024

The 12th Summit of Organization of Turkic States (OTS) member states will be held in Azerbaijan, APA reports. This decision was reflected in the Bishkek Declaration on the results of the 11th Summit of Heads of State of the Organization of Turkic States held in the capital of Kyrgyzstan. According to the Declaration, leaders of the Organization’s member states have approved holding the official summit in Azerbaijan in 2025, and the informal summit in Hungary.

<https://en.apa.az/foreign-policy/azerbaijan-to-host-12th-ots-summit-452641>

Azerbaijan conducts command-staff exercises in N military unit

Farid Zohrabov

Trend News Agency, November 15, 2024

According to the training plan for 2024, the command-staff exercise was held in one of the military units, Trend reports referring to the Azerbaijani Defence Ministry. At the first stage of the exercise, the units were put on alert and withdrawn to the training areas. After tasks were clarified, measures were taken to bring the units to various states of combat readiness. Then actions were taken to camouflage the units in the area, as well as to organize defense and security. The units involved in the exercise effectively and promptly fulfilled the assigned tasks.

<https://en.trend.az/azerbaijan/politics/3970607.html>

Why are Azerbaijan and France at odds?

Amandine Hess

Euronews, November 15, 2024

Political tensions stemming from France's support for Armenia and its accusations against Baku resurfaced at the COP29 climate summit. But what is driving the ongoing tension between the two sides? COP29 climate summit opened with a diplomatic incident in Azerbaijan, where host President Ilham Aliyev sparked tensions with France by accusing President Emmanuel Macron's government of committing "crimes" in its overseas territories. "The lessons of France's crimes in these so-called overseas territories would not be complete without mentioning the regime's recent human rights

violations," Aliyev said. Experts say the rising tensions between Paris and Baku stem from France's strong support for Armenia in its territorial conflict with Azerbaijan over Nagorno-Karabakh. "This is a largely political move by Azerbaijan to push back against France for its strong support of Armenia," Teona Lavrelashvili told Euronews.

<https://www.euronews.com/my-europe/2024/11/15/why-are-azerbaijan-and-france-at-odds>

Azerbaijani servicemen engage in Mediterranean-washed Blue Whale-2024 drills

Farid Zohrabov

Trend News Agency, November 15, 2024

The Armed Forces of the Republic of Turkiye conducted the Blue Whale-2024 Exercise in the Eastern Mediterranean Sea, Trend reports via the Defence Ministry of Azerbaijan. A grand total of 62 naval and air forces from 13 countries rolled up their sleeves and got down to brass tacks, sharpening their wits and honing their skills in the deep blue sea of underwater defense warfare and joint naval operations. A contingent of the Azerbaijan Army's personnel engaged in the Blue Whale-2024 Exercise in an observational capacity.

<https://en.trend.az/azerbaijan/politics/3970676.html>

Work continues on peace treaty with Armenia, Azerbaijan's FM says

Azerbaijani Press Agency, November 15, 2024

Foreign Minister of Azerbaijan Jeyhun Bayramov expressed his opinion on

whether the peace treaty between Azerbaijan and Armenia will be signed by the end of the year, APA reports. The top diplomat said that the negotiation process has two components: "One is physical meetings, and that's important. Currently, the main focus of the Azerbaijani delegation is on the COP. For this reason, it is impossible to have physical meetings before December. December or January is another matter. There is no concrete agreement on this yet. Apart from the physical meetings, the work on the document continues and this work has not stopped yet."

<https://en.apa.az/foreign-policy/work-continues-on-peace-treaty-with-armenia-azerbajans-fm-says-453432>

Bahrain

Bahrain international airshow 2024: A gateway to the future of aerospace and defence

Aljundi, November 1, 2024

The Bahrain International Airshow 2024 (BIAS) is a premier event in the Middle East, bringing together decision-makers, industry experts, and leaders from the global aerospace and defence sectors every two years at the Sakhir Airbase in the Kingdom of Bahrain. The 7th edition of BIAS, kicking off from 13 to 15 November 2024, serves as a key platform for showcasing the latest in aerospace and defence technologies, exploring business opportunities, and fostering international cooperation. With thrilling aerial displays and the participation of top global companies, the event reinforces Bahrain's position as an international hub for

innovation and technology. This year's edition is expected to attract significant global attention thanks to high-level conferences and valuable networking opportunities, cementing its status as one of the most prominent aviation events in the Middle East. Since its inception in 2010, the Bahrain International Airshow has been a key driver of growth and innovation in the aviation and defence sectors, and the 2024 edition promises to raise the bar even further. Bahrain's Growing Importance in the Global Aviation Landscape. Bahrain has long held a clear vision for the future of aviation and defence, playing a pivotal role in regional and international arenas. With its strategic location, Bahrain aims to attract more global aviation companies and strengthen its regional role.

<https://www.aljundi.ae/en/profile/bahrain-international-airshow-2024-a-gateway-to-the-future-of-aerospace-and-defence/>

BDF, represented by RBAF, holds fifth MAPS conference

Bahrain News Agency, November 12, 2024

The Bahrain Defence Force (BDF), represented by the Royal Bahraini Air Force (RBAF), hosted the 5th Manama Air Power Symposium (MAPS 2024) under the theme "Air Power in All-Domain Warfare". Held alongside the Bahrain International Airshow 2024, the symposium gathered air force leaders and experts regionally and internationally to discuss key issues in air power and means to strengthen its effectiveness in modern conflicts. Riad Kahwaji, Founder and CEO of SEGMA, delivered the opening address, followed by a speech from Air Vice-Marshal Shaikh

Hamad bin Abdulla Al Khalifa, Commander of the RBAF. In his remarks, the RBAF Commander conveyed the greetings of His Majesty King Hamad bin Isa Al Khalifa, the Supreme Commander of the Armed Forces; HRH Prince Salman bin Hamad Al Khalifa, the Crown Prince, Deputy Supreme Commander of the Armed Forces and Prime Minister; and Field Marshal Shaikh Khalifa bin Ahmed Al Khalifa, Commander-in-Chief of the BDF.

<https://www.bna.bh/en/news?cms=q8FmFJgiscL2fwIzON1%2BDqvBtviT%2BR4m5tYiYmby200%3D>

On sidelines of BIAS, Defence Conference sheds light on combat air power and technological advancements

Bahrain News Agency, November 14, 2024

The second day of the Bahrain International Airshow (BIAS) 2024 featured a high-profile defence conference that showcased the latest in combat air power and technological advancements addressing today's evolving security landscape. Keynote speakers General Gary L. North (Ret.), Vice President for Customer Requirements at Lockheed Martin Aeronautics, and Travis Ruhl, Director of International Business Development, Airborne Combat Systems at L3Harris, led the discussions. North's remarks, "The Future of Combat Air and the Role of Advanced Technology," highlighted Lockheed Martin's vision for integrating disruptive technologies such as autonomous systems, enhanced sensors, and multi-domain operations to maintain air superiority. "Combat capabilities must evolve in real time to counter emerging

threats and to protect allied airspace," said North, emphasising Bahrain's adoption of the F-16 Block 70 fighter as a strategic investment in regional defence.

