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मनोहर पर्रिकर रक्षा अध्ययन एवं विश्लेषण संस्थान

Armenia

Armenia's interior minister lauds broad partnership with U.S.

Armenpress, January 16, 2025

The recently signed Strategic Partnership Charter with the U.S. includes, among others, directions for development of cooperation with the Ministry of Internal Affairs, the Minister of Internal Affairs Arpine Sargsyan has said. "We have a rather broad partnership with our US colleagues," Sargsyan said at a press conference. "And the recently signed document in Washington includes points pertaining to the continuity of partnership with the ministry of internal affairs." On January 14, Armenian Foreign Minister Ararat Mirzoyan and U.S. Secretary of State Antony Blinken launched the U.S.-Armenia Strategic Partnership Commission.

<https://armenpress.am/en/article/1209645>

Armenia selects India's Trajan 155mm howitzer to modernise its artillery capabilities

Global Defence News, January 16, 2025

The selection of India's Trajan 155mm towed howitzer represents a significant step in Armenia's artillery modernization. It also highlights India's growing influence as a supplier of advanced military technologies in the region. By partnering with India, Armenia gains access to state-of-the-art defense equipment, a crucial factor for a country that has been trying to modernize its forces amid shifting geopolitical dynamics. The Trajan 155mm

towed artillery gun system, developed by India's Bharat Forge in collaboration with Indian defense agencies and French Company Nexter, now KNDS, is a next-generation piece of artillery that offers superior accuracy, mobility, and firepower.

<https://armyrecognition.com/news/army-news/2025/armenia-selects-indias-trajan-155mm-howitzer-to-modernize-its-artillery-capabilities>

Azerbaijan

Azerbaijan sets record \$5bn military budget amid looming economic hurdles

Vahram Revazyan

CivilNet, January 22, 2025

Azerbaijan's decision to allocate a record \$5 billion to military spending in its 2025 budget underscores a risky gamble amid economic uncertainties. This increase comes as the country grapples with declining oil revenues and the deterioration of fiscal buffers in the budget to sustain government spending. The 2025 budget projects oil prices at \$70 per barrel, significantly higher than the conservative benchmarks used in recent years. This assumption leaves little room to absorb shocks, especially given global market forecasts that suggest potential oversupply in the oil market. Should oil prices fall below the anticipated level, Azerbaijan's budgetary stability will rely even more heavily on its State Oil Fund (SOFAZ), which already faces financial strain. Notably, international forecasts for oil prices 2025 hover around \$75 per barrel, indicating that the budget includes almost

no buffer. If oil prices dip below \$70 per barrel, Azerbaijan may be forced further to increase transfers from SOFAZ to the state budget.

<https://www.civilnet.am/en/news/813320/azerbaijan-sets-record-5bn-military-budget-amid-looming-economic-hurdles/>

Armenian intelligence sees low risk of large-scale conflict with Azerbaijan in 2025

Akbar Novruz

Azernews, January 23, 2025

Armenian intelligence has assessed the probability of large-scale military action by Azerbaijan against Armenia in 2025 as low, according to a recent report by Armenia's Foreign Intelligence Service, Azernews reports. The report, which examines key risks and threats for the year, underscores that while a full-scale war is deemed unlikely, localized skirmishes and escalations remain plausible. According to Armenian media, the analysis highlights that ongoing border delimitation and demarcation processes could play a role in reducing the likelihood of broader confrontations. However, the report also warns that the absence of a concrete peace treaty increases the risk of sporadic clashes. Bilateral negotiations between Armenia and Azerbaijan are noted as the most viable avenue for reducing tensions, but delays in normalizing relations or signing peace agreements may lead to prolonged uncertainty and heightened risks.

<https://www.azernews.az/karabakh/236835.html>

Cyprus

Cyprus hails new access to US defence goods

Al-monitor, January 16, 2025

Cyprus on Thursday heralded a move by United States President Joe Biden allowing the strategic Mediterranean country access to military equipment. Traditionally aligned with Russia, European Union member Cyprus has solidified a more pro-American stance since the election of President Nikos Christodoulides in 2023. In a memorandum issued by the White House on Wednesday, Biden said "the furnishing of defence articles and defence services to the Republic of Cyprus will strengthen the security of the United States and promote world peace." Biden's decision makes Cyprus eligible "to receive defence equipment, supplies, and services" through programmes including Foreign Military Sales and the Excess Defense Articles divestment initiative, Washington's embassy to Nicosia said on its website.

<https://www.al-monitor.com/originals/2025/01/cyprus-hails-new-access-us-defence-goods>

Iran

Russia-Iran pact will not include mutual defence clause

Alarabiya, January 16, 2025

A strategic cooperation agreement that Russia and Iran are poised to sign will not include a mutual defense clause like pacts that Moscow has signed with Pyongyang and Minsk citing Iran's envoy. "The nature

of this agreement is different. They (Belarus and North Korea) established partnership relations (with Moscow) in a number of areas that we did not particularly touch upon. For all the latest headlines, follow our Google News channel online or via the app. Our country's independence and security, as well as self-reliance, are extremely important. We are not interested in joining any bloc," Kazem Jalali, Iran's ambassador to Moscow, was cited as saying by TASS. Russia has partnerships with North Korea and Belarus which include a mutual defense provision. Jalali was quoted as saying that Iran would ensure its own security.

