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मनोहर पर्रिकर रक्षा अध्ययन एवं विश्लेषण संस्थान

## Armenia

### Armenia deepens military ties with western allies

Elisabeth Gosselin-Malo

Defense News, April 12, 2024

The European Union has announced a milestone decision that involves pumping millions of euros into Armenia's industries in an attempt to pull the country closer to Western allies and away from its historical ally, Russia. Following talks in Brussels with Armenian Prime Minister Nikol Pashinyan, the European Commission President Ursula von der Leyen said that the bloc will invest €270 million (\$287 million) over the next four years to support the country's economy.

<https://www.defensenews.com/global/europe/2024/04/12/armenia-deepens-military-ties-with-western-allies/>

### India is broadening its military footprint, to send defence attaches to more nations across Africa and Asia

Indian Defence News, April 11, 2024

India will deploy defence attaches in Ethiopia, Mozambique, Ivory Coast, Philippines, Armenia, and Poland, marking a significant shift in its strategic approach to bolster ties with key regions amidst growing geopolitical tensions. As per a report in Hindustan Times, specifically, India will assign defence attaches to Poland and Armenia for the first time, reflecting the heightened importance of these nations as security partners. This move follows a major arms deal with Armenia and underscores Poland's increasing significance in European security

dynamics. The external affairs ministry plans to establish 26 new missions globally, with 18 in African nations, HT reported. India led efforts to include the African Union in the G20 during last year's summit in New Delhi. These new postings will underscore Africa's significance and foster opportunities for military cooperation and arms sales, particularly as many African countries aim to modernize their armed forces.

<https://www.indiandefensenews.in/2024/04/india-is-broadening-its-military.html>

## Iran

### Iran sees Israel's presence in UAE as threat: IRGC commander

Islamic Republic News Agency, April 9, 2024

The commander of the Islamic Revolution Guards Corps (IRGC) Navy has criticized the United Arab Emirates (UAE) and other regional countries for allowing Israel to gain a foothold in the Persian Gulf region, warning that Iran sees the move as a threat to national and regional security. In an interview with Lebanon's al-Mayadeen television network, Rear Admiral Alireza Tangsiri expressed concern over the growing ties between the Israeli regime and certain countries in the region. The top IRGC commander emphasized that allowing this transgression to take place in such a vital region as the Persian Gulf is not in keeping with the spirit of good neighbourliness and Muslim brotherhood and carries significant implications.

<https://en.irna.ir/news/85440379/Iran-sees-Israel-s-presence-in-UAE-as-threat-IRGC-commander>

## **Nuclear deal in tatters, Iran edges close to weapons capability**

Joby Warrick

The Washington Post, April 10, 2024

Six years after the Trump administration withdrew from the Iran nuclear accord, Tehran is rapidly accumulating enriched uranium, some of it very close to weapons grade. Experts fear that a bomb could be a short dash away. For the past 15 years, the most important clues about Iran's nuclear program have laid deep underground, in a factory built inside a mountain on the edge of Iran's Great Salt Desert. The facility, known as Fordow, is the heavily protected inner sanctum of Iran's nuclear complex and a frequent destination for international inspectors whose visits are meant to ensure against any secret effort by Iran to make nuclear bombs. The inspectors' latest trek, in February, yielded the usual matrices of readings and measurements, couched in the clinical language of a U.N. nuclear watchdog report. But within the document's dry prose were indications of alarming change.

<https://www.washingtonpost.com/national-security/2024/04/10/iran-nuclear-bomb-iaea-fordow/>

## **Israel getting punished with Operation 'True Promise'**

Tehran Times, April 14, 2024

Iran has launched retaliatory attacks against the occupied territories, after the Israeli regime struck the country's embassy in Damascus on April 1, killing 7 high-ranking military officials. Israeli reports say Iran has already fired three waves of drones at Israeli positions, as well as a number of

cruise missiles. Footage captured by citizens in Iraq, suggests Iran's famous Shahed-136 drones are among the UAVs launched at the occupied territories. The initial announcement regarding the launch of the Iranian attacks came from the Israeli military. Daniel Hagari, the army's spokesperson, stated that the drones would take some hours to reach their destination while emphasizing Israel's readiness for the situation. During a briefing with the press, Hagari highlighted that Israel has defensive and offensive measures in place and maintains close cooperation with the U.S. and regional partners.

<https://www.tehrantimes.com/news/497075/Israel-getting-punished-with-Operation-True-Promise>

## **Iron Dome fails to intercept Iranian ballistic missiles**

Islamic Republic News Agency, April 14, 2024

The Israeli regime's defence systems, including the Iron Dome, have failed to intercept ballistic missiles fired from Iran toward the occupied territories, with released images showing the missiles raining down and hitting their designated targets. Based on the images, the missiles fired at the occupied territories were equipped with cluster warheads, a feature that led to the confusion of air defence systems to intercept the weapons. This is the first time that Iran has used missiles equipped with cluster warheads. Israel's Iron Dome also failed to intercept Iranian missiles in the al-Khalil region. Iran launched hundreds of missiles and drones at key military sites in the Israeli-occupied territories in retaliation for the regime's

airstrike on the Iranian consulate in Syria that left seven military advisors dead on April 1.