<https://www.bna.bh/en/news?cms=q8FmFJgiscL2fwIzON1%2BDseplKqESiAarV%2B1yiVakrQ%3D>

Bahrain's NSSA to participate in moon payload mission

Charlotte Bailey

Aerospace Global News, November 14, 2024

The Bahrain National Space Science Agency (NSSA) is to join the Emirates Lunar Mission of the UAE's Mohammed Bin Rasid Space Centre (MBRSC), building on an MoU initially signed in 2019. To achieve this ambitious mission, the NSSA will develop a lunar rover to carry "a Bahraini payload with versatile capabilities" to the moon's surface, with data gathered to be used for research, analysis and development purposes. "Bahrain's participation in this historic mission underscores the high level of expertise and talent that our national workforce has reached, showcasing our continuous efforts to enhance the Kingdom's technical and scientific capabilities," explained NSSA CEO Dr Mohamed Ibrahim Al-Aseeri. "This achievement... proves that Bahrainis are ready to make meaningful contributions at the international level, especially in the vital space sector". He added that the collaboration between the Kingdom of Bahrain and the United Arab Emirates "will contribute to a significant scientific

achievement and represent an important step towards strengthening the Arab presence in future sciences and space exploration”.

<https://aerospacelocalnews.com/news/bahrain-nssa-to-participate-in-moon-payload-mission/>

Cyprus

‘Concrete developments’ on Cyprus-US relationship expected soon

Tom Cleaver

Cyprus Mail, November 2, 2024

“Concrete developments” related to the development of relations between Cyprus and the United States are expected very soon, President Nikos Christodoulides said on November 2. Speaking to Greek newspaper Ta Nea, he said the forthcoming developments will “institutionalise this cooperation of ours ... in matters of defence and security”. He added that in addition to those two fields, the governments of the two countries will continue to cooperate to deal with corruption, and that as such, he had requested that an FBI team travel to Cyprus with the aim of bringing cases of corruption before court. He then spoke on matters related to commercial and economic relations between the countries, saying he had discussed “possible investments, especially in the field of energy” with US President Joe Biden at the White House.

<https://cyprus-mail.com/2024/11/02/concrete-developments-on-cyprus-us-relationship-expected-soon/>

Georgia

Georgia’s service exports surged in 2023, driven by travel and transport - Statistics Office

Agenda.ge, November 1, 2024

Georgia’s exports of services reached \$7.05 billion in 2023, marking a 23.7 percent increase compared to 2022, while imports rose to \$3.618 billion - up 19.5 percent from the year before, the National Statistics Office of the country said on October 31. Leading the figures in the country’s service exports was the travel sector, which reclaimed its top position with a total of \$4.12 billion, comprising 58.5 percent of the overall service exports. Transport services followed, generating \$1.47 billion and accounting for 20.9 percent of total exports. Meanwhile, telecommunications, computer, and information services secured the third spot, standing at \$892 million and constituting 12.6 percent of the total exports. On the import side, transport services also topped the list, with imports amounting to \$2.23 billion, which represented 61.7 percent of total imports. Travel services were the second-largest import category (13.9 percent of imports), while other business services rounded out the top three (6.4 percent of imports).

<https://agenda.ge/en/news/2024/41405#gsc.tab=0>

Iran

Leader’s advisor says Iran may change nuclear doctrine if threats become ‘existential’ Politics

Tehran Times, November 1, 2024

Kamal Kharrazi, Iran’s former Foreign Minister and head of Iran’s Strategic

Council on Foreign Relations, has clarified that while Iran's policy against nuclear weapons remains intact, any existential threat to Iran could alter this stance. The advisor to the Leader of the Islamic Revolution made the remarks in an interview with Lebanon's Al Mayadeen, where he offered insights into Iran's nuclear policy and regional security stance. Kharrazi began by emphasizing that while Iran currently refrains from developing nuclear weapons due to a religious decree, this position might not hold if Iran faces an existential threat. "Iran has respected the Leader's fatwa prohibiting nuclear weapons," Kharrazi stated, "but if the survival of Iran comes under serious threat, we reserve the right to reconsider." Kharrazi also criticized European countries for not reciprocating Iran's respect for their concerns, particularly over missile ranges and regional security sensitivities. "Iran no longer feels obliged to consider European concerns," he said, hinting at Iran's growing willingness to increase missile ranges if its own concerns continue to be ignored.

<https://www.tehrantimes.com/news/50573/1/Leader-s-advisor-says-Iran-may-change-nuclear-doctrine-if-threats>

Iran ranked 94th in Government AI readiness

Tehran Times, November 1, 2024

Oxford Insights, which provides data on preparedness to implement Artificial Intelligence in public service delivery, has ranked Iran 94th among 193 governments across the world. Governments are not only working to foster AI innovation and establish regulatory frameworks but also

striving to integrate this technology into public services. However, understanding how to ensure that AI is adopted effectively for the public good remains a challenge. This index attempts to address this issue. It includes 39 indicators across 10 dimensions, which make up 3 pillars: Government, Technology Sector, and Data and Infrastructure pillars. According to the index, the country's best ranking is in the Data and Infrastructure pillar, 55.88. It includes infrastructure, data availability, and data representativeness indicators. The country's score in the Technology pillar was 38.77. It includes human capital, innovation capacity, and maturity indicators. Iran's lowest score is in the Government pillar, 31.56, probably due to the absence of a national document on AI development. However, with the implementation of the document, the country's ranking is expected to rise in the future.

<https://www.tehrantimes.com/news/50570/7/Iran-ranked-94th-in-Government-AI-readiness>

Iran adviser hints at expansion of missile range, nuclear doctrine review after Israel strikes

Economic Times, November 1, 2024

Kamal Kharrazi, an adviser to Iran's supreme leader, said on Friday that Tehran is likely to increase the range of its ballistic missiles and possibly review its nuclear doctrine, amid growing tensions with arch-enemy Israel and tit-for-tat missile and airstrikes. Asked by Lebanon-based pro-Iran broadcaster Al-Mayadeen whether Iran was ready if conflict were to expand after the recent strikes, Kharrazi said Iran was

likely to up the range of its ballistic missiles beyond a self-imposed limit of 2,000 km (1,250 miles). He said that although Iran has the technical capability to produce nuclear weapons, it is currently held back by a fatwa, or religious decree, issued in the early 2000s by Supreme Leader Ayatollah Ali Khamenei. Ayatollah Khamenei, who has the last say on Tehran's nuclear programme, banned the development of nuclear weapons in that fatwa. The Islamic Republic has long denied that it is trying to build nuclear weapons and insists its nuclear work is solely for peaceful purposes.