<https://english.alarabiya.net/News/middle-east/2025/01/16/russia-iran-pact-will-not-include-mutual-defense-clause>

Iran not to negotiate on its defence, military power ever

Mehrnews, January 20, 2025

Iranian Foreign Ministry Spokesman Esmail Baghaei has emphasized that the Islamic will never negotiate on its defence and military capabilities. Speaking at his weekly presser, Baghaei reacted to the rumors spreading over alleged negotiation between Iran and Europe over the Islamic Republic's missile program. "It is not unusual for the parties to raise their arguments, and this is not unprecedented. However, what should be considered is that Iran will not negotiate about its defence and military capabilities in any way," the senior Iranian diplomat stressed. Elsewhere in his remarks, Baghaei said that the current Iranian administration will give a reciprocal

answer if the so-called snapback mechanism is activated.

<https://en.mehrnews.com/news/227177/Iran-not-to-negotiate-on-its-defence-military-power>

Iran and Pakistan consider strategic collaboration in military equipment production

Army Recognition, January 21, 2025

General Baqeri's visit to Islamabad builds on a history of bilateral defense cooperation. In 2018, similar discussions resulted in commitments to develop joint defense projects. Agreements signed between Iran's Defence Minister, Brigadier General Amir Hatami, and Pakistan's Defence Minister Rana Tanveer Hussain included enhancing military training, intelligence sharing, and border security. While such exchanges have faced constraints due to international pressures, they demonstrate a consistent effort by both countries to strengthen their collaboration. During his visit, General Baqeri also met with Pakistani President Asif Ali Zardari to discuss ways to deepen strategic cooperation. The discussions highlighted both nations' commitment to addressing border-related challenges, including armed groups and ongoing security threats. This pragmatic approach reflects a shared intent to tackle immediate issues while laying the groundwork for sustainable cooperation.

<https://armyrecognition.com/news/army-news/2025/iran-and-pakistan-consider-strategic-collaboration-in-military-equipment-production>

Iran, Oman ink MoU in PTA, customs fields

Mehrnews, January 24, 2025

Iran and the Sultanate of Oman on Friday signed a joint economic cooperation agreement in the fields of the Preferential Trade Agreement (PTA) and customs cooperation. The 21st edition of Iran-Oman Joint Cooperation meeting was held in the Omani capital of Muscat. Iranian Minister of Industry, Mine and Trade Mohammad Atabak pointed to the signing of a joint memorandum of understanding (MoU) inked between Iran and Oman and noted three specific agendas were put forward at the meeting including preferential trade agreement (PTA) and the removal of tariffs on goods between the two countries which was agreed upon, so that its executive activities will be carried out by the next week. Supporting the investment opportunities between the two countries was also put on the agenda and preliminary steps have been taken in this regard, the minister added. In addition, customs and administrative cooperation between the two countries were taken into serious consideration to facilitate trade activities.

<https://en.mehrnews.com/news/227358/Iran-Oman-ink-MoU-in-PTA-customs-fields>

Iran conducts first live firing of new 9-dey air defence missile due to rising threat of Israeli strikes

Army Recognition, January 24, 2025

Iran's Islamic Revolutionary Guard Corps (IRGC) demonstrated its growing military

self-sufficiency with a series of advanced capabilities showcased during a military drill in the Persian Gulf. Among the highlights was the successful live-fire test of the 9-Dey air defense missile system, a significant milestone in Iran's air defense strategy. This event marked the first public demonstration of the latest generation of the 9-Dey system, a domestically developed platform designed to defend critical infrastructure against a range of aerial threats. The drills also featured the deployment of AI-powered missiles, showcasing Iran's ongoing efforts to incorporate cutting-edge technology into its military arsenal.

<https://armyrecognition.com/news/army-news/2025/iran-conducts-first-live-firing-of-new-9-dey-air-defense-missile-due-to-rising-threat-of-israeli-strikes>

Iran deploys AI-equipped missiles during drills

Al-arabiya, January 27, 2025

The Islamic Revolutionary Guard Corps (IRGC) has deployed missiles featuring artificial intelligence technology during military drills in the Gulf. The IRGC'S naval force "fired Ghaem and Almas missiles equipped with artificial intelligence from advanced Mohajer-6 and Ababil-5 drones," the IRNA state news agency said. For all the latest headlines, follow our Google News channel online or via the app. The report added that the missiles "successfully destroyed hypothetical enemy targets" during the drills. Ghaem and Almas are both precision-guided missiles developed

domestically by the Iranian defense ministry. On Friday, the IRGC launched a series of military exercises in the southwest of the country, including in Bushehr and Khuzestan provinces, and in Gulf waters. The provinces are home to Iran's major oil and petrochemical facilities, with Bushehr also hosting the country's nuclear power plant. Citing the "sensitive positions," IRGC naval commander Alireza Tangsiri told IRNA that the exercises simulated protecting these locations.

