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मनोहर पर्रिकर रक्षा अध्ययन एवं विश्लेषण संस्थान

Armenia

Armenia to participate in DEFEA 2025 International defence and security exhibition

Armenpress, January 10, 2025

The Ministry of High-Tech Industry is accepting applications for participation in DEFEA 2025 International Defence and Security Exhibition in Athens. DEFEA is a high-profile international defence exhibition where international companies present land, naval, aerospace, national and cyber security defence systems. DEFEA will take place 6th to 8th May 2025. It is organised under the auspices of the Hellenic Ministry of National Defense, with the cooperation of the SEKPY - Hellenic Manufacturers of Defense Material Association and is organised by ROTA Exhibitions Greece. Armenian defence and security companies interested in participation shall submit the application form to the ministry by 30 January. The ministry, together with selected applicants, will participate in the event under a unified pavilion.

<https://armenpress.am/en/article/1209172>

Armenia signs US pact, drifting further from Russia

The Defense Post, January 14, 2025

The US signed an agreement to expand security cooperation with Armenia, which is seeking a greater distance from traditional ally Russia following a humiliating loss to Azerbaijan. The US and Armenia formed a “strategic partnership commission” that will look for ways to

build ties in areas from defence to the economy to democracy, Secretary of State Antony Blinken said. The US is “working with Armenia in the realm of security and defence, and in particular, to support its efforts to assert its independence and sovereignty over its own territory,” Blinken said at a signing ceremony with Armenian Foreign Minister Ararat Mirzoyan. “We are increasingly strong partners, and I think that is for the good of both of our countries, as well as the good of the region and beyond,” Blinken said.

<https://thedefensepost.com/2025/01/14/armenia-signs-us-pact/>

Deal for 307 'Made in India' ATAGS guns likely by March: Indian Army chief

Bhaswar Kumar

Business Standard, January 14, 2025

The Indian Army aims to finalise the contract for procuring 307 Advanced Towed Artillery Gun System (ATAGS) platforms—indigenously developed, state-of-the-art 155mm howitzers—at an estimated cost of Rs 8,000 crore by March 2025, Army Chief General Upendra Dwivedi announced during his annual press conference ahead of Army Day, observed on January 15. “If all goes as planned, we aim to sign the ATAGS contract before the end of this financial year,” General Dwivedi stated. In November, Kalyani Group’s Bharat Forge began contract negotiations with the Ministry of Defence (MoD) for 307 ATAGS platforms. “After completion of the due technical evaluation process and commercial bids opening, the contract negotiation procedure between

Bharat Forge Ltd and the Indian Ministry of Defence is currently underway," the company informed the stock exchange.

https://www.business-standard.com/external-affairs-defence-security/news/deal-for-307-made-in-india-atags-guns-likely-by-march-indian-army-chief-125011400777_1.html

Armenia to tow Indo-French artillery gun system

The Economic Times, January 15, 2025

India and France have developed the Trajan 155 mm towed artillery gun system. Armenia has chosen this system for its forces. Several subsystems of the gun were developed in India. Deliveries will happen in the coming months. Armenia is also getting Pinaka multi-barrel rocket launchers and Akash air defence systems from India. A major defence system, developed jointly by India and France, has bagged an export order from a third nation, showcasing the potential of co-development and Indian low-cost manufacturing.

<https://economictimes.indiatimes.com/news/defence/armenia-to-tow-indo-french-artillery-gun-system/articleshow/117275292.cms?from=mdr>

Armenia defence minister considers proposal of mutual arms control with Azerbaijan useful

News.am, January 15, 2025

Armenian defence minister Suren Papikyan believes that the proposal by the Armenian side to Azerbaijan on mutual arms control will benefit the region. Papikyan noted about this at a press conference. When

asked about the abovementioned proposal made recently by the prime minister of Armenia, Papikyan noted that there is international track record and standards in this matter. According to him, countries can control and limit weapons by mutual agreement. Papikyan believes that such an agreement and its implementation will be beneficial for the region, preventing from entering into an arms race. "Our [i.e. Armenia's] task is to have a combat-ready army—as one of the guarantees of territorial integrity and sovereignty," stressed the Armenian defence minister. When asked about the proposal to limit the use of weapons, the minister stated that in order to talk about the mechanisms, they must be acceptable to everyone.

https://news.am/eng/news/861665.html#ogle_vignette

Azerbaijan

Bond between Pakistan and Azerbaijan shines as example of fraternal tie

Qaiser Nawab

Azernews, January 13, 2025

In an era of shifting global alliances, relationships built on mutual respect, shared values, and genuine camaraderie stand the test of time. Among these, the bond between Pakistan and Azerbaijan shines as a true example of fraternal ties. This connection, deeply rooted in history, culture, and shared aspirations, has been further solidified by the visionary leadership of President Ilham Aliyev. His recent interview sheds light on Azerbaijan's achievements, its ambitions, and the path forward—offering lessons and

inspiration for Pakistan as it seeks to strengthen this unique partnership. President Ilham Aliyev has played a transformative role in reshaping Azerbaijan into a nation of progress and influence.