<https://economictimes.indiatimes.com/news/defence/iran-adviser-hints-at-expansion-of-missile-range-nuclear-doctrine-review-after-israel-strikes/articleshow/114857018.cms?from=mdr>

Iran's supreme leader threatens Israel and US with 'a crushing response' over Israeli attack

Economic Times, November 3, 2024

Lebanon strikes central Israel's Tira, destroys buildings; Israeli forces intercept several projectiles. Iran's supreme leader on November 2 threatened Israel and the U.S. with "a crushing response" over attacks on Iran and its allies. Ayatollah Ali Khamenei spoke as Iranian officials are increasingly threatening to launch yet another strike against Israel after its Oct. 26 attack on the Islamic Republic that targeted military bases and other locations and killed at least five people. Any further attacks from either side could engulf the wider Middle East, already teetering over the Israel-Hamas war in the Gaza Strip and Israel's ground

invasion of Lebanon, into a wider regional conflict just ahead of the U.S. presidential election this November 5. "The enemies, whether the Zionist regime or the United States of America, will definitely receive a crushing response to what they are doing to Iran and the Iranian nation and to the resistance front," Khamenei said in video released by Iranian state media. The supreme leader did not elaborate on the timing of the threatened attack, nor the scope. The U.S. military operates on bases throughout the Middle East, with some troops now manning a Terminal High Altitude Area Defense, or THAAD, battery in Israel.

<https://economictimes.indiatimes.com/news/defence/irans-supreme-leader-threatens-israel-and-us-with-a-crushing-response-over-israeli-attack/articleshow/114899952.cms?from=mdr>

Iran's shifting discourse on nuclear weaponization: Bargaining tactic or doctrine change?

Hamidreza Azizi

Middle East Council on Global Affairs, November 6, 2024

Heightening Threat Perception is the Main Driver of a Discourse Shift: Iran's rhetoric shift toward nuclear armament is largely driven by external pressures, including Israel's ongoing war on Gaza, and the wider region, along with its nuclear capabilities, and the limits of Iran's conventional deterrence capabilities. The Worst-Case Scenario: Iran may be preparing for a concrete move toward nuclear weaponization, either by gradually

reaching the nuclear breakout point or by accelerating its push in that direction. Potential Diplomatic Leverage: In the best-case scenario, this shift could be a strategy to raise the stakes in future negotiations, signaling that Iran may be open to broader discussions beyond the nuclear file, particularly regarding its regional security concerns. Trump's Re-Election is a Critical Factor: Trump's return to the White House, with his history of "maximum pressure" on Iran and unwavering support for Israel, could heighten tensions and serve as a catalyst for Iran's push toward nuclear weapons.

<https://mecouncil.org/publication/irans-shifting-discourse-on-nuclear-weaponization-bargaining-tactic-or-doctrine-change/>

Iran, Iraq vow to expand security ties

Islamic Republic News Agency, November 12, 2024

Iran's Secretary of Supreme National Security Council (SNSC) Ali Akbar Ahmadian and Iraqi National Security Advisor Qasim al-Araji have stressed their countries' commitment to broadening of security cooperation. While emphasizing the acceleration of the process of implementing the clauses of the security agreement between the two countries, Ahmadian and al-Araji discussed the abuse of the Iraqi space by the Zionist regime and the United States against the Islamic Republic of Iran. Also, in this meeting, the Islamic Republic of Iran and Iraq reviewed the latest security agreement between the two countries and emphasized on accelerating the process of implementing the clauses of the said agreement,

especially preventing the presence and activities of terrorists outside the country's western borders. The two sides agreed to cover other common threats, including military, security and economic threats, by completing and extending the security agreement. Tehran and Baghdad signed their security pact in 2023. Part of the agreement calls for disarming separatist terrorist groups operating against Iran.

<https://en.irna.ir/news/85656806/Iran-Iraq-vow-to-expand-security-ties>

Iran, Russia, Turkey issue joint statement on Israel, region

Mehr News Agency, November 12, 2024

In a joint statement, Iran, Russia and Turkey condemned the crimes of the Zionists against the Palestinians in the Gaza Strip and the attacks of the occupying regime against Lebanon and Syria. During the 16th round of Astana Talks on Syria Peace on Tuesday, Iran, Russia, and Turkey released a joint statement condemning the aggressive actions of the Zionist regime in the West Asian region and described it as a violation of international law. Iran, Russia and Turkey condemned the Zionist regime's genocide in Gaza as well as its aggression against Lebanon and the West Bank and called for a ceasefire. They also condemned all the military attacks of the occupying regime in Syria and considered these actions to be in violation of international laws. The three countries further emphasized that the escalation of violence in West Asia will have a negative impact on the situation in Syria. Iran, Russia and Turkey pointed out that UN structures should take measures to help Lebanese refugees in Syria who have moved there

after the escalation of the conflict. They emphasized the importance of continuing efforts to normalize relations between Ankara and Damascus.

<https://en.mehrnews.com/news/224342/Iran-Russia-Turkey-issue-joint-statement-on-Israel-region>

Iran, Turkiye call for broadening mutual, regional cooperation

Islamic Republic News Agency, November 13, 2024

Iran's Deputy Foreign Minister Vahid Jalalzadeh, and Chairman of the Committee on Foreign Affairs of the Grand National Assembly of Turkiye Fuat Oktay have called for strengthening bilateral and regional cooperation. Jalalzadeh traveled to Ankara to participate in the 20th edition of the Iran-Turkiye Joint Consular Commission, where he met with Oktay on November 13. During their discussions, both sides emphasized the importance of expanding bilateral and regional cooperation. They addressed several issues, including strengthening parliamentary relations, combating terrorism, and enhancing regional collaboration, particularly in the Caucasus. They also discussed the need to open and develop transportation routes throughout the region. Additionally, they highlighted the urgency of halting the crimes committed by the Zionist regime in Gaza and Lebanon, as well as its aggression against neighboring countries.

<https://en.irna.ir/news/85658859/Iran-Turkiye-call-for-broadening-mutual-regional-cooperation>

NATO alarmed by growing Iran, Russia, China, N. Korea ties

Islamic Republic News Agency, November 13, 2024

Mark Rutte, the Secretary General of the North Atlantic Treaty Organization (NATO) has expressed concern over the ever-expanding economic and military cooperation between Iran, China, Russia and North Korea, calling it "dangerous and threatening". "Russia working together with North Korea, Iran and China is not only threatening Europe, it's threatening peace and security, yes, here in Europe, but also in the Indo-Pacific and in North America," Rutte said on November 12. Speaking before talks with French President Emmanuel Macron, Rutte outlined what he claimed as the dangers posed by North Korean and Iranian military assistance for Russia, an accusation the US and the EU have been levelling for some times. "At the same time, China backs Russia's economy, enables its defence industry and amplifies its narrative all over the world stage," he said. The head of the western military alliance, in what appeared to be a message to the next American administration as President-elect Donald Trump prepares to take office, also underlined the importance of transatlantic unity and continued support for Ukraine in its war with Russia.