<https://english.alarabiya.net/News/middle-east/2025/01/27/iran-deploys-ai-equipped-missiles-during-drills->

Iranian official confirms purchase of Russian Sukhoi-35 fighter jets

Airforce Technology, January 28, 2025

Iran has purchased Sukhoi Su-35 fighter jets from Russia, a high-ranking member of the Islamic Revolutionary Guards Corps (IRGC) has confirmed. Ali Shadmani was quoted by the state-affiliated website as saying: "The production of military equipment has accelerated and outdated systems are being retired and replaced with modern and updated ones. "Whenever necessary, we make military purchases to strengthen our air, ground and naval forces." Details regarding the quantity of jets procured and their delivery status remain undisclosed. He was further quoted as saying: "If the enemy acts foolishly, it will taste the bitter taste of being hit by our missiles, and none of its interests in the occupied territories will remain safe." Previously, Iran revealed plans to purchase

Sukhoi Su-35 fighter jets from Russia in 2022.

<https://www.airforce-technology.com/news/iranian-russian-sukhoi-35/>

Iran's Missile Milestones

Iran Watch, January 29, 2025

Islamic Revolutionary Guard Corps (IRGC) Minister Mohsen Rafiqdoost leads a team of officials and commanders on a trip to Syria and Libya hoping to acquire ballistic missiles. The group includes deputy IRGC commander Yahya Rahim Safavi, commander of the IRGC's artillery division Hassan Tehrani Moghaddam, his deputy Hassan Shafi'zadeh, Mohammad Bagheri, and Ahmad Vahid Dastjerdi. Syrian President Hafez Assad gives no missiles but offers training on how to operate them. In Libya, Muammar Ghaddafi agrees to transfer Scud-B missiles to Iran.

<https://www.iranwatch.org/our-publications/weapon-program-background-report/irans-missile-milestones>

Iraq

Iraq's Kurdish regional gov't official condemns terrorist PKK for years of violence

Anadolu Agency, January 24, 2025

A senior official from the Kurdistan Regional Government (KRG), Serbest Lezgin, denounced the PKK terror group for decades of violence targeting civilians, political leaders, and Peshmerga forces.

Speaking at the funeral of Iraqi border guard Mevan Naci, killed by PKK terrorists in Zaho, Lezgin urged for an end to the group's presence in the region. "The PKK has oppressed our people for decades without justification," Lezgin said. "Our leaders are consistently martyred, roads are rigged with explosives, and our Peshmerga are targeted and killed." He emphasized the harm caused to the Iraqi Kurdistan Region (IKR), noting that PKK attacks have severely impacted civilians, including farmers and villagers, who have been killed in their own homes.

<https://www.aa.com.tr/en/middle-east/iraqs-kurdish-regional-govt-official-condemns-terrorist-pkk-for-years-of-violence/3461661>

Memorandums of Understanding Signed Between Iraq and Egypt Under the Patronage of Al-Sudani and Egyptian Prime Minister

Iraq News Agency, January 30, 2025

The Iraq-Egypt Joint Higher Committee held its third session in Baghdad, chaired by Prime Minister Mohammed S. Al-Sudani and his Egyptian counterpart, Prime Minister Mostafa Madbouly. "During the meeting, Iraq's Minister of Trade, Atheer Dawood Al-Ghurairi, and Egypt's Minister of Planning, Economic Development, and International Cooperation, Rania Al-Mashat, provided a briefing on the overall areas of cooperation between the two countries across various sectors," The office stated in a statement received by the Iraqi News Agency (INA). At the conclusion of the meeting, the minutes of

the Iraq-Egypt Joint Higher Committee session were signed, along with the following bilateral memorandums of understanding.

<https://ina.iq/eng/38029-memorandums-of-understanding-signed-between-iraq-and-egypt-under-the-patronage-of-al-sudani-and-egyptian-prime-minister.html>

Israel

Israel orders more Iron Dome interceptors, using new tranche of US funding

Seth J. Frantzman

Breaking Defense, January 21, 2025

The Israeli Ministry of Defense said it signed its first procurement deal using a recent tranche of US aid funds to buy more interceptors for Israel's Iron Dome batteries, one of the three tiers of Israel's multi-layered air defense systems. It has been used widely in the last 15 months of war on multiple fronts to intercept rockets, drones and other projectiles. The new deal, announced last week with Iron Dome-maker Rafael Advanced Defense Systems, is to expand serial production of the interceptors. Israel Ministry of Defense Director General, Maj. Gen. (Res.) Eyal Zamir said that the signing of the Iron Dome contract "is a central component in an unprecedented scope of effort, led by the IMOD together with Rafael and other defense industries, for force build-up and strengthening while fighting."

<https://breakingdefense.com/2025/01/israel-orders-more-iron-dome-interceptors-using-new-tranche-of-us-funding/>

Elbit awarded \$80m IMOD contract for F-16I jets

Airforce Technology, January 27, 2025

Elbit Systems has been awarded an \$80m (NIS289m) contract by the Israel Ministry of Defence (IMOD) to develop and implement an advanced Airborne Self-Protection Suite for the Israeli Air Force's F-16I aircraft fleet. This initiative is aimed at increasing the survivability of the F-16I jets, allowing them to operate securely in hostile territories. The suite will incorporate an electronic warfare (EW) solution alongside an Electro-Optical (EO) Passive Missile Warning and Launch Detection System, known as PAWS, to provide protection against a variety of threats, ensuring the safety of both the aircrew and the aircraft.

