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मनोहर पर्रिकर रक्षा अध्ययन एवं विश्लेषण संस्थान

## Armenia

### Armenia develops 5G broadband network

Armenpress, August 16, 2024

The Ministry of High-Tech Industry has liberalized the 3600-3800 MHz frequency band for the introduction of a 5G broadband network in order to provide it to a mobile communication operator through a tender procedure. The ministry said that it is now developing the quality standards and the terms of the tender package for the public mobile 5G broadband connection. The ministry told Armenpress that it organized meetings with mobile communication operators in Armenia to discuss issues related to the introduction of 5G networks and their readiness and interest to participate in the tender and implement the work.

<https://armenpress.am/en/article/1197821>

### US confirms nuclear pact with Armenia ‘under consideration’

Mark Dovich

Civilnet, August 22, 2024

The United States has confirmed it is studying a request by Armenia to ink a deal that would allow Washington to transfer civil nuclear technology to Yerevan. That could pave the way for the United States to design and build a new nuclear power plant in Armenia to replace the country’s aging, Soviet-era facility in the town of Metsamor. “The U.S. Government does not share details of the negotiation process, but we can share that the State Department is giving Armenia’s

request for a 123 Agreement the proper attention and due consideration,” a State Department spokesperson said in written comments to CivilNet on August 22. The spokesperson gave no other details on what they called “the internal process for U.S. government negotiations with other countries,” including a timeline for a final decision.

<https://www.civilnet.am/en/news/794182/exclusive-us-confirms-nuclear-pact-with-armenia-under-consideration/>

### Armenia seeks advanced drones, missiles from India to boost its defence against Azerbaijan

Indian Defence News, August 29, 2024

Armenia is actively expanding its defence procurement strategy by seeking advanced drones and medium-range surface-to-air missiles from India. This move is part of Armenia’s broader efforts to enhance its military capabilities and secure its airspace. Armenia has already acquired the Akash-1S Air Defence system and is considering additional acquisitions. The potential purchases include the Indo-Israeli MR medium-range air defence systems and the Akash-NG air defence systems. Armenia’s procurement of the Akash-1S system marks a significant step in its defence strategy. The Akash-1S is a sophisticated air defence system capable of shooting down aircraft at distances of up to 30 kilometers. This system provides reliable protection against air threats, enhancing Armenia’s air defence capabilities. However, media reports indicate that India has not yet started delivering the Akash-1S system to

Armenia, with deliveries expected to begin next year. In addition to the Akash-1S, Armenia is showing interest in two other advanced systems: the MR-SAM and the Akash-NG.

<https://www.indiandefensenews.in/2024/08/armenia-seeks-advanced-drones-missiles.html>

### **Armenia and Azerbaijan sign regulation on joint activity of delimitation commissions**

Armenpress, August 30, 2024

Armenia and Azerbaijan have completed the alignment of the regulation on joint activity of the commissions on delimitation and border security, the foreign ministry said August 30. "In accordance with the Protocol of the 8th meeting of the Commission on Delimitation and Border Security of the State Border between the Republic of Armenia and the Republic of Azerbaijan and the State Commission on the Delimitation of the State Border between the Republic of Azerbaijan and the Republic of Armenia signed on April 19, 2024, the Commissions completed the alignment of the Regulation on joint activity. On August 30, 2024, the Regulation on joint activity of the Commissions was signed accordingly. Currently, the Republic of Armenia and the Republic of Azerbaijan have begun the implementation of internal procedures," the Armenian Foreign Ministry said in a statement.

<https://armenpress.am/en/article/1198630>

## **Azerbaijan**

### **Azerbaijan conducts air-defence drills near neighbor Iran**

Shafaq News, August 18, 2024

Azerbaijan's military conducted air-defence drills this week, just days after neighboring Iran carried out naval exercises near their shared border. The drills, part of Azerbaijan's 2024 training plan, involved the country's Air Defence Units in tactical-special exercises. According to the Azerbaijani Defence Ministry, "combat crews of the S-300 Favorit anti-aircraft missile complexes brought the equipment to combat readiness, moved to designated positions, and successfully completed tasks related to area preparation and camouflage." The ministry's statement also noted that the exercises focused on protecting critical infrastructure from air attacks and repelling simulated enemy rocket strikes. "The aim of these exercises is to enhance the theoretical knowledge and practical skills of military personnel, and to maintain a high level of combat readiness within the air defence units," the statement said.

<https://shafaq.com/en/World/Azerbaijan-conducts-air-defense-drills-near-neighbor-Iran>

## **Iran**

### **Iran Army to continue to expand drone achievements: Sayyari**

Mehr News Agency, August 17, 2024

The Islamic Republic of Iran Army will continue to expand its drone and military

warfare achievements in order to match future deterrence needs, the deputy chief of the Iranian Army for Coordination said. Rear Admiral Habibollah Sayyari made the remarks on August 14, saying that the Army stands ready to carry out assigned missions with its specialized manpower and indigenous equipment. "Today, we have secured invaluable achievements in the Islamic Republic of Iran Army in the fields of drone, electronic warfare, cyberspace, and other new technologies," he said, vowing relentless endeavors to reinforce and expand those achievements.