<https://en.irna.ir/news/85443640/Iron-Dome-fails-to-intercept-Iranian-ballistic-missiles>

### **Flying missiles over Knesset ‘big victory’ for Iran: Zionist researcher**

Islamic Republic News Agency, April 14, 2024

Iran has achieved a big victory by flying missiles and drones in the skies over key Israeli facilities including the Knesset. This is according to an Israeli researcher making comments on the Iranian military action against the regime over its recent strike on Iran’s consulate in Syria. Iran launched hundreds of missiles and drones at the Israeli-occupied territories late on Saturday to punish the regime for its strike that killed seven Iranian military advisors including a senior Islamic Revolution Guards Corps commander in Damascus on April 1. Beni Sabti, a researcher at the Institute for National Security Studies think-tank, believes that the Saturday night attack marked a big victory for Iran as the country managed to penetrate Israeli airspace, with its missiles and drones flying over the city of Al-Quds and Al-Aqsa Mosque as well as the Israeli parliament (the Knesset) “We are not in conflict now. It seems that we are in an equal situation. But the reality is different. The victory and success of Iran is greater”, he told Kan, the Israeli regime’s public broadcasting corporation.

<https://en.irna.ir/news/85444054/Flying-missiles-over-Knesset-big-victory-for-Iran-Zionist>

## **Israel**

### **Israeli military to soon receive Oshkosh joint light tactical vehicles**

Defense Mirror, April 1, 2024

Israel’s Defence Ministry has confirmed that Joint Light Tactical Vehicles (JLTVs) produced by the U.S. company Oshkosh are en route to the country. In a statement released on March 28, the ministry announced that Major General (Ret.) Eyal Zamir, the Director General of the Ministry of Defence, visited the Ministry’s procurement delegation in New York. During the visit, a situation assessment was conducted regarding the ongoing procurement operation and the transportation logistics to Israel. Accompanied by Brigadier General (Ret.) Michel Ben Baruch, head of the delegation, Zamir toured the logistics center of the Ministry of Defence delegation, reviewing the equipment acquired by the ministry, notably the protected off-road vehicles, including the JLTV jeep manufactured by Oshkosh.

[https://www.defensemirror.com/news/36448/Israeli\\_Military\\_to\\_Soon\\_Receive\\_Oshkosh\\_Joint\\_Light\\_Tactical\\_Vehicles](https://www.defensemirror.com/news/36448/Israeli_Military_to_Soon_Receive_Oshkosh_Joint_Light_Tactical_Vehicles)

### **Biden considers \$18bn arms transfer to Israel, including F-15 jets: Report**

Al-Jazeera, April 2, 2024

US President Joe Biden’s administration is weighing whether to go ahead with an \$18bn arms transfer package to Israel that would include dozens of F-15 aircraft, according to the Reuters news agency. The sale of 25 F-15s has been under review since the US received the formal request in

January 2023, Reuters reported, citing one of five sources familiar with the plans, long before Israel's six-month-old military campaign in Gaza. This sale would boost that number to as many as 50 F-15s. Accelerating delivery of the aircraft was among the top requests from Israeli Minister of Defense Yoav Gallant, who visited Washington last week and held talks with US officials including National Security Advisor Jake Sullivan and Secretary of Defence Lloyd Austin, a second source said. Biden faces pressure from foreign partners, human rights groups and some of his fellow Democrats in Congress to impose conditions on arms transfers to rein in Israel's offensive in Gaza where health officials say at least 32,845 Palestinians have been killed, many of them civilians.

<https://www.aljazeera.com/news/2024/4/2/biden-considers-18bn-arms-transfer-to-israel-including-f-15-jets-report>

### **Israel aerospace, aerorotor unmanned systems forge partnership to develop tactical drone system**

Defense Mirror, April 3, 2024

The collaboration aims to leverage Aerorotor's Apus multicopter technology, featuring a central heavy-fuel propulsion system controlled by a variable-pitch mechanism. Israel Aerospace Industries (IAI) and Aerorotor Unmanned Systems have signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) to jointly develop drone systems tailored for tactical military missions. The collaboration aims to harness Aerorotor's Apus multicopter technology, known for its unique configuration featuring a central heavy-fuel propulsion

system piloted through a variable-pitch mechanism. Under the terms of the agreement, the partnership will focus on engineering development and marketing initiatives to enhance the capabilities of the Apus multicopter. This includes optimizing its performance for various tactical military operations on land, at sea, and in the air.

<https://www.defensemirror.com/news/36465/Israel-Aerospace-Aerorotor-Unmanned-Systems-Forge-Partnership-to-Develop-Tactical-Drone-System>

### **Israel deploys C-Dome defence system for first time**

The Defence Post, April 9, 2024

Israel for the first time deployed its ship-mounted defence system, called the C-Dome, against a "suspicious" target that entered the country's airspace near the southern city of Eilat, the military said. The C-Dome is a naval version of the Iron Dome air defence system used to shield against rocket and missile attacks. The Israel Defence Forces (IDF) reported an alert in the area of Eilat, which was targeted in February by intercepted ballistic missile fire from Yemen's Houthi rebels, allies of Palestinian militants Hamas. "Following the sirens that sounded in the area of Eilat regarding the infiltration of a hostile aircraft, IDF Naval forces identified a suspicious aerial target crossing into Israeli territory," the IDF said in a statement released. "The target was successfully intercepted by the C-Dome naval defence system," it said. No injuries or damage were reported.