<https://en.irna.ir/news/85657917/NATO-alarmed-by-growing-Iran-Russia-China-N-Korea-ties>

No evidence Iran is building nuclear weapons, says IAEA chief

Islamic Republic News Agency,
November 13, 2024

Director General of the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA) Rafael Grossi has reiterated that international inspectors have not found any evidence that could suggest that Iran is seeking to build nuclear weapons. Grossi made the clarification on the sidelines of the Baku Climate Change Summit on Tuesday evening and expressed hope for resolving the alleged safeguards issues with Iranian officials during his visit to Tehran. "That is this gap, this lack of confidence, which we should not allow to grow into a self-fulfilling prophecy of using nuclear facilities as targets," the IAEA chief who will leave for a two-day trip to Tehran on Wednesday told reporters, adding that "We have a problem that we need to solve." In response to the question whether the agency is concerned about Iran's nuclear weapons development, he clarified that the IAEA has no evidence to prove such a claim. Earlier in an interview with CNN, Grossi said the purpose of his trip to Iran which certainly won't be the last one is important to find diplomatic solutions to remaining issues. Referring to the future the Joint Comprehensive Plan of Action (JCPOA), he said: This is not a secret issue. Since the new government came into office, it is looking for solutions in this regard.

<https://en.irna.ir/news/85657908/No-evidence-Iran-is-building-nuclear-weapons-says-IAEA-chief>

Iraq

Saudi Arabia, Iraq ink defence pact to enhance cooperation and security

Giulia Bernacchi

The Defense Post, November 11, 2024

The defence ministers of Saudi Arabia and Iraq have met in Riyadh to sign a military agreement following discussions on security and cooperation amid increasing tensions. The pact outlines "plans for joint training exercises between the Iraqi and Saudi forces and provisions to send injured Iraqi soldiers for treatment in Saudi Arabia," Iraqi news agency Shafak reported. Iraq's Minister of Defense Thabet Mohammed Al-Abbasi said that "the visit is part of Iraq's efforts to enhance regional cooperation with neighboring countries," Shafak wrote. The meeting, which included senior military officials and diplomats from both countries, also exchange "views on regional developments and efforts to reduce tensions, and addressed other topics of mutual interest," stated Saudi Arabia's state news agency. Saudi Arabia is actively modernizing its military and strengthening its international defence alliances.

<https://thedefensepost.com/2024/11/11/saudi-arabia-iraq-defense-pact/>

Israel

Israel launches 'new era of warfare' Iron beam laser defence system

Economic Times, November 2, 2024

Israel's new "Iron Beam" laser defence system is expected to be operational within a year, significantly enhancing the

country's ability to counter aerial threats. The Israeli defence ministry recently announced a \$500 million investment in contracts with Rafael Advanced Defence Systems and Elbit Systems to boost production of this cutting-edge technology. About the Iron Beam: Developed alongside the well-known Iron Dome, the Iron Beam is designed to neutralise various aerial threats, including missiles, drones, rockets, and mortars. Eyal Zamir, director general of the defence ministry, stated, "It heralds the beginning of a new era in warfare." This system aims to address the increasing missile and drone threats posed by Iran and its allies. How the Iron Beam Works: The Iron Beam utilises a high-power laser to target and disable projectiles from hundreds of metres to several kilometres away. This method contrasts with Israel's existing missile defence approach, which relies on radar detection and interceptor missiles. Military analysts suggest that the laser system could enhance Israel's defences while also being more cost-effective.

<https://economictimes.indiatimes.com/news/defence/israel-launches-new-era-of-warfare-iron-beam-laser-defence-system-heres-how-it-works/articleshow/114872647.cms?from=mdr>

Israel signs \$5.2 billion deal for 25 new F-15 fighter jets

Seth J. Frantzman

Breaking Defense, November 7, 2024

The Israel Ministry of Defense has signed what it called a "landmark transaction" to acquire 25 more F-15 fighter aircraft in a deal worth \$5.2 billion, the ministry

announced today. The warplanes will be delivered beginning in 2031, and it will take around five years for them all to arrive. The deal was widely expected and has been in the process of finalization throughout the year as Israel has been fighting a multi-front war against Iran-backed proxies in Gaza, Lebanon and Yemen. Israel used F-15s in its long-range strike on Yemen in July. The US has also deployed F-15s to the region amid Israel-Iran tensions, illustrating how the Boeing-made plane, which first flew in the 1970s, is increasingly relevant today. The deal was finalized Wednesday "following negotiations between the Israel Ministry of Defense's Mission to the U.S. and Boeing in collaboration with the Israeli Air Force," the Israeli MoD said in its announcement, adding that Director General of the Israel Ministry of Defense, Maj. Gen. (Res.) Eyal Zamir signed an earlier "procurement authorization" during a visit to the US last month.

<https://breakingdefense.com/2024/11/israel-signs-5-2-billion-deal-for-25-american-f-15s/>

Israel moves forward on deploying Arrow-3 missile defence system in Germany in 2025

Economic Times, November 10, 2024

Israel's Defence Ministry has begun coordinating joint preparations with the German Federal Ministry of Defence for the initial deployment of Israel's Arrow-3 missile interception system on German soil in 2025, it said on November 10. The ministry said it has held meetings at Israel Aerospace Industries (IAI) along with Israel defence firm Elbit Systems and

MBDA Deutschland GmbH. The Arrow system, which includes the Arrow-2 and Arrow-3 interceptors, was developed in cooperation between Israel and the United States to counter long-range ballistic missile threats, with IAI as the prime contractor. Israel, with U.S. approval, agreed last year to sell the Arrow-3 system to Germany in a \$3.5 billion deal, its biggest defence sale to date. Germany and its neighbours in Europe are boosting defence spending following Russia's war in Ukraine.

<https://economictimes.indiatimes.com/news/defence/israel-moves-forward-on-deploying-arrow-3-missile-defence-system-in-germany-in-2025/articleshow/115148758.cms?from=mdr>

How Israel's war risks destroying ties with Jordan and regional allies - opinion

Elie Podeh

Jerusalem Post, November 11, 2024

Relations between countries naturally ebb and flow. While high tides are often seen as a positive sign, low tides can strain these connections. As we mark the 30th anniversary of the peace agreement between Israel and Jordan, relations between the two appear to be nearing an unprecedented low – mirroring the current state of Israel's ties with other countries in the region. While Jordan participated in the 1948 and 1967 wars against Israel, its leaders maintained secret ties with Israeli counterparts throughout this period. The existence of common enemies and Jordan's reliance on Western allies (first Britain, later the United States) made Israel a

valuable partner in preserving Hashemite rule. King Hussein expressed gratitude to Israel for its support during Black September in 1970, when he was engaged in a struggle against the PLO. In return, he warned Golda Meir of the impending war during their meeting at Gililot in September 1973. Israel, in turn, could generally rely on the Jordanian army to secure the long-shared border, preventing terrorist incursions. Over time, Jordan also developed additional strategic needs, such as water and gas, which Israel provides.

<https://www.jpost.com/opinion/article-828468>

Is Israel ready to hit Iran's nuclear sites?

Shabnam von Hein

Deutsche Welle, November 12, 2024

Israel's new defence minister said on November 11, that Iran was "more exposed than ever to strikes on its nuclear facilities." "We have the opportunity to achieve our most important goal — to thwart and eliminate the existential threat to the State of Israel," Defence Minister Israel Katz wrote on X. Tensions between Israel and Iran are running high after both sides traded tit-for-tat missiles strikes, sparking fears of a wider Middle East war. Israel has for years accused Iran of seeking to build nuclear weapons. According to recent reports by the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA), Iran is rapidly advancing its atomic program, enriching uranium up to 60%, just 30% below the grade needed for atomic weapons. Iran has repeatedly denied the claims that it is seeking to acquire nuclear weapons. Katz replaced Yoav Gallant as Israel's defense minister

last week after Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu fired Gallant, citing disagreements over domestic political issues as well as the military campaign in Gaza. Israeli response to Iran's attack expected within days Iran has spread its nuclear facilities over a number of sites and built some in underground bunkers, making it more difficult to destroy them completely.