<https://www.airforce-technology.com/news/elbit-israeli-f-16i-jets/>

India signs USD 340 million contract for Israeli-designed MRSAM systems

Defence Industry Europe, January 27, 2025

India has signed a USD 340 million contract for the procurement of over 70 Medium-Range Surface-to-Air Missile (MRSAM) systems, developed in collaboration with Israel Aerospace Industries (IAI). The systems will be manufactured by Bharat Dynamics Limited (BDL), IAI's partner in India, and will be deployed on a significant number of the Indian Navy's future warships. The MRSAM system, based on the Barak 8 air defence platform, is designed to counter a

wide range of aerial threats, with an operational range of up to 70 kilometres. It includes a phased array radar, a command and control system, mobile launchers, and interceptors equipped with advanced sensors. The system is already in service with the Indian Navy, Army, and Air Force. The contract is valued at approximately 29.6 billion rupees and is part of India's "Made in India" initiative, which mandates local production as a key component of defence agreements. The Indian Ministry of Defence highlighted the deal as a significant step in enhancing the country's defence capabilities. Reports estimate that it will generate approximately 350,000 workdays in India.

<https://defence-industry.eu/india-signs-usd-340-million-contract-for-israeli-designed-mrsam-systems/>

UAE conglomerate buys \$10m stake in Israeli tech security firm that detects drones

Sharon Wrobel

Times of Israel, January 28, 2025

UAE-based advanced defense technology group EDGE will invest \$10 million to buy a 30 percent stake in Israel's Third Eye Systems, a developer of AI-based electro-optical systems to detect drones and unmanned aerial vehicles. The deal is subject to approval by Israel's Defense Ministry. The Netanya-based defense tech startup said Tuesday that Abu Dhabi's EDGE group has also committed to investing \$12 million to create a joint venture with Third Eye that will be tasked

with the development and sales of electro-optical object recognition systems to new global regions and markets. According to the agreement, EDGE will be the majority owner of the joint venture with a 51% stake, Thirdeye will hold 43% and a third party the remaining 6%.

<https://www.timesofisrael.com/uae-conglomerate-inks-10m-drone-tech-deal-to-buy-stake-in-israels-thirdeye/>

Has Israel sent weapons seized from Hezbollah in Lebanon to Ukraine?

Army Recognition, January 28, 2025

Israel is reportedly considering transferring weapons captured from Hezbollah to Ukraine, raising speculation about a potential shift in its stance on the Russia-Ukraine conflict. The initiative, discussed during a meeting on 21, January 2025 between Ukraine's ambassador to Israel, Yevgen Korniychuk, and Israeli Deputy Foreign Minister Sharren Haskel, would involve providing Russian or Soviet-made equipment seized during military operations in Lebanon. Additionally, recent movements of American military aircraft between Israel and Poland, a key logistics hub for military aid to Ukraine, suggest that such a transfer may already be underway. However, the lack of official confirmation and counterarguments leave the matter unresolved.

<https://armyrecognition.com/focus-analysis-conflicts/army/conflicts-in-the-world/russia-ukraine-war-2022/has-israel-sent-weapons-seized-from-hezbollah-in-lebanon-to-ukraine>

Israel to remain in Syria? Defence Chief gives 'indefinite' timeline on troops

Economic Times, January 29, 2025

Israel's Minister of Defence Israel Katz has confirmed that the country's defence forces or IDF will remain in Syria's buffer zone indefinitely. On his visit to southern Syria, he said Israel will also connect with the Druze community to establish relations and continue their measure of preventing hostile forces from taking advantage of the power vacuum in Syria, after the ouster of President Bashar al-Assad.

<https://economictimes.indiatimes.com/news/international/world-news/israel-to-remain-in-syria-defence-chief-gives-indefinite-timeline-on-troops/videoshow/117682709.cms?from=mdr>

Israeli army claims to have intercepted 'suspicious' aerial object near border with Lebanon

Ahmed Asmar

Anadolu Agency, January 31, 2025

The Israeli army on Friday claimed to have intercepted an aerial "suspicious object" near the borders with Lebanon. In a statement, the Israeli army said it launched an interceptor missile toward a "suspicious aerial target" over the Zar'it settlement area in northern Israel, close to the borders with Lebanon. The military statement did not provide further details on the incident, but said it is under investigation. On Thursday, the Israeli army also said it downed a surveillance drone launched by the Hezbollah group. Hezbollah, however, did

not comment on the claim. Earlier on Friday, the Lebanese Health Ministry said an Israeli airstrike on Bekaa, eastern Lebanon, killed two people and injured 10 others. The latest breach brings the total number of violations since the agreement came into force in late November to 824, according to statistics compiled by Anadolu based on announcements from Lebanon's National News Agency.