<https://www.thedefensepost.com/2024/04/09/israel-deploys-defense-system/>



## Iraq

### **Al-Mohammadawi: The Government program has developed an early strategy to fortify the borders**

Iraq News Agency, April 5, 2024

The deputy commander of Joint Operations, Lieutenant General Qais al-Mohammadawi, confirmed on Friday that the percentage of fortifications on the Syrian border has reached 80%”, pointing out that the Government program has developed an early strategy to fortify the border”, "There has been a great and continuous work by the Ministry of Interior and joint operations for three years to complete fortifications, barriers, concrete blocks and the installation of observation towers and thermal cameras along the Syrian border", pointing out that "the completion rates have reached very advanced stages, the percentage of work exceeded more than 80% along the distance to the border from the Turkish-Iraqi-Syrian Triangle north to the Iraqi-Syrian border towards al-Qaim and then south to the junction of the Iraqi-Syrian-Jordanian border and a distance of more than 625 km”al-mohammadawi said to the Iraqi News Agency (INA ).

<https://ina.iq/eng/32110-al-mohammadawi-the-government-program-has-developed-an-early-strategy-to-fortify-the-borders.html>

### **Defence industry commission of Iraq initiates local production of NORINCO VN22 6×6 armoured vehicles**

Militaryleak, April 4, 2024

The Defence Industry Commission of Iraq (DICI) has recently announced the

initiation of local production of Norinco VN22 6×6 armored vehicles, marking a significant stride in bolstering Iraq’s defence capabilities. This move underscores Iraq’s strategic blueprint aimed at fostering a robust defence industrial base to cater to the comprehensive needs of its armed forces and security apparatus. Although the VN22 has already been in service with the Armed Forces of Côte d’Ivoire and Senegal’s National Gendarmerie, its adoption by Iraq signifies a significant expansion of its operational reach.

<https://militaryleak.com/2024/04/04/iraq-initiates-local-production-of-norinco-vn22-6x6-armoured-vehicles/>

### **PM: The Iraqi-American relationship is the key to stability in the Middle East**

Iraq News Agency, April 11, 2024

Prime Minister Muhammad Shiaa Al-Sudani confirmed, in an article in Foreign Affairs magazine, that the Iraqi-American relationship is the key to stability in the Middle East, while indicating that his meeting with US President Joe Biden on April 15 during his upcoming visit to Washington is an opportunity to develop the Iraqi-America partnership on a more sustainable basis. The Prime Minister said in his article, a copy of which was received by the Iraqi News Agency (INA): “Two decades ago, the United States helped the Iraqi people to overthrow Saddam Hussein’s dictatorial regime and lay the foundations for a democratic system. This enabled the Iraqis to taste freedom for the first time and eliminate oppression.” He added, "During these two decades, Iraqi-American relations went through multiple

stages of ups and downs, enthusiasm and apathy, and from consensus of positions and opinions at times, to disagreement and tension at other times, but despite that, there remained a clear and impeccable awareness between the leadership of the two countries that their relationship will remain a strategic relationship."

<https://ina.iq/eng/32187-pm-the-iraqian-relationship-is-the-key-to-stability-in-the-middle-east.html>

## Jordan

### Jordan air force shoots down Iranian drones flying over to Israel

Reuters, April 14, 2024

Jordan's air force intercepted and shot down dozens of Iranian drones that violated its airspace and were heading to Israel, two regional security sources said. They said the army was also in a state of high alert and radar systems were monitoring any drone activity coming from the direction of Iraq and Syria. "The relevant authorities took the decision to close the airspace for precautionary reasons as a result of the surrounding security situation," Jordan's government spokesperson Muhannad Mubaideen denied media reports that the kingdom had announced a state of emergency, adding there was no cause for concern among its citizens. Jordan neighbors Syria and Iraq – both countries where Iranian proxy forces operate – and also is next door to Israel and the Israeli-occupied West Bank.

<https://www.reuters.com/world/middle-east/jordans-air-defence-ready-shoot-down-any-iranian-aircraft-that-violate-its-2024-04-13/>

## Kuwait

### Qatar and Kuwait prohibit US from using its air bases, airspace for strikes on Iran

Defence Security Asia, April 12, 2024

Qatar and Kuwait have reportedly issued directives to the United States stating that their fighter jets are not permitted to use airbases in these Arab nations to launch airstrikes against Iran. Not only are U.S. fighter jets prohibited from using military bases, but Qatar and Kuwait have also forbidden the use of their airspace for any military actions against Iran. This measure significantly limits Washington's ability to conduct strikes against Tehran.

<https://defencesecurityasia.com/en/qatar-and-kuwait-prohibit-us-from-using-bases-airspace-for-strikes-on-iran/>

### Kuwait expresses deep concern over regional military escalation, urges restraint

Emirates News Agency, April 14, 2024

The State of Kuwait has expressed its deep concern over military escalations in the region, and the mounting detrimental ramifications on both regional and international stability and security. In a statement on April 14 quoted by Kuwait News Agency (KUNA), the Foreign Affairs Ministry called for practicing self-restraint to avoid risks of such escalation and its ramifications. It underlined importance of UN Security Council adherence to its responsibilities of safeguarding international peace and security, and avoiding wars via guaranteeing commitment of international community.

The Ministry stressed the necessity of addressing the root cause of tension, and adopting diplomacy in conflict settlement to ensure regional stability.