<https://www.dw.com/en/are-irans-nuclear-sites-potential-targets-for-israel/a-70388202>

Iran says willing to hold nuclear talks, but not 'under pressure and intimidation'

Times of Israel, November 14, 2024

Iran said on November 14, that it was willing to hold nuclear talks with world powers but will not negotiate “under pressure and intimidation,” as International Atomic Energy Agency chief Rafael Grossi met with the Islamic Republic’s top diplomat. Iran’s Foreign Minister Abbas Araghchi said Tehran was “willing to negotiate” based on the “national interest” and “inalienable rights.” Grossi, who arrived in Tehran late on November 13, was expected to negotiate with the country’s top nuclear and political officials, according to Iran’s official IRNA news agency. The IAEA chief also said there should be no attacks on Iranian nuclear installations and urged diplomacy to resolve compliance issues the UN watchdog has with the Iranians as he met with officials in Tehran. “I say this with regards to Iran... nuclear installations should not be attacked,” Grossi told a news conference, days after Israel’s

Defense Minister Israel Katz said that Iran was “more exposed than ever to strikes on its nuclear facilities.” Israel is believed to have destroyed parts of Iran’s air defenses in a series of strikes last month in retaliation for a massive Iranian ballistic missile attack on Israel.

<https://www.timesofisrael.com/iran-says-willing-to-hold-nuclear-talks-but-not-under-pressure-and-intimidation/>

Jordan

Jordan, Saudi Arabia reaffirm strong ties

Ammon, November 4, 2024

Senate President Faisal Fayeze met with Saudi Ambassador to Amman, Nayef bin Bandar al-Sudairy, to discuss the strong, historical bonds between Jordan and Saudi Arabia and explore ways to further strengthen their partnership across various sectors. During the meeting on November 4, Fayeze praised the advanced level of cooperation between the two countries, highlighting the deep-rooted, enduring ties they share. He emphasized that both His Majesty King Abdullah II and the Custodian of the Two Holy Mosques King Salman bin Abdulaziz Al Saud, are dedicated to preserving and building upon these relations for the benefit of their mutual interests and to support broader Arab and Islamic causes. Ambassador al-Sudairy extended his congratulations to Fayeze on his recent appointment as Senate President, underscoring the strong, multifaceted relations between the two countries and the shared commitment to furthering them in ways that support the

prosperity of both nations and their citizens. The two officials also reaffirmed the importance of ongoing collaborative efforts to halt the Israeli aggression against Palestinians in Gaza and the occupied West Bank and to seek an end to the cycle of violence affecting the region.

<https://en.ammonnews.net/article/76190>

NATO: Opening Amman office is unrelated with Middle East tensions

Ammon News, November 7, 2024

NATO Deputy Secretary General Javier Colomina stated that the choice to establish a NATO liaison office in Amman, revealed at the Washington Summit last July alongside the adoption of the Action Plan on the Southern Neighborhood, "holds significant importance for the Alliance" and strengthens the excellent collaboration with Jordan. He highlighted that the presence of the Alliance office in Jordan is essential to maintain collaboration with the Jordanian authorities in various areas that are part of bilateral cooperation. Colomina, acting as the Special Representative of the Secretary General of NATO for the Southern Neighborhood, anticipated that the office would launch in early 2025, stating, "We are advancing significantly in all areas, both logistical and legal, necessary for the office's establishment." He conveyed to the Kingdom that establishing the office facilitates a significant shift in bilateral relations and will provide both parties the chance to collaborate more closely on the ground, fostering a deeper political dialogue to enhance their understanding

of the region through a presence in Amman.

<https://en.ammonnews.net/article/76319>

Kuwait

Kuwait hosts 10th edition of 'Best cyber warrior competition'

Al-Defaiya, November 3, 2024

Under the patronage of Kuwait's First Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of Interior and Minister of Defense Sheikh Fahad Al-Yousef Al-Sabah, the Ministry of Defense hosted the 10th edition of the Best Cyber Warrior Competition last week, in collaboration with the United States Central Command (USARCENT). The competition aims to strengthen cyber defense skills and partnerships. During his speech, Colonel Omar Firas Al-Sabti, Directorate of Cyber Operations, stated that the 10th edition of the Best Cyber Warrior Competition will feature panel discussions and workshops led by distinguished global and regional cybersecurity experts. He said that the Kuwaiti Army is committed to the competition's success as part of its efforts to support constructive military collaboration aimed at enhancing cybersecurity systems among friendly nations, Kuwait News Agency (KUNA) reported. "It is no secret that cybersecurity today represents one of the most critical regional and global challenges across both military and civilian spheres. Securing military data and information requires concerted local, regional, and international efforts, especially in light of rapid technological advancements and the increasing digital transformations, which

make this vast volume of data vulnerable to breaches,” he noted.

<https://www.defaiya.com/news/Security/Security/2024/11/03/kuwait-hosts-10th-edition-of-best-cyber-warrior-competition>

EDGE secures strategic contract to enhance Kuwait’s marine assets

Zawya, November 6, 2024

EDGE, one of the world’s leading advanced technology and defence groups, has signed a strategic contract with the Kuwaiti Ministry of Interior to enhance the capabilities its national marine and coastguard fleet. The agreement includes a comprehensive programme for the reconstruction, repair, development, and upgrade of existing vessels, including landing craft and patrol boats, complemented by in-depth personnel training to ensure sustainable operational expertise. EDGE will contract with its entity Abu Dhabi Ship Building (ADSB), a leader in naval vessel design, build, and sustainment solutions, to execute this prestigious deal. Through this future agreement, ADSB will leverage its MRO and engineering expertise to enhance the operational readiness and technical capabilities of Kuwait’s naval and marine assets. This contract underscores EDGE’s dedication to delivering end-to-end solutions across the region, strengthening local capacity and enhancing marine resilience to support enduring national security.

<https://www.zawya.com/en/business/technology-and-telecom/edge-secures-strategic-contract-to-enhance-kuwait-marine-assets-c7x04gaw>

Kuwait’s ministry of interior signs two deals to upgrade its coast guard capabilities

Al-Defaiya, November 7, 2024

EDGE, one of the world’s leading advanced technology and defence groups, has signed a strategic contract with the Kuwaiti Ministry of Interior to enhance the capabilities of its national marine and coast guard fleet. The agreement includes a comprehensive programme for the reconstruction, repair, development, and upgrade of existing vessels, including landing craft and patrol boats, complemented by in-depth personnel training to ensure sustainable operational expertise. EDGE will contract with its entity Abu Dhabi Ship Building (ADSB), a leader in naval vessel design, build, and sustainment solutions, to execute this prestigious deal. Through this future agreement, ADSB will leverage its MRO and engineering expertise to enhance the operational readiness and technical capabilities of Kuwait’s naval and marine assets. Last week, Kuwait’s First Deputy Prime Minister, Interior and Defence Minister Sheikh Fahad Al-Yousef Al-Sabah also signed a deal with UK-based SRT Marine Systems as part of efforts to beef up the national coastguard’s capabilities. The agreements with Abu Dhabi and UK-based SRT Marine Systems meet the highest “maritime quality” standards, representing a step towards enhancing Kuwait’s maritime security, Kuwait News Agency (KUNA) quoted an Interior Ministry statement.