<https://www.azernews.az/analysis/236378.html>

Cyprus

Cyprus eyes major upgrades to air and naval bases

Elias Hazou

Cyprus Mail, January 5, 2024

Possible American assistance in upgrading Cyprus' main airbase in Paphos and the naval base at Mari was discussed in Washington during President Nikos Christodoulides' official visit there last October, the Cyprus Mail has learned. So the president's remarks this week about the planned upgrades should be seen in that context, as well as being part of the United States-Republic of Cyprus road map for bilateral defence cooperation. Earlier in the week, the president and then his defence minister spoke on the plans regarding the two bases. On the Andreas Papandreu facility in Paphos, Defence Minister Vasilis Palmas said the upgrades could cost around €14 million, and the upgrades to Mari naval base upwards of €200 million. For the former, the government may receive technical assistance from the Americans, and for the latter Palmas stated that efforts would be made to secure funding from the European Union.

<https://cyprus-mail.com/2025/01/05/cyprus-eyes-major-upgrades-to-air-and-naval-bases>

Georgia

SpaceX Director highlights Georgia's "strategic role" in digital development at Global Forum

Agenda.ge, January 14, 2025

Stephen Nelson, the Satellite Policy Director at Elon Musk's SpaceX space technology company, has emphasised Georgia's geographic position as a "bridge between Europe and Asia", underscoring its potential as a transport and logistics hub along the Trans-Caspian trade corridor in comments during an Internet Governance Global Forum session organised by the Georgian National Communications Commission in Saudi Arabia, the body said on Tuesday. The country at the crossroads of Europe and Asia has become a natural link between the global East and West. Due to its strategic location, Georgia has historically served as a conduit between these regions, and today its geographical advantage is becoming increasingly important", he said. Highlighting the strategic position of Georgia, Nelson said it was "necessary to mention the innovative role" of the Commission as the first telecommunications regulatory body in the Caucasus region to license Starlink's satellite internet provision.

<https://agenda.ge/en/news/2025/42398#gsc.tab=0>

Iran

India, Iran discuss Chabahar port development and trade relations

Business Standard, January 3, 2025

India and Iran on Friday carried out a comprehensive review of their ties

including the joint development of the Chabahar port, ways to boost trade and economic engagement and possible cooperation in agriculture and some other sectors. At the 19th India-Iran Foreign Office Consultations held in Delhi, the Iranian side is learnt to have requested New Delhi to explore ways to resume procurement of Iranian crude oil. India stopped the procurement of crude oil from Iran in mid-2019 following sanctions imposed on the Persian Gulf nation by the United States. The Iranian delegation at the talks was led by Deputy Foreign Minister Majid Takht Ravanchi while the Indian side was headed by Foreign Secretary Vikram Misri. Ravanchi met External Affairs Minister S Jaishankar and the discussions focused on bilateral matters and current regional challenges.

https://www.business-standard.com/external-affairs-defence-security/news/india-iran-discuss-chabahar-port-development-and-trade-relations-125010301233_1.html

Iran warns Italy ties to suffer if it yields to US demands on drone suspect

Business Standard, January 4, 2025

Iran warned Italy that it risked harming good bilateral relations if it bows to the political and hostile goals of the United States by detaining an Iranian engineer on a US warrant in connection with a drone attack in Jordan last year that killed three American troops. Tehran issued the warning to the Italian ambassador to Iran, Paola Amadei, who was summoned to the foreign ministry, the official IRNA news agency reported. The meeting took place a

day after Italy summoned the Iranian ambassador over the detention of an Italian journalist in Tehran. The back-to-back diplomatic summonses underscored how a three-nation tangle over the fates of the two prisoners was getting ever more complicated for Italy, which is a historically of Washington but maintains traditionally good relations with Tehran. Mohammad Abedini was arrested by Italian authorities at Milan's Malpensa airport on December 16 on a US warrant.

https://www.business-standard.com/world-news/iran-warns-italy-ties-to-suffer-if-it-yields-to-us-demands-on-drone-suspect-125010400011_1.html

New air defence systems installed at Iran's sensitive sites

Mehr News, January 6, 2025

The commander of Khatam al-Anbia Air Defense Base said on Monday that a series of new and secret air defence systems have been stationed near the country's sensitive centres. Brigadier General Ghader Rahimzadeh stated on Monday that the air defence forces from the Army and the Islamic Revolution Guards Corps (IRGC) will stage a joint large-scale war game in the coming days. He noted that the Army and IRGC air defence units have stationed a series of new systems, which are unknown to the enemies, near the sensitive centers of Iran, adding that the equipment will be employed in the upcoming military exercise. The forces participating in the drill will be practising the skills they have been trained in during the past year, the general stated, noting the exercises are designed considering the enemies'

movements and the Iranian air defence needs.

<https://en.mehrnews.com/news/226561/News-air-defense-systems-installed-at-Iran-sensitive-sites>

Iran doubles number of military drills as it prepares for Donald Trump

Financial Times, January 6, 2025

Iran's armed forces have nearly doubled the number of annual winter exercises this year as the Islamic Republic seeks to project strength following a series of regional military blows by Israel and the election of Donald Trump in the US. The spokesperson for Iran's Revolutionary Guards, Brigadier General Ali Mohammad Naeini, announced on Monday that about 30 land, air and maritime drills had commenced across six western and southern provinces and would continue until mid-March. These exercises — in joint operations between the ideologically motivated guards and the conventional army — were reportedly designed to counter “new threats”, he said, without providing specifics. “The number of drills has almost doubled this year compared to last year, in response to the evolving threat landscape,” Naeini told the Financial Times on the sidelines of a press briefing in Tehran. “These exercises are significantly larger in scope and sophistication, featuring new weaponry and expanded participation of brigades engaged in realistic operations.”