<https://wam.ae/en/article/b2ni9sv-kuwait-expresses-deep-concern-over-regional>

## Lebanon

### Lebanon accepts additional land rover spare parts from UK

The Defense Post, April 5, 2024

The UK has delivered additional Land Rover armored patrol spare parts to Lebanon as part of London's Conflict, Stability, and Security Fund (CSSF) program. The package, shipped to a logistics base in Kfarshima, included 737 tires, 225 engines, and other critical Land Rover components worth 2 million pounds (\$2.5 million). London wrote that this donation would be used for repairs, maintenance, and other servicing needs for more than 440 military vehicles under the Lebanese Armed Forces. The government added that the package will improve the military's mobility, road safety, and operational readiness, particularly the Land Border Regiments. "The UK reaffirms its commitment to supporting the [Lebanese Armed Forces] and to strengthening Lebanon's security and stability."

<https://www.thedefensepost.com/2024/04/05/lebanon-land-rover-spare-uk/>

### Lebanon's Hezbollah fires 'dozens of rockets' at Israeli positions

Al-Jazeera, April 13, 2024

Hezbollah said it has fired "dozens of rockets" at Israeli artillery positions in response to the Israeli military's strikes in

southern Lebanon, in one of its largest assaults since the start of the war on Gaza. The Iran-aligned armed Lebanese group confirmed in a statement late on Friday that it launched dozens of Katyusha rockets at "enemy artillery positions" in northern Israel and the occupied Golan Heights. The rockets triggered sirens in multiple communities across Upper Galilee in northern Israel, with air defence missiles engaging the incoming projectiles. The Israeli military said "40 launches were identified from Lebanese territory, some of which were intercepted. The rest fell in open areas."

<https://www.aljazeera.com/news/2024/4/13/lebanons-hezbollah-fires-dozens-of-rockets-at-israeli-positions>

## Oman

### Oman shows interest in Dassault Rafale Jets

Defense Mirror, April 2, 2024

Oman has reportedly expressed a keen interest in procuring Dassault Rafale jets, marking a potential departure from its existing fleet dominated by American aircraft and Eurofighter Typhoons. Sources close to the matter revealed to French publication LA Tribune that Oman, nestled along the Arabian Sea with Yemen as its neighbor, has initiated discussions regarding the acquisition of Rafale combat aircraft. Dassault Aviation is reportedly cautiously optimistic about the prospects, acknowledging ongoing dialogues with Omani authorities. With a focus on securing orders of modest size, ranging between 12 and 18 aircraft, Dassault aims to supplement its existing delivery commitments, including substantial



contracts with the United Arab Emirates (80), France (42), Indonesia (42), and potentially Saudi Arabia. Oman's military fleet currently includes American aircraft alongside the Typhoon.

[https://www.defensemirror.com/news/36461/Oman\\_Shows\\_Interest\\_in\\_Dassault\\_Rafale\\_Jets](https://www.defensemirror.com/news/36461/Oman_Shows_Interest_in_Dassault_Rafale_Jets)

### **Oman, Iran underscore Keeness to boost cooperation**

Oman News Agency, April 7, 2024

The Sultanate of Oman and the Islamic Republic of Iran underscored their keeness to enhance cooperation relations which are based on the principle of good neighborliness, positive collaboration and joint efforts. The two countries reiterated their continuation in addressing and finding peaceful solutions to issues and developments in the region. This came during a joint press conference held between Sayyid Badr Hamad Al Busaidi, Foreign Minister and Hossein Amir-Abdollahian, Minister of Foreign Affairs of the Islamic Republic of Iran. Sayyid Badr said that the Sultanate of Oman backs efforts to reduce escalation in the region and address various issues and conflicts, stressing the need for the voice of wisdom to be present in this aspect. He added that “The Palestinian cause is the main issue we are trying to overcome in light of the Palestinian people’s suffering as a result of the ongoing Israeli aggression on Gaza and various occupied Palestinian territories.”

<https://omannews.gov.om/topics/en/79/show/116511>

### **Oman participates in 2nd ministerial meeting for strategic dialogue between GCC and Central Asian countries**

Oman News Agency, April 15, 2024

The Sultanate of Oman, represented by the Foreign Ministry took part on 15 April in the 2nd Ministerial Meeting for the Strategic Dialogue between the GCC and Central Asian Countries, held in the Uzbek capital, Tashkent. The Sultanate of Oman’s delegation was chaired by Sayyid Badr Hamad Al Busaidi, Foreign Minister. The meeting aimed at bolstering the relations between the two sides. It served the consultation between both sides in various issues of common concern in a manner that serves interests of the GCC and Central Asian peoples.

<https://mannews.gov.om/topics/en/79/show/116554>

### **Palestine**

#### **Gaza infrastructure damages estimated at \$18.5bn in UN-World Bank report**

Al-Jazeera, April 2, 2024

The cost of damage to critical infrastructure in the first four months of Israel’s continuing war on Gaza is estimated at about \$18.5bn, a new report by the World Bank and the United Nations has found. The report estimated that the damage was equivalent to 97 percent of the combined GDP of the occupied West Bank and Gaza in 2022. The continuing conflict has damaged or destroyed approximately 62 percent of all homes in Gaza, equivalent to 290,820 housing units, and more than a million people are without homes. Housing accounts for 72 percent of the total damage

costs, at an estimated value of \$13.3bn. The education system has collapsed, with all of Gaza's 625,000 students out of school.