<https://www.defaiya.com/news/Security/Security/2024/11/07/kuwait-s-ministry-of->

[interior-signs-two-deals-to-upgrade-its-coastguard-capabilities](#)

Lebanon

At least 22 killed in Lebanon and Gaza strikes as Israeli defence minister rejects ceasefire

Emma De Ruiter

Euronews, November 11, 2024.

Talks for a ceasefire in Lebanon continue, but Israel's defence minister ruled out any truce with Hezbollah. An Israeli airstrike destroyed a home in northern Lebanon on November 11, killing at least eight people and wounding 14 others, according to Lebanon's Health Ministry. Rescue teams scrambled to pull survivors from under the rubble, Lebanon's state media said, and a video widely circulated on social media showed the Lebanese Red Cross moving corpses encased in body bags. The Israeli military did not immediately comment on the strike, and the target was not clear. The strike hit the village of Ain Yaaqoub in the northern Akkar region, which is home to Greek Orthodox and Sunni Muslim communities and far from the Hezbollah militant group's main areas of influence in the south and east. Israel has struck increasingly deeper into Lebanon since its military escalation and ground invasion against Hezbollah in late September. Israel's first strike in the Akkar region was on 2 November and targeted a bridge near a Lebanese army checkpoint, cutting a key road leading to Syria.

<https://www.euronews.com/2024/11/12/dizens-killed-in-lebanon-and-gaza-as-israeli-defence-minister-rejects-lebanon-ceasefire>

Around 100 projectiles fired from Lebanon into Israel: army

Economic Times, November 18, 2024

The Israeli military said militant group Hezbollah fired around 100 projectiles from Lebanon into northern Israel on November 18, with the country's air defence system intercepting some of them. Israel's first responders said two people, including a 65-year-old woman with shrapnel wound to the neck, sustained light injuries in northern Israel and were taken to hospital. The military said in a first statement that "as of 15:00 (1300 GMT), approximately 60 projectiles that were fired by the Hezbollah terrorist organization have crossed from Lebanon into Israel today". Later it said, "following the sirens that sounded between 15:09 and 15:11 in the Western Galilee area, approximately 40 projectiles were identified crossing from Lebanon into Israeli territory". Israel has escalated its bombing of targets in Lebanon since September 23 and has since sent in ground troops, following almost a year of limited, cross-border exchanges of fire begun by the Iran-backed Hezbollah militants in support of Hamas in Gaza.

<https://economictimes.indiatimes.com/news/defence/around-100-projectiles-fired-from-lebanon-into-israel-army/articleshow/115425667.cms?from=mdr>

Oman

Defence ministry inks MoU in academic, scientific fields

Oman News Agency, November 14, 2024

The Academy for Strategic and Defence Studies at the Ministry of Defence today

signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) with the Near East South Asia Center for Strategic Studies (NESA) of the United States of America. The MoU deals with cooperation in academic and scientific fields. The signing took place during a meeting between Maj. Gen Hamid Ahmed Sakroon, Chairman of the Academy for Strategic and Defence Studies and Dr. Roger Kangas, Academic Dean of NESA. The MoU was signed by Brigadier Nasser Abdullah Al Qatabi, Head of the Academy for Strategic and Defence Studies and Dr. Roger Kangas, Academic Dean of NESA.

<https://omannews.gov.om/topics/en/79/show/119708>

Palestine

Palestine blames Israel for damaging UNRWA's West Bank offices during raid

Euronews, November 1, 2024

The damage to the office comes after Israel's parliament passed laws this week effectively banning UNRWA's operations in Israel and the Palestinian territories. The offices of the UN agency for Palestinian refugees have been heavily damaged during an Israeli raid in a West Bank refugee camp. The official Palestinian news agency, WAFA, alleged Israeli military bulldozers had partially demolished the UNRWA building. The main office building had minor damage and an adjacent temporary hall was flattened, covered with dirt and its corrugated roof knocked over. However, the Israeli military denied it damaged the

building in the Nur Shams refugee camp. It said militants had planted explosives nearby and set them off to attack Israeli troops and that the blast "likely caused damage to the building." The cause of the damage could not be independently confirmed but appeared consistent with previous Israeli demolitions of Palestinian homes and buildings in the occupied West Bank.

<https://www.euronews.com/2024/11/01/palestine-blames-israel-for-damaging-unrwas-west-bank-offices-during-raid>

UN accuses Israel of 'deliberate war crimes' against Gaza's healthcare system

Tehran Times, November 1, 2024

Navi Pillay, a member of the UN Commission of Inquiry on the occupied Palestinian territory, says an independent investigation found Israel is carrying out a "concerted policy" to destroy Gaza's health system. "This is just not reporting what we see on social media, but a very carefully fact-checked account of the destruction of hospitals, the deliberate targeting of doctors," Pillay told Al Jazeera. "It's also the first United Nations report that ... drew the conclusion there is the deliberate targeting of healthcare workers, the healthcare system in itself – which is a crime, a war crime." Israel makes it difficult to probe its deadly attacks by denying entry to independent investigators, Pillay added. The report, delivered on October 30, concluded: "Israel has perpetrated a concerted policy to destroy Gaza's healthcare system as part

of a broader assault on the Strip, committing war crimes and a crime against humanity of extermination with relentless and deliberate attacks on medical personnel and facilities.”

<https://www.tehrantimes.com/news/505696/UN-accuses-Israel-of-deliberate-war-crimes-against-Gaza-s-healthcare>

Qatar

Qatar out of Gaza talks, warns Hamas over Doha office

Economic Times, November 10, 2024

Qatar has withdrawn as a key mediator for a Gaza ceasefire and hostage deal and warned Hamas that its Doha office "no longer serves its purpose", a diplomatic source told AFP on November 19. "The Qataris informed both the Israelis and Hamas that as long as there is a refusal to negotiate a deal in good faith, they cannot continue to mediate," the source said on condition of anonymity. "As a consequence, the Hamas political office no longer serves its purpose." Qatar, with the United States and Egypt, has been engaged in months of fruitless negotiations for a truce with hostage and prisoner releases. The informed source said Qatar had already "notified both sides, Israel and Hamas as well as the US administration" of its decision.