<https://www.aa.com.tr/en/middle-east/israeli-army-claims-to-have-intercepted-suspicious-aerial-object-near-border-with-lebanon/3468243>

Jordan

King witnesses signing of joint declaration on EU-Jordan strategic, comprehensive partnership

Ministry of Planning and International Cooperation, January 29, 2025

The EU extended a package of assistance of 3 billion euros for Jordan. Partnership agreement stipulates enhancing Jordan-EU cooperation across various fields. Agreement stresses parties' commitment to preserving the historical status quo in Jerusalem's holy sites, importance of Hashemite Custodianship. Von der Leyen says Jordan is a key partner for Europe in the Middle East, Mediterranean, pillar of regional stability. His Majesty King Abdullah and European Commission President Ursula von der Leyen in Brussels on Wednesday witnessed the signing of the Joint Declaration on the Strategic and Comprehensive Partnership between Jordan and the European Union. To support

the goals of this partnership, the EU is tabling a financial package of assistance for Jordan for 2025-2027, worth 3 billion euros. This includes 640 million euros in grants, 1.4 billion euros in investments, and 1 billion euros in Macro-Financial Assistance, according to a Royal Court statement.

https://www.mop.gov.jo/En/NewsDetails/King_witnesses_signing_of_Joint_Declaration_on_EUJordan_Strategic_Comprehensive_Partnership

Kuwait

Kuwait air defence force commander receives commander of Bahrain's air missile defence

Defaiya, January 20, 2025

Kuwait Air Defence Force Commander Major General Khaled Al-Shariaan discussed on Sunday with Brigadier General Abdullah Al-Nuaimi, Commander of Air Missile Defence of the Kingdom of Bahrain, the most important topics of common interest, especially those related to military aspects. This came in a press statement issued by the Kuwait Ministry of Defence after Major General Al-Shariaan received Brigadier General Al-Nuaimi and his accompanying delegation on his visit to the country, Kuwait News Agency (KUNA) reported. Both sides discussed the most important joint topics and means of enhancing and developing them between the two sides. The meeting was attended by several senior officers from both sides. In another development, the Bahrain Defence Force (BDF) held a graduation ceremony

for a batch of female recruits last week. Major General Shaikh Ali bin Rashid Al Khalifa, Assistant Chief of Staff for Human Resources, was present.

<https://www.defaiya.com/news/Regional%20News/Kuwait/2025/01/20/kuwait-air-defense-force-commander-receives-commander-of-bahrain-s-air-missile-defense>

Lebanon

IDF warns Lebanese against return to border villages as it prepares to extend stay

Times of Israel, January 25, 2025

The Israeli army on Saturday warned residents of dozens of Lebanese villages near the border against returning until further notice, a day after Israel said its forces would remain in south Lebanon beyond the Sunday deadline for their departure. Listing the villages that cannot be entered alongside a map, IDF Arabic-language spokesman Avichay Adraee said: “The IDF does not intend to target you and therefore at this stage you are prohibited from returning to your homes from this line south until further notice. Anyone who moves south of this line — exposes himself to danger.” The line on the map stretches from Shebaa, less than 2 kilometers (1.5 miles) from the border in the east, to Mansouri in the west — about 10 kilometers (6 miles) from the border.

<https://www.timesofisrael.com/idf-warns-lebanese-against-return-to-border-villages-as-it-prepares-to-extend-stay/>

Lebanese army seizes underground Hezbollah military complex in southern Lebanon

Wassim Seif El Din

Anadolu Agency, January 29, 2025

The Lebanese army took over an underground Hezbollah military complex in southern Lebanon, local media said on Wednesday. The channel said the underground complex is located between the towns of Wadi Jilou and Jouaiyya in southern Lebanon. On Tuesday evening, social media activists circulated footage of Lebanese army personnel inspecting the underground facility south of the Litani River. The activists suggested that the facility was the "Imad 4," which Hezbollah had introduced in August last year during the course of cross-border fighting with Israel. There was no comment from the Lebanese army or Hezbollah on the report. A fragile cease-fire has been in place since Nov. 27, ending a period of mutual shelling between Israel and Hezbollah that began on Oct. 8, 2023 and escalated into a full-scale conflict on Sept. 23 last year.

<https://www.aa.com.tr/en/middle-east/lebanese-army-seizes-underground-hezbollah-military-complex-in-southern-lebanon/3465559>

Oman

India, Oman aiming to seal mega trade deal

The Tribune, January 16, 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 that is expected to significantly expand the two-way trade and investment ties between the two countries. 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.tribuneindia.com/news/business/india-oman-aiming-to-seal-mega-trade-deal/>

Qatar

Oman, Qatar sign two MoUs, 3 Executive Programmes

Times of Oman, January 29, 2025

The Sultanate of Oman and the State of Qatar today signed two memoranda of understanding (MoUs) for cooperation in the field of diplomatic training and social development, in addition to three executive programmes in the fields of culture and education, sports, and youth. The signing ceremony took place in Muscat within the framework of the state visit of Sheikh Tamim bin Hamad Al Thani, Emir of the State of Qatar, to the Sultanate of Oman. The first MoU is for cooperation in the field of diplomatic training between the Foreign

Ministry (The Diplomatic Academy) and the Qatari Ministry of Foreign Affairs (The Diplomatic Institute). Meanwhile, the second MoU is for cooperation in the fields of social development between the Ministry of Social Development and Qatar's Ministry of Social Development and Family. The two sides also signed an executive programme for cooperation in the cultural and educational fields between the Ministry of Education and the Ministry of Education and Higher Education in the State of Qatar.