<https://www.ft.com/content/a027684f-50cf-454f-af8d-97c092cc886d>

Will Iran build a nuclear bomb while Trump is in power in the US?

Maziar Motamedi

Al-Jazeera, January 11, 2025

Donald Trump's second term as president of the United States promises Iran a rocky road that could lead to different outcomes when it comes to its relations with the West, analysts say. US leaders, along with Israelis, have been openly discussing military strikes on top Iranian nuclear facilities and critical infrastructure like power plants and oil and petrochemical facilities. Iran's leaders, including Supreme Leader Ayatollah Ali Khamenei, remain defiant, and its Islamic Revolutionary Guard Corps (IRGC) have held large-scale military exercises, predominantly focusing on defending sensitive sites. For more than two decades, Iran's relationship with the West has largely been defined by developments in the country's nuclear programme and efforts to stop it from getting a bomb. Tehran has consistently maintained that it does not seek a weapon of mass destruction.

<https://www.aljazeera.com/news/2025/1/11/will-iran-go-for-a-nuclear-bomb-while-trump-is-in-power-in-the-us>

Iran unveils daunting laser-powered air defence system

Mehr News Agency, January 13, 2025

Iran's Army has unveiled a state-of-the-art laser-powered air defence system during its Air Defense Forces' military maneuvers in the country's western and northern areas.

The equipment, named Seraj (Light), was wheeled out on Sunday as the defence forces were drilling near the country's Fordow uranium enrichment facility. The Army identified the system as only one of the layers providing the site with air defence services. Observers have described the apparatus as "daunting," pointing to Western states' expressing surprise concerning the phenomenon. The exercises, during which the Air Defense Forces conducted various reconnaissance, interception, confrontation, and destruction operations against mock enemy forces, featured the deployment of various other defence systems too. The forces carried out airstrikes using missiles as a means of defending the strategic and sensitive areas under their jurisdiction.

<https://en.mehrnews.com/news/226836/Iran-unveils-daunting-laser-powered-air-defense-system>

Iran unveils new thunder/tondar mobile air defence missile system amid rising tensions with Israel

Global Defence News, January 13, 2025

In January 2025, during the Iranian air defence military exercise dubbed Eqtedar 1403, the Iranian Armed Forces unveiled the Thunder (Tondar) mobile air defence missile system. This latest addition to Iran's air defence arsenal is designed to intercept and destroy aerial targets at high altitudes, a critical component of the country's growing defence capabilities. The unveiling of the Thunder system occurs against the backdrop of escalating tensions with Israel, which has long been considered a major adversary, especially regarding

Iran's nuclear ambitions and regional activities. Iran's focus on strengthening its Indigenous air defence systems has been fueled not only by the threat of military action from Israel but also by the continuing effects of international sanctions that limit the country's access to foreign military technology.

<https://armyrecognition.com/news/army-news/2025/iran-unveils-new-thunder-tondar-mobile-air-defense-missile-system-amid-rising-tensions-with-israel?isExternal=true>

Iran unveils daunting laser-powered air defence system

Mehr News Agency, January 13, 2025

Iran's Army has unveiled a state-of-the-art laser-powered air defence system during its Air Defense Forces' military maneuvers in the country's western and northern areas. The equipment, named Seraj (Light), was wheeled out on Sunday as the defence forces were drilling near the country's Fordow uranium enrichment facility. The Army identified the system as only one of the layers providing the site with air defence services.

<https://en.mehrnews.com/news/226836/Iran-unveils-daunting-laser-powered-air-defense-system>

Iran tests laser air defense system amid potential Israeli threats to nuclear sites

Army Recognition, January 14, 2025

As tensions persist over the possibility of Israeli attacks targeting Iran's nuclear facilities, Tehran has undertaken large-scale military exercises to strengthen the

defence of its critical infrastructure. On January 12, 2025, Iran unveiled a new laser-based air defence system, named “Seraj,” during exercises conducted in the western and northern regions of the country. This advanced system, designed to protect sensitive sites such as the Fordow uranium enrichment facility, has garnered significant attention. The system operates by emitting a high-energy photon beam capable of intercepting and disabling aerial targets through rapid heating, leading to structural failure. Although specific technical details of the Seraj system remain undisclosed, reports from Mehr News Agency describe it as formidable. Integrated into the multilayered air defence systems surrounding Iran's nuclear installations, the Seraj is regarded as a key component in deterring potential strikes from Israel or the United States. Laser technology offers unique advantages as a cost-effective and efficient solution for neutralizing aerial threats, including drones and missiles, while minimizing collateral damage.

<https://armyrecognition.com/news/army-news/2025/iran-tests-laser-air-defense-system-amid-potential-israeli-threats-to-nuclear-sites>

Iran's navy unveils its first signals intelligence ship

Arab News, January 15, 2025

Iran's navy received its first signals intelligence ship on Wednesday, semi-official Tasnim news organization reported, a few days after the country's army took delivery of 1,000 new drones. The Zagros is a new category of military vessel

equipped with electronic sensors and the ability to intercept cyber-operations and conduct intelligence monitoring, Tasnim said. “The Zagros signals intelligence ship will be the watchful eye of Iran's navy in the seas and oceans,” Navy Commander Shahram Irani said. Earlier this month, Iran started two-month-long military exercises which have already included war games in which the elite Revolutionary Guards defended key nuclear installations in Natanz against mock attacks by missiles and drones. The military drills and procurement come at a time of high tensions with arch-enemy Israel and the United States under incoming US president Donald Trump.