<https://economictimes.indiatimes.com/news/defence/qatar-out-of-gaza-talks-warns-hamas-over-doha-office-diplomatic-source/articleshow/115119248.cms?from=mdr>

Fincantieri consortium to boost Qatari navy training programs

Rojoef Manuel

The Defense Post, November 12, 2024

Fincantieri has signed a memorandum of understanding with BQ Solutions to support Italian-led military training programs for the Qatari Navy. The partnership builds on the Trieste-based company's contract in 2016 to build seven tactical vessels for the service and address advanced proficiency requirements for its future crews. Under the framework, Doha-based BQ Solutions will assist Fincantieri in "elevating the quality and breadth" of related industrial, operational, and language training programs available to Qatari teams. The consortium will also research improvements in distributing the Italian firm's shipbuilding and defense expertise to bolster the naval force's technical and logistical skills. "This agreement testifies Fincantieri's dedication to expanding our contributions through valuable partnerships," Fincantieri Naval Vessels Sales VP Mauro Manzini stated. BQ Solutions CEO Abdulrahman Fakhro also commented on the importance of the agreement, saying that it will strengthen the companies' relationship while "enhancing the defense capabilities of the State of Qatar." Six units of Fincantieri's seven-vessel development project with the Qatari Emiri Naval Forces have been delivered to date, with the final ship to arrive later this year. The effort, valued at 4 billion euros (\$4.2 billion), covers four corvettes, two

patrol boats, and one amphibious landing platform dock.

<https://thedefensepost.com/2024/11/12/qatar-navy-training-fincantieri/>

Boeing to foster tech innovation; strengthen Qatar's aerospace sector

Zawya, November 15, 2024

Boeing's longstanding partnership with Qatar, which commenced 18 years ago with Qatar Airways' first order of Boeing 777 airplanes, continues to witness potent growth in the aviation industry. An official said that Boeing's strong commitment to Qatar's aerospace sector extends across both commercial and defence markets, from delivering state-of-the-art aircraft to the Qatar Emiri Air Force to supporting Qatar Airways as the launch customer of our newest freighter model. "In addition to contributing to Qatar's national development goals, we work closely with local organizations like Qatar University and Injaz Qatar to foster technology innovation and youth education in STEM," Vice President of Boeing's Commercial Sales and Marketing for the Middle East Omar Arekat told The Peninsula. He continued saying "We are proud to support Qatar Airways' expansion with a fleet of over 135 Boeing airplanes and more than 130 on order, including the environmentally efficient 787 Dreamliners and the advanced 777X. Qatar Airways is the launch customer of our newest freighter, the 777-8F."

<https://www.zawya.com/en/business/aviation/boeing-to-foster-tech-innovation-strengthen-qatars-aerospace-sector-cpsx4x3p>

Saudi Arabia

How US election might impact stalled Saudi-Israeli normalization, arms sales to Gulf

Agnes Helou

Breaking Defense, November 1, 2024

The outcome of October 30, US presidential election is unlikely to have much short-term impact on the diplomatic effort to normalize relations between the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia (KSA) and Israel, as the fallout of Israeli military actions over the last year has made such an agreement untenable politically, experts tell Breaking Defense. Saudi-Israeli normalization has been a foreign policy priority for the US over the last two administrations. Under the Abraham Accords, the Trump administration helped ink normalization deals between Israel and the United Arab Emirates, Bahrain, Sudan and Morocco, and had hoped to conclude such a deal with Riyadh. The Biden administration then tried to close the deal before the Oct. 7 Hamas attacks in Israel set off a regional conflagration. It stands to reason that whomever wins on Nov. 5, either former president Donald Trump or Vice President Kamala Harris would also seek to tie the Saudis and Israelis together. But five experts told Breaking Defense they see no easy way forward for such an agreement, no matter how much a new US president may seek to encourage it — at least until Israel ends its operations in Gaza.

<https://breakingdefense.com/2024/11/how-us-election-might-impact-stalled-saudi-israeli-normalization-arms-sales-to-gulf-experts/>

Saudi army chief to visit Iran on rare trip: state media

Economic Times, November 10, 2024

A top Saudi military official will visit Tehran on November 10, for talks with Iranian officials, state media reported, in a rare high-level meeting since the countries restored ties last year. "Fayyad al-Ruwaili, Chief of Staff of the Armed Forces of Saudi Arabia, will travel to Iran at the head of a high-ranking military delegation" on November 10, the local Tasnim news agency said. He is scheduled to meet with his Iranian counterpart Mohammad Bagheri in an effort to bolster "defence ties" between the countries, it reported. Bagheri had declared Iran's readiness to improve military relations with Saudi Arabia in a phone call with the Saudi defence minister in November 2023, the official Iranian news agency IRNA reported at the time. In March 2023, Shiite Muslim-dominated Iran and Sunni-majority Saudi Arabia resumed relations under a surprise China-brokered deal.

<https://economictimes.indiatimes.com/news/international/world-news/saudi-army-chief-to-visit-iran-on-rare-trip-state-media/articleshow/115143554.cms?from=mdr>

India, Saudi Arabia discuss steps to boost defence industry partnership

Dipanjan Roy Chaudhury

Economic Times, November 13, 2024

India and Saudi Arabia on November 13, discussed measures to boost defence industry partnership and explored expanding initiatives to combat extremism, terror financing and drug trafficking. They

also discussed the West Asian situation amid further efforts by Saudi Arabia and Iran to improve ties. The issues were on the top of agenda of the 2nd Meeting of the Committee on Political, Security, Social and Cultural Cooperation (PSSC) under our Strategic Partnership Council (SPC) held here and led by the two foreign ministers. "Our defence partnership has witnessed several "firsts" over the past few years, including the first-ever Land Forces joint exercise 2024; and two editions of our joint Naval exercises. We had regular exchanges on training and capacity building. And our cooperation has now expanded in the field of defence industry and exports as well," foreign minister S Jaishankar told his Saudi counterpart Prince Faisal bin Farhan Al Saud.

<https://economictimes.indiatimes.com/news/defence/india-saudi-arabia-discuss-steps-to-boost-defence-industry-partnership/articleshow/115266486.cms?from=mdr>

Syria

Iran to not change number of its advisory forces in Syria

Mehr News Agency, November 14, 2024

Senior Advisor to the Iranian Foreign Minister for Special Political Affairs says Iran will not change the number of its advisory forces in Syria due to the escalation of tensions in West Asia. Speaking in an interview with Ryanovsti news agency, Ali Asghar Khaji said that Iran has not decided to change the number of its advisory forces in Syria due to the escalation of tensions in West Asia. He added that Tehran will use its legal right to defend itself against Israel at the right time

and in the appropriate manner. Iran's Minister of Foreign Affairs said earlier in a joint press conference with his Pakistani counterpart in Islamabad that the Israeli regime showed its aggressive nature even more by attacking some of Iran's military sites on October 26. Unlike the Zionist regime, the Islamic Republic of Iran does not seek to escalate tensions, but reserves its fundamental right to legitimate defense, according to Article 50 of the United Nations Charter, Araghchi noted. He added that Iran would respond to this aggression of the Zionist regime at the right time, in the right way, and in a calculated and precise way. The United Nations Security Council also held an urgent meeting following the Zionist regime's attack on Iran's military centers.