<https://cdn.timesofoman.com/article/15454-4-oman-qatar-sign-two-mous-3-executive-programmes>

Saudi Arabia

Why Saudi Arabia is so keen on the Turkish KAAN

Ali Bakir

Atlantic Council, January 18, 2025

Just before the turn of the year, Saudi and Turkish officials engaged in a flurry of talks on defense cooperation. In one such conversation—which included Turkish defence industry representatives—Saudi Arabia reportedly indicated it intends to buy one hundred Turkish KAAN fighter jets. But with Saudi Arabia previously keen on acquiring F-35 fighter jets from the United States, what has steered Riyadh toward Turkish technology? The KAAN is a Turkish fifth-generation, multi-role, stealth fighter aircraft developed by the Turkish Aerospace Industries (TAI) and BAE Systems, which is based in London. The project to develop the aircraft began in 2010, with the aim of replacing Turkey's

aging F-16 fleet and boosting Turkey's autonomy, self-dependency, and overall military and national power. The urgency to develop this aircraft increased after Turkey was removed from the F-35 program in 2019. The KAAN made its maiden flight in February 2024.

<https://www.atlanticcouncil.org/blogs/menasource/saudi-arabia-turkey-kaan/>

Italy, Saudi Arabia strengthen aerospace and defence ties

Airforce Technology, January 27, 2025

The Ministry of Investment of Saudi Arabia (MISA), the General Authority for Military Industries (GAMI), and Italian aerospace company Leonardo have signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU). This agreement, announced amid bilateral talks between the two nations, aims to explore and develop investment and collaboration opportunities within the aerospace and defence sectors. Building on the successful outcomes from a previous MoU signed early in 2024, this latest agreement seeks to extend industrial partnership, particularly in combat, air and helicopter domains.

<https://www.airforce-technology.com/news/italy-saudi-arabia-mou/>

Saudi Arabia in talks for \$6bn Turkish arms deal

Pramod Kumar

Arabian Gulf Business Insight, January 28, 2025

Turkey expects to strike a \$6 billion agreement with Saudi Arabia for the sale of warships, tanks and missiles. The deal

may include Saudi Arabia joining Turkey's fighter jet development project, which could be signed during the visit of President Tayyip Erdoğan to the kingdom in March, Bloomberg reported, citing unnamed officials. Ankara aims to strengthen its defence industry and views Saudi Arabia as one of the world's biggest arms importers. In 2023 Saudi Arabia signed a deal to buy drones from Turkish company Baykar, in addition to localising drone manufacturing.

<https://www.agbi.com/economy/2025/01/saudi-arabia-in-talks-for-6bn-turkish-arms-deal/>

Syria

Syrian defence minister rejects Kurdish proposal for its own military bloc

Arab News, January 19, 2025

Syria's new defence minister said on Sunday it would not be right for US-backed Kurdish fighters based in the country's northeast to retain their own bloc within the broader integrated Syrian armed forces. Speaking to Reuters at the Defense Ministry in Damascus, Murhaf Abu Qasra said the leadership of the Kurdish fighters, known as the Syrian Democratic Forces (SDF), was procrastinating in its handling of the complex issue. The SDF, which has carved out a semi-autonomous zone through 14 years of civil war, has been in talks with the new administration in Damascus led by former rebels who toppled President Bashar Assad on Dec. 8. SDF commander Mazloun Abdi has said one of their central demands is a decentralized administration, saying in an interview with Saudi Arabia's Asharq News channel last

week that the SDF was open to integrating with the Defense Ministry but as “a military bloc,” and without dissolving.

<https://www.arabnews.com/node/2587007/middle-east>

Syria minister says open to talks with Kurds, but ready to use 'force'

Al-Monitor, January 22, 2025

Syria's defence minister said that Damascus was open to talks with Kurdish-led forces on their integration into the national army but stood ready to use force should negotiations fail. "The door to negotiation with the (Kurdish-led Syrian Democratic Forces) is currently open," Murhaf Abu Qasra told reporters. "If we have to use force, we will be ready." Last month, an official told AFP that an SDF delegation had met Syria's interim leader Ahmed al-Sharaa, who heads the Hayat Tahrir al-Sham group that spearheaded the rebel offensive that ousted Bashar al-Assad. Sharaa had told Al Arabiya television that Kurdish-led forces should be integrated into the new national army so that weapons are "in the hands of the state alone". The US-backed SDF spearheaded the military campaign that ousted the Islamic State jihadist group from its last territory in Syria in 2019. The group controls much of the oil-producing northeast, where it has enjoyed de facto autonomy for more than a decade.

<https://www.al-monitor.com/originals/2025/01/syria-minister-says-open-talks-kurds-ready-use-force>

US transfers more troops, equipment from Iraq to Syria

Mehrnews, January 28, 2025

An Iraqi official announced that the US has transferred some of its military equipment and forces from Iraq to Syria. In order to provide logistical assistance to Syria, the United States provided air support to the Ain al-Assad base in the Anbar province of Iraq, the source said. The informed source added that the American forces stationed at the Ain al-Assad" base in western Iraq provided air cover for 2 hours to ensure the movement of cargo planes toward Syria. According to him, the US move, which was carried out on Monday afternoon, would facilitate the movement of cargo planes carrying equipment and troops to the American bases in al-Hasakah in eastern Syria. He also underlined that the Ain al-Assad base has become a center for logistic support.