<https://www.arabnews.com/node/2586507/middle-east>

Iran's deterrence doctrine: From horizontal resilience to vertical strength

Dr Umud Shokri

Middle East Monitor, January 15, 2025

Iran is moving from a horizontal to a vertical stance in its deterrent strategy, which is a major change. The decrease in its regional influence and the waning effectiveness of its proxy networks have forced a strategic recalibration, which is reflected in this change. Iran has historically projected strength outside of its boundaries using a horizontal deterrent strategy known as “forward defence” or “mosaic defence”, which included the employment of proxies, ballistic missiles, naval guerrilla tactics and cyber technologies. It aimed to neutralise threats before they reached its territory by keeping its defensive depth. Recent events,

however, have highlighted this policy's shortcomings, leading to a shift toward a more centralised and technologically driven deterrence posture.

<https://www.middleeastmonitor.com/2025/01/15-irans-deterrence-doctrine-from-horizontal-resilience-to-vertical-strength/>

Iraq

Al-Sudani: We aspire to see the UK as a strategic partner in our ambitious projects

Iraqi News Agency, January 13, 2025

Prime Minister Mohamed Shia Al-Sudani revealed the objectives of his visit to London, noting that the relationship between Iraq and the United Kingdom has witnessed major transformations over recent decades, he stressed that the United Kingdom's exports to Iraq exceeded one billion dollars in 2024. The Prime Minister said, in an article published on the Telegraph newspaper and followed by the Iraqi News Agency (INA): "This visit reflects my government's commitment to strengthening the strategic partnership between Iraq and the UK, a partnership deeply rooted in history and one that aspires to broader horizons of economic, trade, and cultural co-operation." He added "Meeting His Majesty the King holds great symbolic significance as it underscores the enduring historical ties between our two countries and highlights the importance we place on deepening dialogue and co-ordination on issues of security, stability and development in our region."

<https://ina.iq/eng/37685-al-sudani-we-aspire-to-see-the-uk-as-a-strategic-partner->

[in-our-ambitious-projects-foremost-among-them-the-development-road-initiative.html](https://www.al-monitor.com/originals/2025/01/iraq-and-uk-reach-mega-infrastructure-deals-reset-ties)

Iraq and UK reach mega-infrastructure deals in reset of ties

Tony Gamal-Gabriel

Al-Monitor, January 14, 2025

Iraq's Prime Minister Mohammed Shia al-Sudani met Tuesday with his UK counterpart Keir Starmer, securing a £12.3 billion (\$15 billion) trade and investment package during a UK visit hailed as a "new era" in ties. The Iraqi leader's trip to London, during which he also met King Charles III, focused on security, migration and infrastructure, with the two leaders agreeing a strategic "defence relationship" to deepen cooperation. It comes more than 20 years after Britain took part in the US-led invasion which left the country reeling from conflict for years. Starmer -- who entered Downing Street last July -- is eager to reset ties with a host of capitals, from Beijing to Brussels, and keen to seal any deals to boost Britain's ailing economy.

<https://www.al-monitor.com/originals/2025/01/iraq-and-uk-reach-mega-infrastructure-deals-reset-ties>

Israel

US plans \$8 billion arms sale to Israel, US officials say

The Economic Times, January 5, 2025

U.S. President Joe Biden's administration has notified Congress of a proposed \$8 billion arms sale to Israel, two U.S. officials said, with Washington maintaining support for its ally whose war in Gaza has killed

tens of thousands. The deal would need approval from House of Representatives and Senate committees and includes munitions for fighter jets and attack helicopters as well as artillery shells. The package also includes small-diameter bombs and warheads, according to the sources. One source familiar with the package said Biden had been clear that Israel had a right to defend its citizens "consistent with international law and international humanitarian law," and that the U.S. would continue to provide the capabilities necessary for Israel's defence.

<https://economictimes.indiatimes.com/news/defence/us-plans-8-billion-arms-sale-to-israel-axios-reports/articleshow/116930174.cms?from=mdr>

Defence Ministry secures NIS 1b. deals with Elbit systems to boost military self-sufficiency

Jerusalem Post, January 7, 2025

The Defense Ministry signed two major agreements with Elbit Systems, totalling approximately NIS 1 billion, as part of a strategic effort to strengthen the IDF's self-sufficiency and operational readiness. The deals, signed by Defense Ministry Director-General Maj.-Gen. (res.) Eyal Zamir and Elbit Systems CEO Bezhalel Machlis are expected to bolster the country's domestic defence manufacturing capabilities. The agreements are part of an overarching initiative inspired by lessons learned from recent military conflicts, the ministry said. It added that the contracts were the result of in-depth planning aimed at securing long-

term supply stability for critical defence resources.