<https://en.mehrnews.com/news/204741/Iran-Army-to-continue-to-expand-drone-achievements-Sayyari>

### **American think tank highlights role of Iran-made drones worldwide**

Islamic Republic News Agency, August 18, 2024

Foundation for Defence of Democracies (FDD), an American think tank, has acknowledged that various countries worldwide welcome Iranian-made drones. As the Biden administration desperately tries to prevent or limit a missile and drone attack by Iran and its proxies against the Israeli regime, it would be wise to remember that West Asia is already awash in Iranian projectiles, the FDD said in an article. The initial strike followed a historic first long-range Unmanned Aerial Vehicle (UAV) strike by Yemen's Ansarullah against Tel Aviv, killing one person. The FDD claimed that the UAV was made in Iran and completed a 2,600 km flight path. One way Iran can elicit state interest is by highlighting the role its low-cost systems, like drones; have played

on the battlefield, the American think tank noted. The Shahed-136 UAV—also called the Geran-2—has been instrumental in Russia's ongoing war against Ukraine, with Moscow firing a reported 4,600 drones in the first two years of the conflict. The same drone was also featured in Iran's April 13 attack against Israel, the FDD said.

<https://en.irna.ir/news/85571347/American-think-tank-highlights-role-of-Iran-made-drones-worldwide>

### **Iran army radar systems monitor US Army F-35 flights**

Mehr News Agency, August 18, 2024

A senior Iranian army commander has said that the army radars in the south of the country detected and monitored the flight of several American F-35 fighters over the Persian Gulf recently. Brigadier General Reza Khajeh, the deputy commander of operations of the Iranian Army Air Defence Force pointed to the presence of American F-35 stealth fighter jets in the Persian Gulf region and said that "Over the past days, several of these planes were flying over the Persian Gulf and were fully monitored by our radars from the moment they took off." General Khajeh added, "All radars located in the south of the country were monitoring these planes momentarily." Khajeh also stressed that, "All flights by the powers beyond the region in the Persian Gulf, the Strait of Hormuz and the Sea of Oman are definitely monitored and checked by our radars, especially the radars located in the southern edge of the country, and they are warned if necessary." "There has been no flight that was reported by our

eavesdropping systems but not detected by our radars," the deputy commander of operations of the Iranian Army Air Defence Force further noted.

<https://en.mehrnews.com/news/204764/Iran-army-radar-systems-monitor-US-Army-F-35-flights>

### **Iran Army stages large-scale electronic warfare drills**

Mehr News Agency, August 25, 2024

Iran's Army has staged large-scale electronic warfare drills codenamed "the Shield of the Guardians of Jurisprudence" in central areas of the country. Various divisions of the Iranian Army launched a large-scale and joint military exercise involving electronic warfare units and featuring the country's domestically designed and manufactured radars, drones, micro aerial vehicles (MAVs), and other military equipment on August 23. Units from the Army's Ground Force, Air Force, Navy, and Air Defence participated in the joint aerial maneuver, codenamed Separ-e Hafezan-e Velayat 1402 (The Shield of the Guardians of Jurisprudence 1402), whose headquarters were located in the central areas of the country. According to Deputy Chief of Iran's Army for Coordination Rear Admiral Habibollah Sayyari, the drill features different types of homegrown electronic warfare systems, radars, drones, cyber and aerospace systems, manned and unmanned fighter jets, micro aerial vehicles as well as fixed, mobile, ground- and air-based systems related to electronic warfare.

<https://en.mehrnews.com/news/205110/Iran-Army-stages-large-scale-electronic-warfare-drills>

## **Iraq**

### **Iraqi FM highlights Baghdad's efforts to prevent regional war**

Shafaq News, August 20, 2024

Iraqi Foreign Minister Fuad Hussein reiterated Iraq's efforts to avoid slipping into a Middle Eastern war, emphasizing that Baghdad is actively working both internally and externally to prevent the conflict in the region from escalating. In an interview with Al Arabiya/Al Hadath, Hussein stated, "The entire region is at risk, but the intense international efforts to secure a ceasefire in Gaza may help impose a relative calm across the region." He noted that Iraq "is part of the efforts aimed at de-escalation, though these efforts have yet to yield concrete results." The Iraqi Foreign Minister warned that "the tension will persist if a truce is not reached in Gaza," emphasizing that "dragging Iraq into a state of war is dangerous, and both the government and political parties understand this issue." Hussein also revealed that "Iraqi diplomatic efforts successfully prevented Washington from retaliating against the attack on Ain Al-Asad airbase."

<https://shafaq.com/en/Iraq/Iraqi-FM-highlights-Baghdad-s-efforts-to-prevent-regional-war>

### **Iraqi airstrike targets ISIS logistical hideout in Diyala, killing cell members**

Shafaq News, August 22, 2024

On August 22, the General Military Intelligence Directorate announced that Iraqi warplanes conducted an airstrike targeting an ISIS cell in Diyala governorate, in northeastern Iraq. The

Directorate stated, "F-16 aircraft successfully carried out the strike at 7:00 AM, targeting a hideout in the Hamrin Mountains within the Diyala operations area." "The operation resulted in the death of the terrorist cell members and the destruction of the hideout, including a fuel tank, munitions, and logistical supplies," it added. "The hideout was used to provide logistical support to ISIS operatives." Despite losing much of its territorial control, ISIS remains a significant threat in Syria and Iraq, with an estimated 5,000 to 7,000 members and supporters, half of whom are fighters, according to a UN report. The group continues to pose a severe risk due to its history of brutal attacks and ongoing recruitment efforts.

