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मनोहर पर्रिकर रक्षा अध्ययन एवं विश्लेषण संस्थान

## Armenia

### Armenian Defence Minister attends opening ceremony of Responsible Artificial Intelligence in the Military Domain summit

Armenpress, September 9, 2024

On September 9, as part of his working visit to the Republic of Korea, the Minister of Defence of Armenia Suren Papikyan attended the opening ceremony of the “Responsible Artificial Intelligence in the Military Domain” summit, the Ministry of Defence said in a press release. The event was organized by the Ministries of Defence and Foreign Affairs of the Republic of Korea, the Netherlands, the United Kingdom, Singapore, and Kenya, with the aim of establishing international mechanisms to regulate the use of artificial intelligence in military technology and military operations.

<https://armenpress.am/en/article/1199328>

### Nagorno-Karabakh does not exist as an entity: Armenia

Diyar Guldogan

Anadolu Agency, September 10, 2024

The Speaker of Armenia’s Parliament, Alen Simonyan, said on September 9, that Nagorno-Karabakh “does not exist.” “Legally, Nagorno-Karabakh does not exist as an entity.” “There are only our (Artsakh) compatriots whose problems the Armenian government is addressing in an excellent way,” Simonyan said.

<https://www.aa.com.tr/en/world/nagorno-karabakh-does-not-exist-as-an-entity-armenia/3325892>

### Armenia interested in buying more ATAGS artillery systems from India

Armenpress, September 12, 2024

Armenia is interested in buying additional ATAGS 155mm artillery systems from India, Sputnik Armenia news agency reported citing Indian Institute for Defence Studies and Analyses Director Sujan Chinoy. “ATAGS is highly maneuverable,” Chinoy told Sputnik Armenia. “They are made in India and have been highly successful. The Armenian side bought six of these systems and was satisfied.” Chinoy mentioned Armenia’s previous acquisition of the Swathi Weapon Locating Radar systems and Pinaka MRLS. He said that Armenia has potential to develop its defence industry, which is now focused on startups. “Armenia has three such companies, which isn’t few given the country’s size and population. India has 120 such companies. Therefore Yerevan and Delhi can establish active cooperation in the area of military technologies, especially in issues concerning startups,” Chinoy said.

<https://armenpress.am/en/article/1199651>

### Defence ministers express their commitment to further advancing Armenia-China cooperation

News.am, September 12, 2024

Minister of Defence of Armenia Suren Papikyan on September 12, met with the Minister of National Defence of China Admiral Dong Jun on the sidelines of his visit to China. During the meeting, the interlocutors underscored the elevated level of relations between the two

countries across various domains, including defence. Also, the parties noted the substantial progress in military cooperation in recent years, including the exploration of new domains.

<https://news.am/eng/news/842166.html>

## Azerbaijan

### Batumi hosts 11th trilateral meeting of defence ministers of Azerbaijan, Georgia and Turkiye

Farid Zohrabov

Trend News Agency, September 10, 2024

On September 10, the Minister of Defence of the Republic of Azerbaijan, Colonel General Zakir Hasanov, the Minister of National Defence of the Republic of Turkiye, Yaşar Guler, and the Minister of Defence of Georgia, Irakli Chikovani, held the trilateral meeting, Trend reports, referring to the Azerbaijani Defence Ministry. The meeting noted that for centuries the peoples of 3 countries have been living in conditions of good neighborhood and friendship, and even today mutual relations between the leadership of the heads of state and government are developing. It was stated that cooperation based on mutual trust is of great importance in terms of ensuring the happy future and well-being of our people. The Defence Ministers highlighted the importance of expanding the scope of trilateral and bilateral joint exercises and the exchange of mutual experience. It was emphasized with confidence that the development of tripartite cooperation in the field of defence will contribute greatly not only to the countries but also to the establishment of sustainable peace,

stability, and security in the region. At the meeting, new perspectives of cooperation in military, military-technical, military-educational, and military-medical spheres were discussed.

<https://en.trend.az/azerbaijan/politics/3943445.html>

### Energy China expanding its presence in Azerbaijan through subsidiaries

Report News Agency, September 13, 2024

China, through its subsidiary companies, has been expanding its presence in Azerbaijan, particularly in the renewable energy sector, China Energy International Group Co. Ltd. Country Manager Shanxiang Wu said in an interview with Report. “In June 2023, a Memorandum of Understanding was signed between the Ministry of Energy and CGGCOIC. This will continue to focus on the development of utility-scale renewable energy projects such as solar, wind, energy storage, and green hydrogen in Azerbaijan. Meanwhile, Energy China is strengthening cooperation and partnership with local companies such as SOCAR Green and Nobel Energy in the renewable energy,” Shanxiang Wu said. He recalled that Chinese President Xi Jinping met with Azerbaijani President Ilham Aliyev on the Shanghai Cooperation Organization summit in Astana on July 3, 2024: “The presidents emphasized the importance of broader efforts in the field of green energy and regional interconnection, which are also highlighted in the joint statement on the establishment of the Azerbaijan-China strategic partnership.”