<https://en.mehrnews.com/news/227536/US-transfers-more-troops-equipment-from-Iraq-to-Syria>

Turkiye

Turkish Cyprus slams Greek 'warmongering' after US arms decree

Daily Sabah, January 16, 2025

Turkish Cypriot foreign ministry denounces outgoing Joe Biden's decree on military sales to Greek Cyprus, warning the move is provocative of war preparations in the already tense Eastern Mediterranean. The Foreign Ministry of the Turkish Republic of Northern Cyprus (TRNC) on Thursday slammed the Greek Cypriot administration

for “warmongering” on the divided island after a U.S. memorandum allowing military sales, including arms, to the Greek Cypriots. Days before he handed over his duty to Donald Trump, U.S. President Joe Biden on Wednesday issued a directive to boost his country's aid to Greek Cypriots by issuing a memorandum that makes the southern side eligible to receive American defense articles, military sales and training. “The U.S. decision shows the Greek Cypriot administration will continue its arms race as if it were preparing for war,” the TRNC Foreign Ministry said in a statement. “We call on the countries that support the warmongering of the Greek Cypriot side to act by calculating the consequences of these actions and to be sensible,” the statement said, adding it would keep taking steps with Türkiye to protect the security of its citizens.

<https://www.dailysabah.com/politics/turkish-h-cyprus-slams-greek-warmongering-after-us-arms-decree/news>

Turkish troops set to remain in Syria

Daily Sabah, January 23, 2025

Turkish soldier deployment in Syria will continue, Defense Ministry sources said Thursday, as terrorist groups remain a threat to Turkey's southern neighbor. The Turkish military presence in neighboring Syria will continue and may even relocate within that country based on “needs,” Turkish Defence Ministry. The statements come amid the fate of the U.S.-backed YPG, the Syria wing of the PKK terrorist group, which poses a direct threat to Türkiye. Sources said the tasks of the Turkish Armed Forces (TSK) have not been

completed yet in Syria. “Depending on the need, the redeployment of our troops in Syria or their assignment to different regions may be considered,” sources said. As the civil war escalated in Syria, the terrorist groups Daesh and PKK/YPG emerged as major threats, especially in the country's north. Fearing spillover of the violence and in support of Syrian opposition forces and civilians displaced by terrorists, Türkiye launched a string of cross-border offensives into the country. Those include Operation Euphrates Shield in 2016, Operation Olive Branch in 2018 and Operation Peace Spring in 2019.

<https://www.dailysabah.com/politics/war-on-terror/turkish-troops-set-to-remain-in-syria-defense-ministry-sources>

Türkiye 'neutralizes' 15 PKK/YPG terrorists in northern Iraq, Syria

Serdar Dincel

Anadolu Agency, January 28, 2025

Turkish security forces “neutralized” 15 PKK/YPG terrorists in northern Iraq and northern Syria, Türkiye’s National Defense Ministry said Tuesday. Two of the terrorists were targeted in the Gara region of northern Iraq, while 13 terrorists were targeted in the Euphrates Shield and Peace Spring operation zones in northern Syria, the ministry said on X. The Turkish Armed Forces will continue to carry out “rapid and continuous operations to destroy terrorism at its source,” it added. The term “neutralize” is used by Turkish authorities to indicate that the terrorists were killed, captured, or surrendered. PKK terrorists frequently hide

in northern Iraq to plan cross-border attacks against Türkiye. In northern Syria, Türkiye has carried out a series of successful anti-terror operations since 2016, including Euphrates Shield (2016), Olive Branch (2018), and Peace Spring (2019), to prevent the establishment of a terror corridor and ensure the peaceful settlement of local residents.

<https://www.aa.com.tr/en/turkiye/turkiye-neutralizes-15-pkk-ypg-terrorists-in-northern-iraq-syria/3464477>

Turkiye reportedly targets \$6B defence deal with Saudi Arabia

Daily Sabah, January 28, 2025

Turkiye aims to finalize a \$6 billion defence agreement with Saudi Arabia, covering warships, tanks and missile systems. The deal, which could include Saudi Arabia's involvement in Türkiye's fighter jet development program, is expected to be finalized during President Recep Tayyip Erdogan's potential visit to the kingdom in March, Bloomberg News reported. Saudi Arabia, one of the world's largest arms importers, represents a significant market for Türkiye's growing defense sector. In 2023, Saudi Arabia signed an agreement for the purchase of high-altitude drones from Baykar, dubbed the biggest defense contract in Türkiye's history. The new deal would extend cooperation to include the Altay main battle tank and missile defense systems, the report said, citing Turkish officials familiar with the matter. Additionally, Türkiye is keen for Saudi Arabia to become a partner in its

Kaan fighter jet, which successfully completed its first test flight last year but is still several years from operational readiness.

<https://www.dailysabah.com/business/defense/turkiye-reportedly-targets-6b-defense-deal-with-saudi-arabia>

United Arab Emirates

ADNEC Group reviews preparations for IDEX, NAVDEX with UAE diplomatic representatives

Emirates News Agency, January 16, 2025

The ADNEC Group hosted a meeting with diplomatic representatives and military attachés accredited to the UAE to provide an update on the latest preparations for the largest editions of the International Defence Exhibition (IDEX) and Naval Defence & Maritime Security Exhibition (NAVDEX) 2025, along with the accompanying International Defence Conference. The exhibitions, held under the patronage of President His Highness Sheikh Mohamed bin Zayed Al Nahyan, Supreme Commander of the UAE Armed Forces, are organised by ADNEC Group in partnership with the Ministry of Defence and Tawazun Council. Scheduled to take place at the ADNEC Centre Abu Dhabi from 17th to 21st February 2025, this edition promises to be the largest in the event's history. The exhibitions will bring together a diverse array of local, regional, and international participants, including leading global companies at the forefront of defence industries and advanced artificial intelligence technologies, underscoring the

remarkable advancements in this vital sector.