<https://shafaq.com/en/Iraq/Iraqi-airstrike-targets-ISIS-logistical-hideout-in-Diyala-killing-cell-members>

### **Iraqi Air Defence shoots down Turkish Drone in Kirkuk**

Shafaq News, August 29, 2024

Iraqi air defences shot down a Turkish drone over Kirkuk on August 29, causing material damage to a residential area but no casualties, according to military and security sources. The incident unfolded at approximately 10:00 AM when the Iraqi Air Defence system detected the drone near Kiwan Camp, northwest of Kirkuk city. A security source in Kirkuk said that after the drone entered the northern and eastern airspace of the city, a warning was issued, following standard air defence protocol. "At 10:25 AM, the French-made Pantsir air defence system shot down the drone." The security source said, "It crashed into a residential house in Kirkuk's

Tese'in neighborhood, causing material damage but no injuries." An examination of the debris identified the downed aircraft as a Turkish-made TAI Anka drone, the source said, adding that the parts have been transferred to a military site for further investigation.

<https://shafaq.com/en/Iraq/Kirkuk-Operations-Commander-Unidentified-drone-shot-down>

### **Iraqi group claims drone attack on US base in Syria**

Shafaq News, August 30, 2024

An Iraqi armed group has claimed responsibility for a drone attack on a US military base in Syria's Deir ez-Zor, Qatari broadcaster Al Jazeera reported on August 29. Citing sources affiliated with the Iraqi group, the news outlet reported that the attack was carried out late on August 29. The US Department of Defence has issued a statement warning that it reserves the right to respond to any attacks on its forces in both Iraq and Syria. Pentagon officials have not yet provided further details about the incident or confirmed the attack.

<https://shafaq.com/en/Iraq/Iraqi-group-claims-drone-attack-on-US-base-in-Syria>

### **Israel**

#### **Israeli startups provide IDF with tech advantage**

Dean Shmuel Elmas

The Jerusalem Post, August 16, 2024

Since October 7, the Ministry of Defence Directorate of Defence, Research and Development (DDR&D) (MAFAT) has procured an array of products from more

than 100 startups operating in both the defence and commercial markets. People familiar with the subject have told "Globes" that some of them have signed contracts with the Ministry of Defense worth more than NIS 20 million each, and the overall amount of deals amounts to about NIS 1 billion. A Demo Day was recently held for startups that graduated from the DDR&D accelerator, in the presence of Defence Ministry director general Major General (res.) Eyal Zamir and the head of DDR&D Brigadier General (res.) Dr. Danny Gold.

<https://www.jpost.com/business-and-innovation/tech-and-start-ups/article-815048>

### **Ireland said open to buying Israeli drones despite being fierce critic over Gaza war**

Times of Israel, August 21, 2024

Amid the war in Gaza, Ireland has emerged as one of the European nations most critical of Israel, with Dublin officially recognizing a Palestinian state, joining allegations of genocide against Israel in the World Court, and maintaining a steady stream of criticism against Israel in various EU forums. Nonetheless, the Irish military is open to considering bids from Israeli firms for an upcoming tender for a fleet of drones, and over the last decade has purchased millions of euros' worth of military equipment from Israeli defense firms, according to a August 21, report in the Irish Times. Ireland's Defence Forces Corps of Engineers has opened a tender to purchase 14 unarmed military drones to be used for "surveillance, survey, inspection and

search and rescue," in addition to classified missions, the report said, a package with an estimated total price tag of €600,000 (\$667,000). Israeli defense firms are "well-positioned to secure the contract" as a "world leader in drone technology," the report said, citing unnamed sources in the Irish military.

<https://www.timesofisrael.com/ireland-said-open-to-buying-israeli-drones-despite-being-fierce-critic-over-gaza-war/>

## **Jordan**

### **Jordan condemns Israeli settler attacks in Qalqilya**

The Jordan Times, August 17, 2024

Kingdom on August 16 condemned the ongoing "terrorist" attacks by Israeli settlers against Palestinians, including the recent attack on the village of Jit, east of Qalqilya, which resulted in the death of a young man, the injury of dozens and damage to Palestinian property, according to a Foreign Ministry statement. Sufyan Qudah, the ministry's spokesperson, held Israel responsible for the attack on Jit and condemned the continued tolerance of such terrorist acts by settlers. Israel, as an occupying force, bears full responsibility for these violations and the escalating violence caused by its aggressive unilateral actions targeting Palestinians, their land, and their homes through settlement expansion and forced displacement of Palestinians, he said. Qudah reiterated Jordan's rejection of these attacks and the increase in settler terrorism against the Palestinians, noting that this escalation by extremist settlers has continued since the beginning of the Israeli aggression on Gaza. He called on the international

community to impose effective sanctions to stop settler terrorism and urged the global community to shoulder its responsibilities.