<https://www.aljazeera.com/news/2024/4/2/gaza-infrastructure-damages-estimated-at-18-5-bln-in-un-world-bank-report>

### **Netanyahu says Israeli forces killed World Central Kitchen workers in Gaza**

Al-Jazeera, April 2, 2024

Israel has confirmed its forces killed seven people from the World Central Kitchen charity in Gaza as they travelled in a convoy emblazoned with the charity's logo that had coordinated its movements with the Israeli military. Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu described the deadly attack on the aid workers as unintended and "tragic" and pledged an independent inquiry. "Unfortunately in the past day, there was a tragic event in which our forces unintentionally harmed non-combatants in the Gaza Strip," Netanyahu said in a video statement. "This happens in war. We are conducting a thorough inquiry and are in contact with the governments. We will do everything to prevent a recurrence." Citizens from Australia, the United Kingdom and Poland, as well as Palestinians and a dual citizen of the United States and Canada were killed.

<https://www.aljazeera.com/news/2024/4/2/netanyahu-admits-israeli-forces-killed-ngo-workers-in-gaza>

### **'Reconsider Your Decision' – Nancy Pelosi joins calls for US arms transfer halt to Israel**

Palestine Chronicle, April 8, 2024

US Representative Nancy Pelosi has joined dozens of congressional democrats

in urging President Joe Biden and Secretary of State Antony Blinken to halt the transfer of weapons to Israel. In a letter, the lawmakers said that in light of the recent airstrike that killed seven aid workers, "we strongly urge you to reconsider your recent decision to authorize the transfer of a new arms package to Israel, and to withhold this and any future offensive arms transfers until a full investigation into the airstrike is completed." "If this strike is found to have violated US or international law, we urge you to continue withholding these transfers until those responsible are held accountable," the letter added.

<https://www.palestinechronicle.com/reconsider-your-decision-nancy-pelosi-joins-calls-for-us-arms-transfer-halt-to-israel/>

### **War on journalists – Israeli attack targets reporters in nuseirat**

Palestine Chronicle, April 12, 2024

Several Palestinian journalists were injured in an Israeli assault on the Nuseirat refugee camp in central Gaza Strip, the Anadolu news agency reported. Among them, photojournalist Sami Shehadeh underwent an amputation of his right foot and suffered various other injuries. A correspondent from TRT Arabic, Türkiye's public broadcaster, sustained minor injuries in the same attack, as reported by sources at the Al-Aqsa Martyrs Hospital. Another journalist, Muhammad Al-Sawalhi, was also wounded by shrapnel in separate Israeli artillery shelling in the area, injuring his right hand.

<https://www.palestinechronicle.com/war-on-journalists-israeli-attack-targets-reporters-in-nuseirat/>

## Qatar

### Qatar energy expands LNG fleet with deals for 19 new vessels

Joel Johnson

The Peninsula, April 1, 2024

Qatar Energy has signed long-term time charter party (TCP) agreements with four international ship owners for the operation of 19 ultra-modern conventional-size LNG vessels, which comes as part of the second ship-owner tender under the organisation's historic LNG fleet expansion programme. The event witnessed agreements catering for the operation of six vessels by CMES LNG Carrier Investment Inc., six vessels by Shandong Marine Energy (Singapore) Pte Ltd., and three vessels by MISC Berhad; all of which are being constructed at Samsung Heavy Industries in South Korea. The remaining four vessels will be operated by a joint venture of Kawasaki Kisen Kaisha Ltd. (K-Line) and Hyundai Glovis Co. Ltd. and are being constructed at Hanwha Ocean (formerly Daewoo Shipbuilding & Marine Engineering) in South Korea.

<https://thepeninsulaqatar.com/article/01/04/2024/qatarenergy-expands-lng-fleet-with-deals-for-19-new-vessels>

### Israeli parliament passes law paving the way for Al-Jazeera closure

Al-Jazeera, April 1, 2024

Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu has promised to “act immediately to stop” Al-Jazeera's operations in the country after the Israeli parliament approved a law that grants senior ministers powers to shut down foreign news networks deemed a security risk. “Al-Jazeera harmed Israel's security, actively participated in the October 7

massacre, and incited against Israeli soldiers,” Netanyahu wrote on X. The law, which passed in a 71-10 vote in the Knesset, gives the prime minister and communications minister the authority to order the closure of foreign networks operating in Israel and confiscate their equipment if it is believed they pose “harm to the state's security”.

<https://www.aljazeera.com/news/2024/4/1/israeli-pm-netanyahu-revives-push-to-shut-down-al-jazeera>

### Qatar to adopt global specifications for real estate soon

The Peninsula, April 2, 2024

Chairman of the Real Estate Regulatory Authority Eng. Khalid Ahmed Saleh Al Obaidli has said the authority will soon launch several initiatives in collaboration with relevant entities to boost the real estate sector in addition to plans to enhance the legislative framework, emphasising the authority's commitment to being a catalyst and partner for the private sector. He noted that the state has implemented mega projects within a short time frame to host international events such as the FIFA World Cup Qatar 2022, affirming that this has helped accelerate the real estate boom in the state. It would also enact soon the Real Estate Development Regulation Law, addressing various challenges. Further, he indicated the Authority would establish a digital platform containing all authenticated information about the state's real estate market, and it would activate the real estate dispute resolution committees.