<https://report.az/en/energy/energy-china-through-its-subsidiary-companies-expanding-its-presence-in-azerbaijan/>

## Bahrain

### Foreign Minister highlights Bahrain-US strategic agreement's impact

Bahrain News Agency, September 13, 2024

Foreign Minister Dr. Abdullatif bin Rashid Al Zayani emphasised the positive outcomes of the Comprehensive Security Integration and Prosperity Agreement between Bahrain and the United States, one year after its signing. He highlighted its role in strengthening the strategic partnership between the two nations, fostered under the leadership of His Majesty King Hamad bin Isa Al Khalifa and US President Joe Biden. Dr. Al Zayani noted the agreement's strategic benefits, particularly in defence and security cooperation. He commended the efforts of His Highness Lieutenant-General Shaikh Nasser bin Hamad Al Khalifa, National Security Advisor and Royal Guard Commander, in overseeing its implementation. The agreement has also enhanced economic cooperation, trade, technology, and cybersecurity, with a focus on digital infrastructure and the "Cloud Computing First" policy.

<https://www.bna.bh/en/news?cms=q8FmFJgiscL2fwIzON1%2BDup%2FTeZVMAQxcxpCjvM4FEU%3D>

### Bahrain secures USD 16.65 million in investments from Indian companies

Business Standard, September 13, 2024

With the support of Team Bahrain, the Bahrain Economic Development Board (Bahrain EDB) has secured investment commitments valued at USD 16.65 million from three leading India-based companies

across the sectors of manufacturing, renewable energy, and ICT. The announcements were made during Bahrain EDB's ongoing week-long visit to Mumbai, Bengaluru, and Chennai, designed to strengthen bilateral economic ties and attract foreign direct investment to Bahrain.

[https://www.business-standard.com/content/press-releases-ani/bahrain-secures-usd-16-65-million-in-investments-from-indian-companies-124091300887\\_1.html](https://www.business-standard.com/content/press-releases-ani/bahrain-secures-usd-16-65-million-in-investments-from-indian-companies-124091300887_1.html)

## Cyprus

### Cyprus and the US sign a defence deal outlining ways to tackle regional crises

Arab Times, September 10, 2024

Cyprus and the United States have signed a defence cooperation framework agreement that outlines ways the two countries can enhance their response to regional humanitarian crises and security concerns, including those arising from climate change. Cyprus Defence Minister Vassilis Palmas and US Assistant Secretary of Defence for International Security Affairs Celeste Wallander hailed the agreement on September 9, another milestone in burgeoning Cypriot-US ties in recent years that saw the lifting in 2022 of a decades-old US arms embargo imposed on the east Mediterranean island nation. "The Republic of Cyprus is a strong partner to the United States, in Europe and the Eastern Mediterranean, and plays a pivotal role at the nexus of Europe, North Africa and the Middle East," Wallander said after talks with Palmas.

<https://www.arabtimesonline.com/news/cyprus-and-the-us-sign-a-defense-deal-outlining-ways-to-tackle-regional-crisis/>

## Georgia

### Armenian defence minister visits Georgia

Civil Georgia, September 2, 2024

Armenian Minister of Defence Suren Papikyan has paid an official visit to Georgia and met with Prime Minister Irakli Kobakhidze and Defence Minister Irakli Chikovani. According to the Armenian media, the visit was made at the official invitation of the Georgian Defence Minister. On September 2, the Defence Minister Papikyan was welcomed with an official ceremony at the Georgian Defence Ministry. According to official reports, during the meeting, the two ministers discussed relations between the countries, with the Georgian side quoting the “importance of regional peace and stability.” The parties also discussed the directions of the 2024 bilateral cooperation plan between the two ministries. The Armenian Defence Minister met with Prime Minister Kobakhidze to discuss “friendly relations and cooperation in the defence sphere” between Armenia and Georgia. During the meeting, the parties noted that the Strategic Partnership declaration signed between the two countries provides a sound basis for cooperation “to deepen the partnership” in various directions. According to the Georgian government’s press release, the discussion also emphasized the “importance of joint efforts to address the global and regional security environment and challenges.”