<https://www.jordantimes.com/news/local/jordan-condemns-israeli-settler-attacks-qalqilya>

### **Jordan Economic Forum urges digital integration to boost national economy**

The Jordan Times, August 19, 2024

The Jordan Economic Forum on August 18 urged intensified efforts to integrate digital technology across various sectors to bolster the national economy. In a paper titled "Indicators of Digital Competitiveness", the forum underscored the critical role of enhancing digital capabilities and fostering innovation as key drivers of sustainable development and global competitiveness, according to the Jordan News Agency, Petra. The forum also called for comprehensive support programmes to aid Jordanian institutions in adopting digitalisation within their production and service operations, which is expected to improve operational efficiency, boost productivity and fuel sustainable economic growth, yielding widespread societal benefits.

<https://www.jordantimes.com/news/local/jordan-economic-forum-urges-digital-integration-boost-national-economy>

### **Crown Prince discusses regional developments with Arab League secretary general**

Ammon News, August 28, 2024

His Royal Highness Crown Prince Al Hussein bin Abdullah II and Arab League

Secretary General Ahmed Aboul Gheit discussed regional developments, during a meeting on August 28, on the sidelines of the High-Level Global Forum on Youth, Peace and Security. The meeting covered the importance of reaching a ceasefire in Gaza and ensuring de-escalation in the region. The importance of countering Israeli violations in the West Bank and on Islamic and Christian holy sites in Jerusalem was also stressed.

<https://en.ammonnews.net/article/74738>

### **Kuwait**

#### **India looks to upgrade bilateral ties with Kuwait: Dr Jaishankar**

Sajeev K Peter

Kuwait Times, August 21, 2024

His Highness the Crown Prince Sheikh Sabah Al-Khaled Al-Hamad Al-Sabah on August 18 received India's External Affairs Minister Dr S Jaishankar, who arrived in Kuwait on an official visit on August 18. His Highness the Prime Minister Sheikh Ahmad Al-Abdullah Al-Sabah also received the Indian minister. In addition to Kuwait's Minister of Foreign Affairs Abdullah Al-Yahya, the meetings were attended by Director of the Office of His Highness the Crown Prince, Lieutenant General (Ret) Jamal Theyab, Undersecretary of Foreign Affairs at the Diwan of His Highness the Crown Prince Mazen Al-Essa, Assistant Foreign Minister for Asian Affairs Ambassador Samih Hayat, Ambassador of Kuwait to India Mishal Al-Shamali and Indian Ambassador to Kuwait Dr Adarsh Swaika. While sharing centuries-old bonds of goodwill and friendship between Kuwait



and India, Dr Jaishankar conveyed the greetings of India's President Droupadi Murmu and Prime Minister Narendra Modi. "Our contemporary partnership is expanding steadily," Jaishankar posted on X.

<https://kuwaittimes.com/article/17975/kuwait/india-looks-to-upgrade-bilateral-ties-with-kuwait-dr-jaishankar/>

### **Kuwait signs 15-year Qatar gas deal**

Khaled Alabdulhadi

Kuwait Times, August 26, 2024

In a significant move that underscores the strength of the energy sector in the region, Kuwait Petroleum Corporation (KPC) and Qatar Energy announced their second long-term sales and purchase agreement for the supply of up to 3 million tons per year of liquefied natural gas (LNG) to Kuwait, which was signed on August 26. Building on the foundation laid by their initial agreement signed in 2020, this new contract solidifies the ongoing strategic cooperation between the two companies and further strengthens the future of energy cooperation between the two nations. The agreement aims to leverage the strengths and expertise of both companies and addresses the growing global demand for cleaner energy solutions. Through this deal, KPC seeks to transition towards cleaner energy sources through LNG use, which will help reduce emissions and improve domestic air quality. In addition, it will secure a stable supply of energy resources while meeting Kuwait's growing energy demand in the power sector. KPC CEO Sheikh Nawaf Saud Al-Sabah stated: "This second long-term agreement with QatarEnergy within a

short period of time confirms our longstanding collaboration with our Qatari brethren to provide a cleaner source of energy plays in line with our Energy Transition 2050 strategy."

<https://kuwaittimes.com/article/18290/kuwait/other-news/kuwait-signs-15-year-qatar-gas-deal/>

### **Arabs discuss ways to tackle IT crimes**

Kuwait Times, August 28, 2024

The first conference of officials responsible for combating information technology crimes in Arab interior ministries kicked off Wednesday in the Tunisian capital with the participation of Kuwait. Secretary-General of the Council of Arab Interior Ministers, Dr Mohammad Koman, called in his opening speech for enhancing cooperation among Arab countries in combating cybercrimes by exchanging information immediately. Koman said that the interest of the Council of Arab Interior Ministers in cybersecurity and combating information system crimes began in the early nineties of the last century; "therefore, the General Secretariat is keen to work on developing practical frameworks to confront this type of crime." He added that a set of measures were taken, including the approval of the Arab Guiding Strategy for Combating Information Technology Crimes in 2014 and the establishment of a unit specialized in electronic security. The Kuwaiti Interior Ministry delegation is represented by Colonel Ahmed Al-Hamoud and Major Thanyan Ruh Al-Din. The conference, which aims to develop an Arab plan to confront crimes committed using artificial intelligence, is attended by representatives

of the interior ministries in Arab countries, the Arab League, the United Nations Regional Center for Combating Cybercrime, in addition to the Naif Arab University for Security Sciences and the General Secretariat of the Council of Arab Interior Ministers.