<https://thepeninsulaqatar.com/article/02/04/2024/qatar-to-adopt-global-specifications-for-real-estate-soon>

### **DIMDEX is one of world's most prominent events in security, defence field: Commander of Qatari Amiri Naval Forces**

Qatar Tribune, April 3, 2024

Commander of the Qatari Amiri Naval Forces Staff Maj Gen (Navy) Abdullah Hassan Al Sulaiti affirmed that the Doha International Maritime Defence Exhibition and Conference (DIMDEX 2024) is one of the most prominent military events specialized in the field of maritime security and defence in the world. The adoption of the DIMDEX 2024 theme under 'Igniting the future of maritime security and beyond' reflects the state's firm vision and its firm commitment to strengthening maritime security and defence, which is one of the most important factors and components of stability given its profound impact on all fields, especially economic ones, he stated, pointing out that the Middle East Naval Commanders Conference will be held this year under the title of 'Economic Growth Prospects Amidst Security Challenges and Their Global Impact', and will address how to confront these challenges that the world is witnessing today especially issues related to maritime and global security and their repercussions on the economy and the path of development, along with working to develop appropriate frameworks and solutions to deal with them.

<https://www.qatar-tribune.com/article/111224/latest-news/dimdex-is-one-of-worlds-most-prominent-events-in-security-defence-field-commander-of-qatari-amiri-naval-forces>

### **Qatar participates in security exhibition 'Milipol Singapore'**

The Peninsula, April 4, 2024

The State of Qatar is participating in the security exhibition "Milipol Singapore," which kicked off on April 2 and runs until April 5, as part of the coordination and marketing efforts of the exhibition "Milipol Qatar 2024" and to learn about the latest products and technology in security fields. The participating delegation is headed by Assistant Director of Public Security Major General Mohammed Jassim Al Sulaiti, Director General of Logistics and Supply at the Ministry of Interior Major General Hisham Ibrahim Al Qosaibi, and a number of officers from the Ministry of Interior and the Internal Security Force (Lekhwiya).

<https://thepeninsulaqatar.com/article/04/04/2024/qatar-participates-in-security-exhibition-milipol-singapore>

### **Saudi Arabia**

#### **Saudi Arabia to expand private sector role in military industries**

Aaharq Al-Awsat, April 1, 2024

The Saudi private sector is stepping up its involvement in military industries to boost sector development and ensure long-term project success. The aim is to meet the Kingdom's goal of localizing more than half of its military spending by 2030. Recently, the Federation of Saudi Chambers has announced the formation of the first-of-its-kind national committee for military industries in the Kingdom. Salman Al-Shatri has been elected chairman of the committee while Zeyad Al-Mohaimed is the vice chairman. This is the first time that

a committee concerned with the military industries sector has been formed under the umbrella of the private sector, represented by the Federation of Saudi Chambers, to work with relevant bodies such as the General Authority for Military Industries (GAMI), the Saudi Arabian Military Industries (SAMI) and other authorities.

<https://english.aawsat.com/business/49430/21-saudi-arabia-expand-private-sector-role-military-industries>

### **Saudi Arabia's upcoming national space strategy a blueprint for growth**

Space And Defense News, April 2, 2024

Saudi Arabia is developing a national space strategy as part of the country's goal to grab a bigger slice of the global space pie. Abdullah Al-Swaha, the Minister of Communications and Information Technology, recently told media in Riyadh that the space strategy would be a vehicle for increased government and private sector investment in the Saudi space economy. The Saudi space sector generated USD400 million in 2022. That figure is expected to reach USD2.2 billion by 2030. Saudi Arabia's Vision 2030 strategy, a national blueprint for diversifying and growing the country's economy, highlights the space sector's role in growing the economy.

<https://spaceanddefense.io/saudi-arabias-upcoming-national-space-strategy-a-blueprint-for-growth/>

### **SABIC and KAUST deepen collaboration for Saudi Arabia's innovation push**

Saudi Press Agency, April 4, 2024

King Abdullah University of Science and Technology (KAUST) and Saudi Basic

Industries Corporation (SABIC) held the first SABIC Day at KAUST, strengthening their commitment to Saudi Arabia's research and development goals. The event highlighted the growing partnership between academic and industrial leaders, with a focus on areas like circular economy, carbon neutrality and differentiated solutions. SABIC's Executive Vice President of Sustainability, Technology and Innovation Dr. Bob Maughon emphasized the potential for deeper collaboration that aligns with Saudi Vision 2030 goals, among which, establishing a technologically advanced and sustainable economy.

<https://www.spa.gov.sa/en/N2078627>

### **Foreign Minister participates in GCC-central asia strategic dialogue ministerial meeting**

Saudi Press Agency, April 15, 2024

Minister of Foreign Affairs Prince Faisal bin Farhan bin Abdullah took part in the second ministerial meeting of the GCC-Central Asia Strategic Dialogue, held in the Uzbek capital, Tashkent. In a speech, the minister stressed the importance of continued coordination and consultation between the GCC and Central Asian countries, based on common values, interests, and deep historical ties, which have been growing in recent years. He also said it was important to nurture common interests, to make the two regions safe, stable, and prosperous, and give hope for a better future for all, adding that there is wide consensus in GCC and Central Asian countries on the importance of reaching peace, encouraging negotiation to find solutions, and supporting security, stability,



and development. He reiterated the need for intensive efforts to ensure the internationally recognized rights of the Palestinian people, and to achieve peace through negotiations, in accordance with the Arab Peace Initiative and the principles of international law.