<https://www.wam.ae/en/article/bhpw5i6-adnec-group-reviews-preparations-for-idex-navdex>

EDGE to showcase 200 disruptive technology and defence solutions at IDEX 2025

Zawya, January 28, 2025

EDGE is making its third appearance at the International Defence Exhibition & Conference 2025 (IDEX 2025) and the Naval Defence & Maritime Security Exhibition (NAVDEX 2025) with its largest presence yet, reinforcing its position as one of the world's leading advanced technology and defence groups. Returning as the official Strategic Partner, the Group will showcase the rapid expansion of its highly competitive, all-domain portfolio, presenting double the number of products compared to IDEX 2023. EDGE will announce significant developments, including strategic partnerships and joint ventures with leading global industry players, alongside a broad range of new solutions and advancements across its portfolio.

<https://www.zawya.com/en/press-release/companies-news/edge-to-showcase-200-disruptive-technology-and-defence-solutions-at-idex-2025-tw3004du>

UAE to invest \$10m in Israeli arms company

Middle East Monitor, January 29, 2025

The UAE-based advanced defence technology firm, EDGE, has announced

plans to invest \$10 million for a 30 per cent stake in Israel's Third Eye Systems, a company specialising in AI-driven electro-optical solutions for detecting drones and unmanned aerial vehicles. According to the Times of Israel, the deal is pending approval from Israel's Defence Ministry. Yesterday, Netanya-based Thirdeye revealed that EDGE has also committed an additional \$12 million to establish a joint venture focused on developing and marketing electro-optical object recognition systems in new international markets. Under the agreement, EDGE will hold a 51 per cent majority stake in the joint venture, while Thirdeye will retain 43 per cent, with the remaining 6 per cent allocated to a third party.

<https://www.middleeastmonitor.com/2025/01/29/uae-to-invest-10m-in-israeli-arms-company/>

UAE receives first batch of Rafale fighter jets

Bahrain News Agency, January 30, 2025

The Ministry of Defence of the United Arab Emirates has received the first batch of 80 Rafale fighter jets from France during an official ceremony in Paris. In a statement issued today, the ministry confirmed that this step is part of a "historic deal" signed with France's Dassault Aviation, reflecting the deep strategic partnership between the UAE and France. According to the Emirates News Agency (WAM), the acquisition of these aircraft is part of a comprehensive plan to modernise the country's defence capabilities, including upgrading the Air Force fleet with the latest

military equipment to address regional and international security challenges. Brigadier General Pilot Mohamed Salem Ali Al Hameli from the UAE Air Force and Air Defence, stated that the Rafale jets are equipped with advanced technologies that enable them to carry out multiple missions, including reconnaissance and striking land and sea targets with high precision, making them a significant addition to the UAE Air Force.

<https://www.bna.bh/En/UAEreceivesfirstbatchofRafalefighterjets.aspx?cms=q8FmFJgiscL2fwIzON1%2BDm5S1pUWj1FCq2KGR0m5N%2F8%3D>

Yemen

Houthis to limit attacks on international shipping off Yemen

Financial Times, January 20, 2025

The Houthi militants who control northern Yemen said they would limit their attacks on commercial ships following the Israel-Hamas ceasefire deal, taking a potential step towards ending the disruption that has affected world maritime trade for more than a year. The Islamist group told shipowners, insurers and authorities that it was lifting its sanctions on ships, except those registered in Israel or wholly owned by Israeli individuals and entities, according to an email. In a show of support for Palestinians during Israel's war against Hamas, the Houthis previously threatened any ship heading to Israeli ports, as well as those managed or only partially owned by Israelis. They also targeted ships owned by UK and US entities when the two countries

launched strikes against the group in response to the attacks on sea trade.

<https://www.ft.com/content/e38d111d-e97e-4838-9742-ca3c37fb200c>

Yemen's Houthis release crew of seized ship after Gaza ceasefire deal

Al-Jazeera, January 22, 2025

The Houthi rebels in Yemen say they have released the crew of the Galaxy Leader cargo vessel that they confiscated shortly after the start of Israel's war on Gaza. The Iran-aligned group said in a statement that the 25-strong crew of Filipinos, Mexicans, Romanians, Bulgarians and Ukrainians who spent 430 days in captivity were transferred to Oman by order of Houthi leader Abdel-Malik al-Houthi. The Supreme Political Council of the group said the release came "in coordination with the Hamas movement and the mediation of the Sultanate of Oman". It took place "within the framework of the battle to support Gaza and in support of the ceasefire agreement", the council said. The Galaxy Leader was hijacked by armed Houthi fighters who rappelled down from a helicopter and escorted it to a Yemeni port in November 2023. The Bahamas-flagged vessel is affiliated with Abraham "Rami" Ungar, one of the richest men in Israel.

<https://www.aljazeera.com/news/2025/1/22/yemens-houthis-release-crew-of-seized-ship-after-gaza-ceasefire-deal>

NUCLEAR AND ARMS CONTROL CENTRE

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