<https://kuwaittimes.com/article/18356/kuwait/other-news/arabs-discuss-ways-to-tackle-it-crimes/>

## Lebanon

### Missile barrage from Lebanon escalates tensions in northern Israel

Mansour Al-Maswari

Albawaba, August 20, 2024

A fresh wave of missile attacks was launched from Lebanon towards Upper Galilee, with direct hits reported in the Israeli settlement of Shomera. Israeli media outlets have confirmed injuries in Shomera following the impact. As the situation escalated, sirens blared across several northern Israeli communities, including Netu'a, Shtula, Kedmit Tzafi, Kelaa, Katzrin, Sha'al, Dafne, Hagoshrim, Ghajar, Kibbutz Dan, Shenir, She'ar Yeshuv, Beit Hillel, Kfar Gilad, Metula, Maayan Baruch, Maskaf Am, Kiryat Shmona, Margalot, Manara, and Marom Golan. Despite the launch of four drones, the Israeli military failed to intercept them. In retaliation, Israeli artillery shelled the outskirts of Kfar Shouba, while drone strikes targeted areas near Naqoura and a motorcycle on the road between Al-Shahabiyeh and Bafleh. Additionally, an Israeli air raid struck the town of Al-Dhahirah in southern Lebanon. The Lebanese Ministry of Health reported that

two citizens were killed in Israeli airstrikes on the town of Dahira in southern Lebanon. Israeli Defence Minister has recently threatened to escalate attacks on Lebanon, with many Israeli forces being relocated from Gaza to the northern border to counter the increasing Hezbollah assaults.

<https://www.albawaba.com/news/missile-barrage-lebanon-escalates-1582215>

### Israeli strikes in Lebanon spark warnings of all-out war

Mansour Al-Maswari

Albawaba, August 21, 2024

Tensions between Israel and Lebanon have sharply escalated, raising fears of a full-scale conflict. Israeli artillery targeted multiple sites in southern Lebanon, including the town of Beit Lif, while warplanes shattered the sound barrier over Beirut and the southern regions. This intensification follows the assassination of Khalil al-Maqdah, brother of Fatah leader Munir al-Maqdah, in an Israeli drone strike on Sidon. The Israeli army confirmed the strike, stating that they targeted al-Maqdah in a raid on southern Sidon. The escalation is further fueled by calls from Israeli National Security Minister Itamar Ben Gvir, who, during a visit to the Northern settlements affected by rocket attacks, urged for an all-out war against Hezbollah. Ben Gvir's statements were echoed by Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu, who warned, "We are prepared for any scenario, whether in defence or attack," emphasizing the strength of Israel's Air Force.

In response, Hezbollah claimed responsibility for multiple attacks on

Israeli targets, including the bombing of espionage equipment at the Birkat al-Risha site and the shelling of the Al-Malikiyah site.

<https://www.albawaba.com/news/israeli-strikes-lebanon-spark-warnings-1582360>

## Oman

### Oman-India working on free trade agreement

Pankaj Kumar Sharma

Times of Oman, August 31, 2024

The Minister of Commerce, Industry and Investment Promotion, Qais Al Yousef, is in India along with Pankaj Khimji, Adviser for Foreign Trade and International Cooperation at the Ministry of Commerce, Industry and Investment Promotion, to prepare the course for the Free Trade Agreement (FTA) between the Sultanate of Oman and India. In fact, work is on for an India-Oman Comprehensive Economic Partnership Agreement (CEPA) so that the trade between the two countries gets a further boost. India is a vast country with a huge market but Oman can be a development partner with its strategic ports of Sohar, Salalah and Duqm due to its unique location between the west and the east, added the minister. Indian Union Minister of Commerce and Industry, Piyush Goyal had a meeting with the Minister of Commerce, Industry and Investment Promotion on August 29, during which they discussed about enhancing cooperation, unlocking new avenues for growth, and deepening the India-Oman economic partnership. "Discussions focused on boosting bilateral trade, enhancing cooperation, unlocking

new avenues for growth, and deepening our economic partnership," said Goyal.

<https://timesofoman.com/article/149348-oman-india-working-on-free-trade-agreement>

## Palestine

### 'You are Complicit' – journalists call on US to impose arms embargo on Israel

Nurah Tape

Palestine Chronicle, August 16, 2024

"By providing the weapons being used to deliberately kill journalists, you are complicit in one of the gravest affronts to press freedom today." A group of more than 100 journalists, news outlets and press freedom organizations have urged the US government to "immediately cease" the transfer of all weapons to Israel. "More than 160 journalists" have been killed by Israel since it launched its war on Gaza last October, they said in a letter addressed to US Secretary of State, Antony Blinken, on August 15, noting that this "is the largest recorded number of journalists killed in any war." "Israel's military actions are not possible without U.S. weapons, U.S. military aid, and U.S. diplomatic support. By providing the weapons being used to deliberately kill journalists, you are complicit in one of the gravest affronts to press freedom today," the letter stated. It comes just over a week after Palestinian journalist Ismail al-Ghoul and his cameraman Rami al-Rifi were killed in an Israeli bombing that targeted their vehicle.