<https://www.spa.gov.sa/en/N2083183>

## Syria

### Syria, Russia discuss means of enhancing economic cooperation

Syrian Arab News Agency, April 6, 2024

Minister of Finance, Dr. Kenan Yaghi, discussed with a delegation from the administration of the Institute for Research in World Economics and International Relations in the Russian Federation, economic relations and means of enhancing them and encouraging private investment. During the meeting, Yaghi pointed out that the terrorist war on Syria included systematic targeting of the national economy, and is currently at the beginning of the recovery phase, despite the negative repercussions on the economic situation. Assistant Director General of the Institute for Research on World Economics and International Policy, noted that discussing various economic aspects and developments in the Syrian economy contribute to enhancing the investments of Russian companies in Syria.

<https://sana.sy/en/?p=328599>

### Israel strikes Syria after rocket fire on annexed Golan

The Defense Post, April 9, 2024

Israeli warplanes struck a Syrian military position overnight in response to rocket

fire on the Israeli-annexed Golan Heights, the military said. The cross-border fire came days after an air strike blamed on Israel destroyed the Iranian consulate in Damascus, killing senior military commanders and raising regional tensions. The Israeli military said that “warplanes attacked Syrian army military infrastructure overnight in the Mahajjah area” — around 30 kilometers (20 miles) from the demilitarized zone separating the opposing forces. The Israeli army said it identified a rocket launch from Syrian territory that caused no casualties. It said artillery struck the source of the fire. Israel has raised its military readiness after last week’s deadly strike on the Iranian consulate in Damascus drew threats of retaliation from Tehran.

<https://www.thedefensepost.com/2024/04/09/israel-strikes-syria-2/>

## Turkiye

### Turkish drone exports: implications for NATO relations

Alice Duman

Defence Industry Europe, April 1, 2024

The proliferation of Turkish drone technology on the global arms market has raised concerns within the European Union (EU) and the North Atlantic Treaty Organisation (NATO) regarding its potential impact on regional security and alliance cohesion. At the crux of these concerns lies Türkiye’s ‘no-questions-asked policy’ in drone exports, allowing for the unrestricted sale of advanced military technology without stringent checks (Borsari, 2022; International Crisis Group, 2023). Considering Türkiye’s aspirations to

solidify its position as a credible drone exporter, this info flash delves into Turkish drone developments, assesses their role in contemporary conflicts, and examines the implications for Ankara's relations with NATO countries.

<https://defence-industry.eu/turkish-drone-exports-implications-for-nato-relations/>

### **Istanbul hub to become 1st airport powered entirely by solar energy**

Daily Sabah, April 08, 2024

Istanbul Airport will have its entire electricity needs met by a solar energy plant that is slated to be launched by the end of the year, according to its operator, IGA. IGA will have invested around 212 million euros (\$229.74 million) in the project, which will spread over an approximately 3 million square meter area in the central province of Eskişehir. The plant will have 439,000 solar panels installed, boasting a total capacity of 199.32 megawatts (MW). The photovoltaic power station is planned to produce 340 million kilowatt-hours of energy annually and will grant the aviation hub the distinction of being the world's first airport to meet all its electricity needs from solar energy.

<https://www.dailysabah.com/business/transportation/istanbul-hub-to-become-1st-airport-powered-entirely-by-solar-energy>

### **Turkiye imposes export restrictions on Israel until Gaza ceasefire**

Ammon News, April 9, 2024

Turkiye will restrict exports of a wide range of products to Israel, including steel and jet fuel, until a ceasefire is declared in Gaza,

the Turkish Trade Ministry said, in Ankara's first significant measure against Israel after six months of war. Turkiye has denounced Israel for its war on Gaza, which was launched following Hamas' Oct. 7 attack. Ankara has called for an immediate ceasefire, supported steps to try Israel for genocide, and sent thousands of tons of aid for Gazans.

<https://en.ammonnews.net/article/71892>

### **Turkiye's aselsan showcases modernization package for Chilean Leopard 2 Tanks**

Defense Mirror, April 12, 2024

Turkey's Aselsan unveiled a modernization package for upgrading the Chilean Army's Leopard 2A4CHL main battle tanks at the FIDAE 2024 exhibition in Chile. In July 2023, Aselsan and the local company Famae signed an agreement to undertake the Leopard modernization project. Although the contract's value was not officially disclosed, Aselsan announced on July 17 that it had finalized a \$123.5 million contract with an international customer. This contract includes technology transfer, enabling the Chilean company to maintain its armored vehicle fleet independently in the future. Chile acquired nearly 150 Leopard 2A4 tanks in the mid-2000s. The upgraded CHL version features new sights and a fire control system, with the highlight being the Rh1 120/L55 cannon, also utilized in the newer Leopard 2A6 model.

[https://www.defensemirror.com/news/36540/Turkey\\_s\\_Aselsan\\_Showcases\\_Modernization\\_Package\\_for\\_Chilean\\_Leopard\\_2\\_Tanks](https://www.defensemirror.com/news/36540/Turkey_s_Aselsan_Showcases_Modernization_Package_for_Chilean_Leopard_2_Tanks)

### **From Chile to Indonesia: Turkish defence industry expands global footprint**

Daily Sabah, April 14, 2024

Amid a diversification strategy and the significant strides Türkiye has made over the past two decades in developing its defence industry, several Turkish companies are now working on expanding their footprint across geographies, thus further bolstering the sector's development prospects. At the forefront are firms such as the defence electronics giant Aselsan, which just less than a week ago announced the opening of an office in Latin America, namely in Santiago, the capital of Chile. The office "will make a great contribution to Aselsan's long-term potential cooperation in Latin America," the company said.