<https://www.jpost.com/israel-news/article-836425>

Israel signs deals with defence firm Elbit to make bombs domestically

Steven Scheer

Zawya. January 7, 2025

Israel's Defence Ministry had signed deals worth around \$275 million with the country's largest domestic private arms maker Elbit ESLT.TA to make heavy bombs and raw materials needed for defence, reducing dependence on imports. "These strategic agreements are crucial for enhancing the Israel Defence Force's operational endurance and force build-up capabilities," it said, describing the need to reduce dependence on imports as "a central lesson" from the war in Gaza. Under one agreement, Elbit will supply the military with thousands of heavy air munitions. The second deal would establish a plant to produce raw materials previously sourced mainly from abroad. The ministry did not specify the raw materials but suggested they were used to make munitions. "Today, we are laying the foundations for expanding manufacturing independence in two critical areas for the IDF's operational sustainability - domestic production of heavy air munitions and establishing a national raw materials plant," said Eyal Zamir, director general of the defence ministry.

<https://www.zawya.com/en/world/middle-east/israel-signs-deals-with-defence-firm->

[elbit-to-make-bombs-domestically-bzrkbp7](https://www.janes.com/osint-insights/defence-news/air/israels-ministry-of-defense-creates-ai-and-autonomy-administration)

Israel's ministry of defence creates AI and autonomy administration

Tamara Rozouvan

Janes, January 8, 2025

The new administration, under the Directorate of Defence Research & Development (DDR&D), will aim to “advance AI and autonomous capabilities within Israel's defence establishment”, the MoD said on 2 January. This comes as Israel continues its drive in autonomous weapons development. In December 2024 the DDR&D completed several contracts with Israeli company Elbit Systems totalling around USD40 million to supply the Israel Defense Forces (IDF) with “advanced drones and autonomous systems”. The contract likely includes small unmanned aerial vehicles (UAVs) that use Elbit's Legion-X autonomous mission system, which underpins its HuntAir-X system for co-ordinating swarms of surveillance UAVs. Elbit Systems unveiled what it called a “tactical airdrop munition” called TerminaThor in early December 2024 that can carry up to six M66 bomblets, 1.2 kg munitions developed by Elbit, which have been modified for use by UAVs. A human operator has to be in the loop before engaging with the target, Janes understands.

<https://www.janes.com/osint-insights/defence-news/air/israels-ministry-of-defense-creates-ai-and-autonomy-administration>

An ‘Iron Dome’ to stop wildfires: Israeli startup’s ‘FireDome’ is based on missile defence

Sharon Wrobel Follow

Times of Israel, January 12, 2025

In the midst of war, as sirens were blaring almost every day to signal barrages of incoming rockets, Israel’s Iron Dome air defence system tracked and intercepted missiles to help protect and save lives. For Gadi Benjamini, the Iron Dome in January last year inspired the idea behind the development of a system to fight wildfires and prevent them from spreading. “Similar to a war to fight wildfires, there are the firefighters, which are the infantry. There are airplanes, but darkness makes it harder to fly during the night and also during strong winds, and what we develop is a kind of artillery support,” FireDome co-founder and CEO Gadi Benjamini told The Times of Israel. “The biggest challenge in the climate tech area are wildfires, and more specifically, the reaction to wildfires, because many companies focus on detection.” “What we develop is a system to enhance firefighters’ abilities and capabilities to address more fires simultaneously, like spot fires and embers and to reach places where sometimes they can’t, due to different logistics constraints that they have,” he added.

<https://www.timesofisrael.com/israeli-startup-takes-inspiration-from-iron-dome-for-system-to-stop-wildfires/>

Kuwait

UK Defence Senior Advisor concludes first visit to Kuwait

Times Kuwait, January 15, 2025

Vice Admiral Edward Ahlgren OBE MA, the United Kingdom's Defence Senior Advisor to the Middle East, said "Defence collaboration is a cornerstone of the UK and Kuwait's long-standing friendship, and I am incredibly grateful for the warm welcome that has been afforded to me on my first visit here as DSAME." Vice Admiral Edward Ahlgren OBE MA, the United Kingdom's Defence Senior Advisor to the Middle East (DSAME), has wrapped up his two-day visit to Kuwait, marking his first since being appointed to the role in February 2024.

<https://timeskuwait.com/uk-defence-senior-advisor-concludes-first-visit-to-kuwait/>

Lebanon

Lebanese, French army chiefs discuss military cooperation

Yusuf Alioglu

Anadolu Agency, January 4, 2025

Lebanese Army Commander Gen. Joseph Aoun held discussions with French Army Chief of Staff General Thierry Burkhard, focusing on ways to enhance military cooperation between the two countries. The meeting took place during Burkhard's visit to Beirut, according to Lebanon's National News Agency. The talks between Aoun and Burkhard addressed "the general situation in Lebanon, ways to strengthen cooperation

between the two armies, and continuing support for the Lebanese Army under the current circumstances," the agency reported. France is a member of the quintet committee overseeing the implementation of the cease-fire between Lebanon and Israel, alongside the US and the UN Interim Force in Lebanon (UNIFIL). Under the terms of the cease-fire, Israel is required to withdraw its forces south of the Blue Line – a de facto border – in phases, while the Lebanese army is to deploy in southern Lebanon within 60 days. Data from the Lebanese Health Ministry indicates that since Israel's onslaught against Lebanon began on Oct. 8, 2023, at least 4,063 victims have been killed, including women, children, and health workers, while 16,664 others have been injured.