<https://www.palestinechronicle.com/you-are-complicit-journalists-call-on-us-to-impose-arms-embargo-on-israel/>

### **‘Profiting from war crimes’ – lawyers seek arms export ban to UK court**

Palestine Chronicle, August 19, 2024

“The UK is profiting from war crimes. This can and must be stopped.” Lawyers have submitted graphic testimonies of torture and denial of medical treatment of Palestinians in Gaza to London’s High Court in a bid to stop the UK government from issuing arms export licenses to British companies supplying weapons to Israel, the Guardian has reported. The submission of more than 100 pages includes statements from 14 witnesses including Palestinian and Western medical doctors working in Gaza’s hospitals, as well as ambulance drivers, civil defense department workers and aid workers, the report said. The evidence, the report said, was “designed to support a request for a court order that the UK government has acted irrationally in refusing to ban the sale of arms” to Israel. The government had argued that there was “not a clear risk the weapons would be used to commit breaches of international humanitarian law,” the report added.

<https://www.palestinechronicle.com/profiti ng-from-war-crimes-lawyers-seek-arms-export-ban-to-uk-court/>

## **Qatar**

### **Minister of state at the ministry of foreign affairs meets US secretary of state**

The Peninsula Qatar, August 20, 2024

Minister of State at the Ministry of Foreign Affairs HE Dr. Mohammed bin Abdulaziz bin Saleh Al Khulaifi met on August 20, in Doha with Secretary of State of the United States of America HE Antony Blinken.

They discussed the close strategic relations between the State of Qatar and the United States of America and ways to support and enhance them. They also tackled the latest developments in the Gaza Strip and the occupied Palestinian territories, developments in joint mediation efforts to end the war on the Strip, and the ongoing tensions in the Middle East, and stressed the need for calm and de-escalation in the region.

<https://thepeninsulaqatar.com/article/20/08/2024/minister-of-state-at-the-ministry-of-foreign-affairs-meets-us-secretary-of-state>

### **QNA announces expansion in use of AI programs**

Qatar News Agency, August 21, 2024

As part of the ongoing development and continuous modernization witnessed by Qatar News Agency (QNA), the agency announced the expansion of artificial intelligence (AI) programs in the work of its various departments, in cooperation with Microsoft, to keep pace with the developments that the world is undergoing in terms of use of these technologies, as well as what the media and journalistic field is undergoing particularly in its employment. According to the plan adopted by QNA, expanding the use of AI programs during the coming period will be at the level of the news services and other services it provides within the scope of its specializations and the tasks assigned to it, in a manner that facilitates the completion of work, speeds up its pace, and positively reflects on the on the quality of services provided.

<https://www.qna.org.qa/en/News%20Area/News/2024-08/21/0037-qna-announces-expansion-in-use-of-ai-programs>

### **Qatari aircraft arrives in port Sudan carrying shelter supplies for flood victims in Sudan**

Qatar News Agency, August 21, 2024

A Qatari Armed Forces aircraft arrived on August 21 at Port Sudan Airport in the Republic of Sudan, carrying 34 tons of shelter supplies provided by the Qatar Fund for Development (QFFD) in support of those affected by floods in the country. Since May 2023, the State of Qatar has been operating an air bridge to Sudan as part of its support for the fraternal Sudanese people, and its full support for their steadfastness in the face of the difficult circumstances they are experiencing due to the ongoing fighting.

<https://www.qna.org.qa/en/News-Area/News/2024-08/21/0052-qatari-aircraft-arrives-in-port-sudan-carrying%C2%A0shelter-supplies-for-flood-victims-in-sudan>

### **Saudi Arabia**

#### **US return of offensive weapons sales to top customer Saudi Arabia set to boost revenue**

Kyle Fitzgerald

The National, August 25, 2024

The US decision to lift its ban on selling offensive weapons to Saudi Arabia not only brings a key security partner in the Middle East back to the fold, but also Washington's biggest customer. The Biden administration reversed the three-year-old policy this month, which was originally meant to pressure the kingdom over its involvement in the Yemen war – a move that the US may now be regretting given its own need to curb the Houthis now.

Saudi Arabia – the main recipient of US arms exports from 2019-2023, according to the Stockholm International Peace Research Institute (Sipri), could boost revenue that made up 15 per cent of total US global arms exports at the time." [There is] quite a large amount of arms going to Saudi [Arabia]," Mathew George, director of the arms transfers programme at Sipri, who anticipates that will increase with the lifting of the restrictions. It is not clear how many offensive weapons, described in part as air-to-ground munitions by the State Department on August 9, would contribute to total US weapons exports to the kingdom. The US is expected to send shipments of thousands of bombs to Saudi Arabia worth more than \$750 million in the coming months after lifting the embargo, The Wall Street Journal previously reported.