<https://www.dailysabah.com/business/defence/from-chile-to-indonesia-turkish-defence-industry-expands-global-footprint>

### **Turkish airstrike eliminates 12 PKK terrorists in Iraq**

Daily Sabah, April 15, 2024

Twelve PKK terrorists were eliminated in Iraq's north in an aerial operation, the Defence Ministry announced on April 15. The airstrike took place in the Hakurk region, a hotbed of PKK activity. The ministry said in a statement that the operations would continue until the last terrorist is eliminated. Northern regions of Iraq and Syria, two southern neighbours of Türkiye, are the last remaining bastions of the terrorist group, which lost its clout in Türkiye's southeast, where it killed thousands over the past decades.

<https://www.dailysabah.com/politics/war-on-terror/turkish-airstrike-eliminates-12-pkk-terrorists-in-iraq>

### **United Arab Emirates**

#### **U.A.E's military modernisation escalates amidst regional unrest**

Army Technology, April 8, 2024

The United Arab Emirates (U.A.E) is witnessing a surge in defence expenditure, signalling a comprehensive modernisation drive aimed at fortifying its military capabilities amidst escalating regional tensions. According to insights from GlobalData's "The U.A.E Defence Market 2024-2029" report, the UAE's defence budget is projected to reach \$30.7bn (Dh112.6bn) by 2029, reflecting a compound annual growth rate (CAGR) of 4.1%. This increase shows the country's strategic imperative to bolster its Armed Forces and adapt to evolving security challenges in the Middle East.

<https://www.army-technology.com/news/uaes-military-modernisation-escalates-amidst-regional-unrest/>

#### **U.A.E, Egypt complete largest airdrop in northern Gaza**

ARN News, April 11, 2024

The U.A.E and Egypt successfully completed their largest aid drop to northern Gaza on Wednesday, delivering 125 tonnes of aid. Six aircraft were involved in the mission that is part of the "Birds of Goodness" operation. The aid included essential food items and Eid clothing parcels, addressing the needs of Palestinians during Eid Al Fitr. Since the launch of "Birds of Goodness," a total of 1,857 tonnes of aid have been delivered, contributing to over 2,227 tonnes of aid

sent by the U.A.E to northern Gaza as part of Operation “Chivalrous Knight 3”.

<https://www.arnnewscentre.ae/en/news/uae/uae-egypt-complete-largest-airdrop-to-date-in-northern-gaza/>

### **India-U.A.E to work on IME Economic Corridor protocols in May**

Shishir Gupta

Hindustan Times, April 11, 2024

Notwithstanding the war in Gaza and its fall-out in Middle-East, India and United Arab Emirates (U.A.E) have begun work on the first stage of the pathbreaking India-Middle East-Europe Economic Corridor (IMEEC) with the first senior official meeting expected to take place by May 15. The IMEEC links India, U.A.E, Jordan, Saudi Arabia and Israel with Europe and US through trade and merchandise exports with ports in Europe being the final destination. The IMEEC has full support of the Biden administration and is designed to integrate the markets of these countries.

<https://www.hindustantimes.com/india-news/indiauae-to-work-on-imeec-protocols-next-month-101712804895346.html>

## **Yemen**

### **US military says it destroyed dozens of drones fired from Iran, Yemen**

Al-Jazeera, April 15, 2024

The United States has destroyed dozens of drones and at least six ballistic missiles aimed at Israel from Iran and Yemen, its military has said. US forces hit more than 80 one-way attack drones, including seven UAVs targeted on the ground prior to

launch, US Central Command (CENTCOM). “Iran’s continued unprecedented, malign, and reckless behaviour endangers regional stability and the safety of U.S. and coalition forces,” CENTCOM said in a post on X. “CENTCOM remains postured to support Israel’s defence against these dangerous actions by Iran. We will continue to work with all our regional partners to increase regional security.” The attack involving more than 300 drones and missiles caused only modest damage as most were shot down by Israel’s Iron Dome missile defence system or the US and its partners.

<https://www.aljazeera.com/news/2024/4/15/us-military-says-it-destroyed-dozens-of-drones-fired-from-iran-yemen>

### **Yemen’s plight echoes broader Middle East crisis, says UN Envoy**

United Nations News, April 15, 2024

As tensions worsen across the Middle East region, Yemen’s plight has become increasingly intertwined with wider geopolitical dynamics, the UN Special Envoy for the country said on Monday. Hans Grundberg underscored the urgent need for de-escalation, warning of the perilous consequences of overlooking Yemen’s fragile stability amidst the broader regional crisis. “We cannot risk Yemen’s chance for peace, becoming collateral damage,” he told ambassadors at the UN Security Council. “If we leave Yemen’s political process in the waiting room and continue down this path of escalation, the consequences could be catastrophic, not only for Yemen, but also for the wider region,” he warned.

<https://news.un.org/en/story/2024/04/1148576>

# NUCLEAR AND ARMS CONTROL CENTRE

*Sylloge on West Asia is compiled by Ms. Bhawna*

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