<https://www.aa.com.tr/en/middle-east/lebanese-french-army-chiefs-discuss-military-cooperation/3441915>

Lebanese army enters southern town of Naqoura after Israeli withdrawal

Naim Berjawi

Anadolu Agency, January 6, 2025

The Lebanese army entered the town of Naqoura in the Tyre district in southern Lebanon, the third town reclaimed following Israel's withdrawal. According to the state-run National News Agency, the army vehicles, backed by UN Interim Force in Lebanon (UNIFIL) troops, entered Naqoura at 3.20 pm local time. The agency reported that a Lebanese army bulldozer was seen in the convoy. It comes after a meeting of the Five-Party Committee on Cease-fire Monitoring in Ras Naqoura,

attended by US envoy Amos Hochstein. On Dec. 31, the Lebanese army announced its entry into Shama, the second town vacated by Israeli forces after Khiam on Dec. 12. The withdrawals align with the cease-fire agreement implemented on Nov. 27.

<https://www.aa.com.tr/en/middle-east/lebanese-army-enters-southern-town-of-naqoura-after-israeli-withdrawal/3443291>

Indigenously manufactured vehicles to reach Lebanon for use by Indian contingent in UNIFIL

Economic Times, January 8, 2025

In a boost for 'Make in India' initiative, 62 indigenously manufactured vehicles are set to reach Lebanon for utilisation by the Indian contingent deployed in the United Nations Interim Force in Lebanon (UNIFIL), defence sources said on Wednesday. The fleet comprises high mobility troop carriage vehicles, utility vehicles (one tonne and 2.5 tonne), medium and light ambulances, fuel bowsers and recovery vehicles, they said. Until now, the Indian troops serving in the UN peacekeeping mission in Lebanon were operating the vehicles provided by the United Nations. These vehicles were sourced from other countries, a defence source said.

<https://economictimes.indiatimes.com/news/defence/indigenously-manufactured-vehicles-to-reach-lebanon-for-use-by-indian-contingent-in-unifil/articleshow/117057904.cms?from=mdr>

Oman

India, Oman looking at finalising comprehensive trade, investment deal soon

Business Standard, January 15, 2025

India and Oman are looking at sealing a broad trade and investment pact this year that will cut tariffs on each other's goods and boost the overall trade basket in line with renewed vigour in the relations, especially in the economic sphere. The negotiations for a comprehensive economic partnership agreement (CEPA) gained new momentum after Oman's Sultan Haitham bin Tarik travelled to India over a year back. Omani Commerce Minister Qais bin Mohammad Al-Yousef told PTI that Muscat is hopeful of concluding the ambitious trade pact with India this year, which is expected to significantly expand the two-way trade and investment ties between the two countries. There has been a major upswing in economic ties between the two countries in the last few years with India emerging as one of the top trading partners of Oman. India was the fourth largest market for Oman's crude oil exports for the year 2023 after South Korea. India was also the third largest market for Oman's non-oil exports in 2023 after Saudi Arabia.

https://www.business-standard.com/external-affairs-defence-security/news/india-oman-looking-at-finalising-comprehensive-trade-investment-deal-soon-125011500552_1.html

Saudi Arabia

Saudi Arabia Eyes Purchase of 100 KAAAN Fighter Jets from Turkey

Defense Mirror, January 1, 2025

Saudi Arabia is reportedly pursuing a deal to acquire 100 KAAAN fighter jets from Turkey as part of its Vision 2030 initiative. The discussions regarding the deal took place during a meeting in Istanbul last week between Haluk Gorgun, head of the Turkish Defence Industries Directorate, and Saudi Assistant Defence Minister Khalid Bin Hussein Al-Bayari. The Commander of the Royal Saudi Air Force, Turki Bin Bandar Al-Saud, was also present, as per reports. Saudi Arabia's interest in the KAAAN jets likely stems partly from the U.S. refusal to supply the Kingdom with F-35 aircraft over its purchase of Russian S-400 missile systems. Analysts view this as a signal from Riyadh to Washington that it has alternative sources for military technology. Saudi Arabia reportedly sees the KAAAN jets as a stopgap measure until it secures more advanced aircraft in the future.

https://www.defensemirror.com/news/38515/Saudi_Arabia_Eyes_Purchase_of_100_KAAAN_Fighter_Jets_from_Turkey

Saudi Arabia seeks MK 54 torpedoes in \$78.5m US FMS sale

Naval Technology, January 6, 2025

The US State Department has authorised a potential foreign military sale (FMS) to Saudi Arabia, which includes MK 54 MOD 0 Lightweight Torpedoes and

associated support, with an estimated cost of \$78.5m. The Defense Security Cooperation Agency has officially notified Congress of the potential transaction. The sale encompasses 20 MK 54 MOD 0 Lightweight Torpedo units. This MK 54 MOD 0, an anti-submarine weapon for surface ships and aircraft, combines existing technology with “advanced” digital signal processing from commercial sources. This integration aims to enhance performance while reducing lifecycle costs. Additionally, continuous software updates are provided through the Torpedo Advanced Processor Build process.

<https://www.naval-technology.com/news/saudi-arabia-seeks-mk-54-torpedoes/>

Syria

How Syria's rebels developed lethal drone technology

The Economic Times, December 5, 2024

Syria's Hayat Tahrir al-Sham (HTS) has undergone a remarkable transformation from a beleaguered jihadist faction to a well-organised militant force with advanced weaponry and tactics. Leveraging local manufacturing and tactical innovation, the group now poses significant challenges to the Assad regime. HTS's evolving strategy, rooted in Western military doctrines and a disciplined command structure, has enabled it to expand its influence, capture advanced weapons, and defy adversaries despite international sanctions and a volatile region. Just five years ago, Hayat Tahrir al-Sham (HTS), Syria's most

prominent Islamist rebel group, was a beleaguered jihadist force fighting for survival after relentless assaults by the Russian-backed Assad regime. Today, HTS operates as a polished proto-military force in its stronghold of Idlib province. Its transformation is marked by a centralised command structure, specialised combat units, advanced weaponry, and locally developed manufacturing capabilities, as reported by the Financial Times. This shift underscores HTS's evolving role in Syria's prolonged conflict and its challenge to regional stability.