<https://en.mehrnews.com/news/224413/Iran-to-not-change-number-of-its-advisory-forces-in-Syria>

Turkiye

Turkiye, Saudi Arabia expected to exceed \$8bn in trade this year

Middle East Monitor, November 5, 2024

Turkiye and Saudi Arabia are set to cross a commercial threshold that suggests a new era of cooperation and mutual interest, as trade between the two countries is expected to exceed \$8 billion this year, Anadolu News Agency reports. 'This trend in the trade relationship could lead to further cooperation in other areas such as defence and infrastructure, creating greater regional influence and economic resilience for both countries,' Bolat added

<https://www.middleeastmonitor.com/2024/11/05-turkiye-saudi-arabia-expected-to-exceed-8bn-in-trade-this-year/>

After USV export deal with Qatar, Turkish defence exec sees interest from 'all the world'

Agnes Helou

Breaking Defense, November 6, 2024

Fresh off signing a deal to export an armed, unmanned maritime surface vessel to Qatar, a senior executive at the Turkish defence firm Meteksan said demand is only growing. "All the world is now much interested in attaining such unmanned surface vessels or unmanned maritime technology," Meteksan's Vice Chairman of the Board Selçuk Kerem Alparslan told Breaking Defense in an interview. Last week Meteksan inked a deal with the Qatari Coast Guard to export the ULAQ 11 USV — so named for being 11 meters long — which was developed alongside Turkey's ARES Shipyard, what Alparslan described as a first for Turkey. The contract will be executed in two phases, he said: a 12-month training phase and then a procurement phase. The training phase, with "direct assistance to the customer," has already started, after the first vessel was delivered during the Milipol conference last week. "The second [phase] covers the actual ULAQ 11 PSV boats and command-control infrastructure," Alparslan said. "Therefore, Qatar's Coast Guard will have been immediately involved in attaining the unmanned technology capability."

<https://breakingdefense.com/2024/11/after-usv-export-deal-with-qatar-turkish-defense-exec-sees-interest-from-all-the-world/>

United Arab Emirates

UAE President's visit to Kuwait opens new avenues for cooperation: UAE Ambassador to Kuwait

Aletihad, November 9, 2024

Dr. Matar Hamed Al Neyadi, UAE Ambassador to Kuwait, affirmed that the upcoming visit of President His Highness Sheikh Mohamed bin Zayed Al Nahyan, to Kuwait on Sunday, at the invitation of His Highness Sheikh Mishal Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah, Emir of Kuwait, will open new avenues for cooperation across various sectors. Al Neyadi highlighted that the visit follows two months after the 5th session of the Joint Higher Committee, which resulted in the signing of several agreements, including those on tax avoidance, defence, infrastructure, cybersecurity, environment, and information technology. These agreements aim to enhance collaboration and coordination, capitalising on the opportunities and resources of both nations for mutual benefit. He noted that the historical visit of President His Highness Sheikh Mohamed bin Zayed Al Nahyan is being met with significant official and public enthusiasm, reflected in widespread media coverage and the decoration of streets and official buildings across Kuwait, showcasing the strong ties between the two countries.

<https://en.aletihad.ae/news/uae/4528341/uae-president-s-visit-to-kuwait-opens-new-avenues-for-cooper>

Saudi project clears 895 Houthi mines in Yemen

Arab News, November 11, 2024

Members of Saudi Arabia's Project Masam removed 895 explosive devices

from various regions of Yemen last week. The total included two anti-personnel mines, 26 anti-tank mines, 865 unexploded ordnances and two explosive devices, according to a recent report. Ousama Al-Gosaibi, the initiative's managing director, said a total of 468,962 mines had been cleared since its inception in 2018. The explosives were planted indiscriminately and posed a threat to civilians, including children, women and the elderly. The demining operations took place in Marib, Aden, Jouf, Shabwa, Taiz, Hodeidah, Lahij, Sanaa, Al-Bayda, Al-Dhale and Saada. The initiative trains local demining engineers and provides them with modern equipment. It also offers support to Yemenis injured by the devices. Teams are tasked with clearing villages, roads and schools to facilitate safe movement for civilians and the delivery of humanitarian aid. About 5 million people have been forced to flee their homes since the start of the conflict in Yemen, many of them displaced by the presence of land mines.

<https://www.arabnews.com/node/2578876/saudi-arabia>

UAE National Pavilion boosts national companies' participation at Bahrain International Airshow

Emirates News Agency, November 12, 2024

The UAE continues to strengthen its global presence in the defence and aerospace industries with its participation in the 7th edition of the Bahrain International Airshow. The UAE National Pavilion is organised by the Emirates Defence Companies Council (EDCC), with continuous support from the Ministry of Defence and Tawazun Council. This

reflects the commitment to enhancing the global exposure of its leading companies, particularly in the defence industry and opening new channels for cooperation in regional and international markets. The Pavilion features a selection of Emirati companies specialising in developing advanced defence systems and equipment, aiming to present their latest innovations and products that meet the highest international standards and keep pace with sector advancements. The participating companies include Adasi, Halcon, Caracal, Barij Dynamics and Barij Munitions all part of EDGE Group, AMROC, GAL, MIRA Aerospace, and UAE Space Agency, alongside Al-Jundi Magazine, the media partner of the UAE National Pavilion. Taking place at the Al Sakhir Airbase until 15th November, Bahrain International Airshow is one of the leading global exhibitions specialising in the aviation and defence sectors. The event will feature more than 20 government and semi-government entities from Bahrain, 11 exhibition sponsors, 223 official delegations from 59 countries, and over 186 exhibitors. Additionally, 12 international companies specialising in airport ground services from the European Union, Asia, and the Americas will be participating for the first time.

<https://www.wam.ae/en/article/b65q5nh-uae-national-pavilion-boosts-national-companies>

Yemen

Yemen's Houthis launch drones and missiles at US warships near the Red Sea but do no damage

Arab News, November 12, 2024

Yemen's Houthi militants targeted two US Navy warships with multiple drones and missiles as they were traveling through the Bab el-Mandeb Strait, but the attacks were not successful, the Defense Department said on November 12. Maj. Gen. Pat Ryder, Pentagon press secretary, said the Iranian-backed Houthis launched at least eight drones, five anti-ship ballistic missiles and three anti-ship cruise missiles at the USS Stockdale and the USS Spruance, both Navy destroyers, on November 11. He said there was no damage and no one was injured. The strait is a narrow waterway between the Red Sea and the Gulf of Aden, which typically sees \$1 trillion in goods pass through it a year. The militants have been targeting shipping through the strait for months over the Israel-Hamas war in Gaza and Israel's ground offensive in Lebanon. The Houthis have insisted that the attacks will continue as long as the wars go on, and the assaults already have halved shipping through the region. Meanwhile, a UN panel of experts now allege that the Houthis may be shaking down some shippers for about \$180 million a month for safe passage through the area. Houthi military spokesman Brig. Gen. Yahya Saree in a prerecorded statement earlier Tuesday had claimed the militants attacked two American destroyers in the Red Sea with ballistic missiles and drones.

<https://www.arabnews.com/node/2579078/middle-east>

NUCLEAR AND ARMS CONTROL CENTRE

Sylloge on West Asia is compiled by Ms. Bhawna

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