<https://www.thenationalnews.com/business/2024/08/25/saudi-arabia-weapons-us/>

#### **Saudi defence minister meets emir of Qatar in Doha**

Arab News, August 26, 2024

Saudi Minister of Defence Prince Khalid bin Salman met on August 26, Emir of Qatar Sheikh Tamim bin Hamad Al-Thani at the Amiri Diwan in Doha. The minister conveyed the greetings of Saudi King Salman and Crown Prince Mohammed bin Salman and their best wishes for further progress and prosperity to Emir Tamim and the government and people of Qatar. Similarly, Emir Tamim conveyed his greetings to the Saudi king and crown prince. During the meeting, the two discussed relations between their countries, security in the region, and other

topics of mutual interest. The meeting was attended by several other ministers from both sides.

<https://www.arabnews.com/node/2568874/saudi-arabia>

## Syria

### **Syrian-Russian talks on boosting cooperation in energy field**

Syrian Arab News Agency, August 27, 2024

Minister of Petroleum and Mineral Resources, Firas Qaddour, stressed the depth and importance of cooperation relations between Syria and the Russian Federation, particularly in the field of energy in all its sectors. During a meeting in Moscow on August 27, with Russian Energy Minister Sergei Tsivilev, Minister Qaddour expressed his thanks to Russia, its leadership, government and people, for their support for Syria, noting that cooperation between the two countries has reached unprecedented levels in compliance of the directives of Presidents Bashar al-Assad and Vladimir Putin. Qaddour pointed out that the Ministry of Oil and Mineral Resources is making efforts to reconstruct the infrastructure in the field of extracting, transporting and refining petroleum products that were destroyed by terrorist organizations while they were wreaking havoc on Syrian territory.

<https://www.sana.sy/en/?p=337105>

### **Iran demands lifting of US unilateral sanctions imposed on Syria**

Syrian Arab News Agency, August 29, 2024

Iran's Permanent Representative and Ambassador to the UN in New York,

Amir Saied Iravani, has reiterated his country's call for the removal of US sanctions against Syria, and providing neutral and non-politicized humanitarian aid to all regions in Syria. The humanitarian situation in Syria remains dire and the Syrian people continue to suffer severe economic hardships and the politicization of humanitarian aid and the obstruction of international support for Syria's reconstruction largely driven by the U.S. and its Western allies have prolonged the conflict and intensified the suffering of the Syrian people." Iran's Ambassador and Permanent Representative to the UN Amir Saeed Iravani, said during Security Council session on the situation in the Middle East and Syria. Iravani also expressed his country's condemnation of the ongoing Israeli aggression against Syria and its continued occupation of the Syrian Golan, calling on the Security Council to condemn these criminal acts and take decisive measures to stop all its aggressive actions against Syria and Lebanon and stop the ongoing genocidal war against the Palestinian people.

<https://www.sana.sy/en/?p=337246>

## Turkiye

### **Turkey inaugurates naval shipyard, submarine floating dock to service newly built subs**

Agnes Helou

Breaking Defense, August 26, 2024

Highlighting a focus on expanding its naval capabilities, Turkey has inaugurated Aksaz Shipyard command, put into service the first floating dock and announced a

number of other maritime milestones. “We are cognizant of the fact that in order to live in peace on our lands, we must have a strong and effective navy in both our blue homeland and distant geographies,” Turkish president Recep Tayyip Erdoğan said at a ceremony at the yard on August 25. Located in Marmaris district, Aksaz Shipyard Command is run by ministry of defence along with primary contractor ASFAT, a government-affiliated firm. According to an ASFAT statement, as of this weekend the shipyard officially hosts the world’s largest submarine floating dock with 3,000-ton lifting capacity, after the dock successfully completed tests and operational trials. Submarines themselves also took part in the large ceremony, as the Turkish Navy formally commissioned TCG Piri Reis (S-330), the first submarine of the “New Type Submarine Project,” while a second submarine TCG Hizir Reis (S-331) started its sea trials and a third submarine, TCG Murat Reis (S-332) was docked for fitting.

<http://breakingdefense.com/2024/08/turkey-inaugurates-naval-shipyard-submarine-floating-dock-to-service-newly-built-subs/>

### **Turkiye and Saudi Arabia forge defence technology partnership**

Middle East Monitor, August 27, 2024

The agreement, finalised during high-level meetings in Riyadh last month, aims to facilitate the transfer of advanced Turkish defence technologies to Saudi Arabia, enhancing the Kingdom’s military capabilities and fostering deeper military ties between the two countries. The cooperation encompasses a broad range of defence sectors, including unmanned aerial

vehicles (UAVs), missile systems, electronic warfare and advanced software systems. Turkish defence firms, renowned for their cutting-edge innovations, are expected to play a crucial role in the modernisation of Saudi Arabia’s defence industry. This partnership not only allows Saudi Arabia to acquire sophisticated military technologies but also to develop its indigenous production capabilities through joint ventures and collaborative research initiatives. Saudi Arabia’s interest in Turkish defence technology is part of its broader Vision 2030 strategy, which aims to diversify the Kingdom’s economy and reduce its dependence on oil by fostering a domestic defence industry. The agreement with Turkiye aligns with these goals, providing Saudi Arabia with access to state-of-the-art technologies and expertise that can significantly contribute to its defence sector’s growth.