<https://economictimes.indiatimes.com/news/defence/how-syrias-rebels-developed-lethal-drone-technology/articleshow/116008411.cms?from=mdr>

Turkiye

Turkiye's technological leap in 2024: A year of space, defence

Gokhan Ergocun

Anadolu Agency, January 1, 2025

Turkiye's technological landscape in 2024 was characterised by a focus on self-sufficiency in defence technologies, advancements in quantum and AI computing, entering the space field, and a push toward sustainable and digital economic growth. These developments not only enhance the country's technological sovereignty but also position it as an emerging player in global tech innovation on the global scale. As a recent significant step, Turkiye's first quantum computer was commissioned in cooperation with the defence firm Aselsan and the TOBB

University of Economics and Technology in Ankara in November.

<https://www.aa.com.tr/en/science-technology/turkiyes-technological-leap-in-2024-a-year-of-space-defense/3439519>

Turkiye enters 2025 after pivotal year for defence, space progress

Daily Sabah, January 2, 2025

Turkiye's technology and defense landscape last year was characterized by a series of key developments focusing on self-sufficiency, such as advancements in quantum and AI computing, enhancing the push in the space field, and milestones such as the maiden flight of homegrown fighter jet. These developments not only enhance the country's technological sovereignty but also position it as an emerging player in global tech innovation on the international scale. As a recent significant step, Turkiye's first quantum computer was commissioned in cooperation with the defence firm Aselsan and the TOBB University of Economics and Technology in Ankara in November. The quantum computer will enable the country to build its quantum computer market.

<https://www.dailysabah.com/business/defense/turkiye-enters-2025-after-pivotal-year-for-defense-space-progress>

Turkish navy starts construction of three new warships

Cem Devrim Yaylali

Defense News, January 3, 2025

The Turkish navy has begun the new year by announcing the construction of three warships based on domestic designs: a

submarine, an aircraft carrier and the lead ship of the highly anticipated TF-2000 air-defence destroyer series. The shipbuilding programs are closely linked to the political and naval ambitions of Turkey, honing the country's long-range force projection and strike capabilities, in particular. The new work brings the total number Turkish naval ships under construction to 31, according to service officials. The additions are meant to bolster the country's local shipbuilding chops, a key element in the government's preference for building weapons at home, versus importing them. The first weld for the National Submarine (MILDEN) was completed at Gölcük Naval Shipyard. Due to the general secrecy surrounding submarine operations, the Turkish Navy has shared only limited details about the project.

<https://www.defensenews.com/global/europe/2025/01/03/turkish-navy-starts-construction-of-three-new-warships/>

Turkiye begins work on MUGEM carrier, TF-2000 destroyer, MILDEN Sub

Naval Technology, January 3, 2025

The Turkish Ministry of Defence has revealed the commencement of works on MUGEM indigenous aircraft carrier, the TF-2000 anti-air warfare (AAW) destroyer, and the MILDEN indigenous submarine. The ministry held ceremonies to mark the start of construction of MUGEM and TF-2000 at Istanbul Naval Shipyard, while MILDEN's event was held at Golcuk Naval Shipyard. The events were attended by Turkish Navy officials and representatives from the shipyards, according to the video

post on the MoD's X account. At the SAHA EXPO 2024, the Turkish Navy displayed a mock-up of the MUGEM aircraft carrier.

<https://www.naval-technology.com/news/turkiye-navy-vessels/>

Buoyed by drones, NATO deals, Turkey defence exports hit record \$7.1B

Ezgi Akin

Al-Monitor, January 3, 2025

Turkey's defence industry exports surpassed \$7.1 billion last year, the head of Turkey's Defense Industry Agency (SSB) announced Friday, marking a significant milestone. "In 2024, our defence and aviation industry exports, including NATO and service exports, reached a new record by increasing by 29%, reaching \$7.154 billion," SSB Chairman Haluk Gorgun wrote on X. The figure exceeded Turkey's 2024 defence export target of \$6.5 billion. Gorgun also noted that Turkey exported defence products to 180 countries but did not provide further details. Turkey is poised to further increase its defence exports. A leading international arms fair held in October resulted in export agreements totaling \$4.6 billion. Turkey's NATO ally Spain agreed to purchase 24 Hurjet jet trainers, produced by Turkish Aerospace Industries (TUSAS), under a memorandum of understanding signed between the two countries in December.

<https://www.al-monitor.com/originals/2025/01/buoyed-drones-nato-deals-turkey-defense-exports-hit-record-71b>

Turkiye ranks 11th in countries exporting defence products

Dilara Aslan

Daily Sabah, January 15, 2025

Turkiye left behind a fruitful year, full of critical developments, in its defence industry, developing its product portfolio, mass productions, R&D as well as innovation, Presidency of Defense Industries (SSB) head Haluk Gorgun said. Speaking at a meeting with media representatives in the capital Ankara, Gorgun said: "We exported to 185 countries in 2024. Our export figures exceeded \$7 billion. "We expect to place among the countries with two-digit (billion dollar) export figures within two years," Gorgun said, indicating that about 1,600 out of 3,500 defence industry companies have managed to make exports so far. Gorgun pointed out that most agreements in 2024 were made with European countries. Accordingly, five of the 10 countries receiving the most exports were European. "2024 was also the year we made the most project applications to NATO. We will have more cooperation with the alliance in 2025." He elaborated that he would meet with the NATO secretary-general and high-level officials of several countries.