<https://www.middleeastmonitor.com/2024-08-27-turkiye-and-saudi-arabia-forge-defence-technology-partnership/>

### **Turkish president vows to carry out 'Steel Dome' defence system project**

Muhammed Yasin Gungor

Anatolia Agency, August 31, 2024

Turkiye will carry out its "Steel Dome" air defence system project, the country’s president said on August 31. "Hopefully, we will carry out our 'Steel Dome' project with all of its components. If they (Israel) have the Iron Dome, we will also have the Steel Dome," Recep Tayyip Erdogan said at the Air War College Commencement and Flag Handover Ceremony. “The Steel Dome will ensure that our layered air

defence systems and all our sensors and weapons work in integration with each other,” Erdogan said. Erdogan emphasized Turkiye's growing prominence in unmanned aerial vehicle technology. "The momentum we have gained in unmanned aerial vehicles is being watched with envy not only by our friendly and brotherly nations, but all over the world," he said. With the commissioning of Kizilelma and ANKA-3 unmanned aerial vehicles, whose tests are ongoing, Turkiye will be a player in a “new league” in this field, Erdogan added.

<https://www.aa.com.tr/en/turkiye/turkish-president-vows-to-carry-out-steel-dome-defense-system-project/3317995>

## United Arab Emirates

### UAE to showcase cutting-edge aerospace, defence technologies at Egypt International Air Show 2024

Emirates News Agency, August 26, 2024

The UAE National Pavilion is set to take part in the first Egypt International Airshow in Al Almain city from 3rd to 5th September, with a dedicated exhibition space showcasing the UAE's defence capabilities and technological innovations. Held under the patronage of President Abdel Fattah El-Sisi of the Arab Republic of Egypt, the exhibition aims to accelerate the pace of manufacturing, digitalisation, and globalisation within the aerospace sectors of the Middle East and Africa. It serves as a premier platform for space agencies and satellite operators to discuss advancements in space exploration, satellite communications, and civil and military applications of space technology.

Egypt International Airshow will provide an ideal platform to showcase a wide range of aircraft models (civil, defence, and unmanned) in an open-air display area, along with professional air shows presented by a select group of world-class aerobatic teams. Supported by the Ministry of Defence and Tawazun Council, and organised by Emirates Defence Companies Council (EDCC), the National Pavilion will feature a wide range of advanced defence technologies and products, by leading UAE-based companies such as EDGE group, Calidus Aerospace, Sanad, Remah International Group, and AAL Group, as well as Al Jundi and Capital Events, with the extensive participation of 300 major international aircraft and aerospace manufacturers from 100 countries worldwide.

<https://www.wam.ae/en/article/b4vacmh-uae-showcase-cutting-edge-aerospace-defence>

### UAE National Pavilion to showcase latest defence developments at SOFEX 2024 in Jordan

Emirates News Agency, August 28, 2024

The UAE National Pavilion is set to participate in the 14th edition of the Special Operations Forces Exhibition and Conference (SOFEX) 2024, which will take place at Aqaba International Exhibitions and Conferences Centre in the Kingdom of Jordan from 3rd to 5th September. Over 300 international defence and security companies from 38 countries will attend SOFEX, one of the region's most significant defence events. The exhibition provides a platform for



showcasing the latest advanced products and solutions, bringing together key stakeholders, and fostering international cooperation in the fields of special operations and homeland security. Capital Events will also be present to promote the upcoming International Defence Exhibition (IDEX) and Naval Defence & Maritime Security Exhibition (NAVDEX) 2025, as well as Al Jundi Journal, a military and cultural magazine issued by the Ministry of Defence.

<https://www.wam.ae/en/article/b4wh7u0-uae-national-pavilion-showcase-latest-defence>

## Yemen

### Red Crescent provides urgent humanitarian aid to Yemenis

Kuwait Times, August 18, 2024

The Kuwait Red Crescent Society (KRCS) announced on August 18, that it is providing urgent aid to help those affected by floods and heavy rains that swept through the Yemeni governorates of Hodeidah and Marib, displacing thousands and destroying infrastructure there. The Society's Director General Abdulrahman Al-Aoun told Kuwait News Agency (KUNA) that this aid embodies Kuwait's policy of providing relief to the needy and alleviating the effects of this disaster that befell tens of thousands of Yemenis whose homes were destroyed and who were displaced due to rains and floods. Al-Aoun added that providing aid to Yemenis comes in response to the most important emergency needs resulting from the floods in the governorates of Hodeidah and

thousands of affected families. He explained that providing aid from the society comes in response to calls from local authorities in these two governorates to provide relief to the afflicted and to reduce the suffering of families affected by the torrential floods there, noting that there is cooperation and coordination to distribute relief aid with the Response Foundation for Humanitarian and Relief Works.

<https://kuwaittimes.com/article/17938/kuwait/other-news/red-crescent-provides-urgent-humanitarian-aid-to-yemenis/>

### US Centcom says it destroyed one houthi uncrewed aerial vehicle in Yemen

Arab News, August 19, 2024

US Central Command (CENTCOM) said on August 18, its forces successfully destroyed one Houthi uncrewed aerial vehicle in a Houthi-controlled area of Yemen. The Iran-aligned Houthi militants have launched repeated drone and missile strikes on ships they perceive as bound to or related to Israel or the United States since November to show their support for the Palestinians in the Gaza war.

<https://www.arabnews.com/node/2567937/middle-east>

# NUCLEAR AND ARMS CONTROL CENTRE

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

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