<https://www.dailysabah.com/business/defence/turkiye-ranks-11th-in-countries-exporting-defense-products>

United Arab Emirates

International Defence Conference 2025 to kick off February 16

Emirates News Agency, January 6, 2025

The International Defence Conference (IDC) 2025 will take place on 16th February under the theme "Defence Reimagined: Innovation, Integration and Resilience". The event coincides with the International Defence Exhibition and Conference (IDEX) and Naval Defence & Maritime Security Exhibition (NAVDEX) 2025. Organised by ADNEC Group in strategic partnership with the Ministry of Defence and in collaboration with the Tawazun Council, IDC serves as a global platform bringing together key decision-makers, experts, and leaders from around the world. The event aims to promote collaboration among nations, institutions, and defence companies by discussing key global issues and threats and presenting innovative solutions to overcome future challenges.

<https://www.wam.ae/en/article/bhjxu01-international-defence-conference-2025-kick-off>

UAE's tech industry set to achieve record growth in 2025

The Economic Times, January 11, 2025

The UAE's technology industry is expected to grow significantly in 2025, thanks to digital innovation and the adoption of new technologies. The nation's supportive environment, infrastructure, and regulations make it a global tech hub. Key areas of growth include AI, cloud

computing, and blockchain. This will attract global and emerging tech companies, boosting market revenues. The UAE's technology industry is set to achieve record growth in 2025, driven by significant expansion in digital innovation and the adoption of cutting-edge technologies. This growth further solidifies the UAE's stature as a global hub for innovation and an international beacon for tech companies. The UAE has strengthened its position on the global map as an innovation-driven environment and an exceptional destination for the expansion of both global and emerging tech companies. This has been made possible through its sustainable investments in digital infrastructure development and the establishment of supportive regulations and policies that create a favourable climate for innovation and growth.

<https://economictimes.indiatimes.com/tech/technology/uaes-tech-industry-set-to-achieve-record-growth-in-2025/articleshow/117144489.cms?from=mdr>

UAE and India forge strategic collaboration in polar research

United Arab Emirates Ministry of Foreign Affairs, January 10, 2025

The United Arab Emirates (UAE) and the Republic of India have signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU), in a monumental step aiming to strengthen their comprehensive strategic partnership and close historic relations, and support mutual efforts in a field of critical global importance. The MoU between the

Emirates Polar Program and the National Centre for Polar and Ocean Research (NCPOR) of India was signed during the 15th session of the UAE-India Joint Committee Meeting. The signing ceremony was officiated by H.E. Abdulla Balalaa, Assistant Minister for Energy and Sustainable Affairs and Deputy Chair of the UAE Polar Mission Steering Committee, and Dr. M. Ravichandran, Secretary in the Ministry of Earth Sciences (MoES) of India.

<https://www.mofa.gov.ae/en/mediahub/news/2025/1/10/10-1-2025-uae-india>

ADSB launches first vessel in 'FALAJ 3' Programme

Emirates News Agency, January 14, 2025

EDGE Group entity Abu Dhabi Ship Building (ADSB) celebrated a significant milestone with the launch of the first FALAJ 3 class vessel during a ceremony held at the ADSB shipyard. This launch marks a pivotal phase in fulfilling the contract with the Ministry of Defence (MOD), paving the way for an advanced fleet of vessels designed to enhance national defence capabilities. Under the patronage of Rear Admiral Pilot Staff Major General Sheikh Saeed bin Hamdan bin Mohammed Al Nahyan, Commander of the UAE Naval Forces, the ceremony brought together dignitaries, military officials, and senior EDGE and ADSB leadership to commemorate the vessel's debut.

<https://www.wam.ae/article/bhopaly-adsb-launches-first-vessel-falaj-programme>

Yemen

Yemen's Houthis claim missile attack on power plant in northern Israel

Mohammed Sameai

Anadolu Agency, January 5, 2025

Yemen's Houthi group said Sunday that it targeted a power plant in Haifa in northern Israel amid escalation over Tel Aviv's genocidal war on the Gaza Strip. Military spokesman Yahya Saree said a hypersonic ballistic missile was fired at the Orot Rabin power station in southern Haifa. He said that the missile hit its target, without providing any details. The spokesman vowed to continue attacks against Israeli targets until Israel halts its offensive on Gaza and ends its blockade on the enclave. The Israeli army, for its part, confirmed that its air defence intercepted a missile from Yemen before entering Israeli airspace. The Houthis have targeted Israeli cargo ships or those associated with Tel Aviv in the Red Sea with missiles and drones in a show of support with the Gaza Strip, where over 45,700 people have been killed in Israel's genocidal war since Oct. 7, 2023.

<https://www.aa.com.tr/en/middle-east/yemen-s-houthis-claim-missile-attack-on-power-plant-in-northern-israel/3442137>

NUCLEAR AND ARMS CONTROL CENTRE

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