<https://civil.ge/archives/622236>

### Georgia and China sign memorandum to advance the Middle Corridor

Georgia Today, September 13, 2024

In the framework of Levan Davitashvili’s visit to China, a Memorandum of Understanding was formed and signed to advance the railway express between China and Europe, with the focus of boosting developing infrastructure and improving routes. Based on its strategic location, the agreement is anticipated to encourage trade between Europe and China through the Middle Corridor. The meeting underscored a six-fold increase in cargo movement between January and July of 2024.

<https://georgiatoday.ge/georgia-and-china-sign-memorandum-to-advance-the-middle-corridor/>

## Iran

### Iran's UN envoy warns Israel's nuclear arsenal poses serious threat to entire world

Presstv, September 5, 2024

Iran has issued a stern warning about the risk posed to the entire world by Israel’s nuclear arsenal, calling for international supervision over the regime’s nuclear facilities. Iran’s permanent representative to the United Nations Amir Saeid Iravani made the statement in an address to the UN General Assembly on the International Day against Nuclear Tests on September 4. “The current situation is alarming, as the Israeli regime is threatening other regional countries with nuclear annihilation, and its nuclear arsenal poses a significant threat to both regional and global peace and

security,” he said. He added that the international community should make the Israeli regime accede to the Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons (NPT) “without any precondition” and to place all of its nuclear facilities under the full-scope IAEA safeguards. Israel is estimated to possess 200 to 400 nuclear warheads in its arsenal, making it the sole possessor of non-conventional arms in West Asia. It has refused to either allow inspections of its nuclear facilities by the International Atomic Energy Agency or sign the NPT. Tehran says Israel’s nuclear weapons are the biggest threat to peace and security in West Asia and the world.

<https://www.presstv.ir/Detail/2024/09/05/732695/Iran-Israel-Amir-Saeid-Iravani-UN-General-Assembly-International-Day-Nuclear-Tests-annihilation-arsenal--NPT-IAEA-safeguards-CTBT>

### **Chamran 1 satellite stabilized in orbit, moving in its path: Iranian official**

Islamic Republic News Agency, September 14, 2024

Iranian defence ministry official Commodore Amir Rastegari has said that Chamran 1 research satellite has been stabilized in orbit and is moving in its path. The domestically-built satellite, which weighs 60 kg, was successfully placed at an orbit of 550 km on September 14. Rastegari, the managing director of Iran Electronics Industries – affiliated to the defence ministry – said during a TV interview on September 14, night that Chamran 1 has been monitored four times since it was launched earlier in the day. The monitoring shows that the satellite has been stabilized and is moving in its path,

he added. The official said that Chamran 1 is the first Iranian-made spacecraft whose orbit can be changed after launch. “The satellites that we have so far launched into space were mainly active in the field of imaging and telecommunications, and when they were placed in orbit, we were not able to change and move the orbit and we did not have orbital maneuverers for the sent satellites”, he explained. Chamran 1 was put into orbit using the Qaem-100 satellite carrier, a solid-fueled space launch vehicle developed by the aerospace experts of the Islamic Revolution Gauds Corps (IRGC).

<https://en.irna.ir/news/85596518/Chamran-1-satellite-stabilized-in-orbit-moving-in-its-path>

### **G7 renews claims Iran supplied Russia with missiles**

Islamic Republic News Agency, September 15, 2024

The foreign ministers of the Group of Seven (G7) industrialized economies, in a joint statement’ have repeated baseless claims first raised by American media about Iran's involvement in the Ukraine conflict by sending ballistic missiles to Russia. We, the foreign ministers of G7 countries (Canada, France, Germany, Italy, Japan, England and the United States) and the representative on behalf of the European Union, strongly condemn the transfer of Iranian ballistic missiles to Russia, IRNA cited the statement, a copy of which was published on the website of the British Foreign Office on September 14. “Iran must immediately cease all support to Russia’s illegal and unjustifiable war against Ukraine and halt

such transfers of ballistic missiles, UAVs (drones) and related technology, which constitute a direct threat to the Ukrainian people as well as European and international security more broadly,” the G7 ministers said in the statement. The top diplomats of the Group of Seven claimed that regardless of the origin of the conflict in Ukraine, Russia's aggression is a clear violation of international laws, including the UN Charter, and Iran must immediately withdraw all its support for Russia's illegal and unjustified war against Ukraine. The US and its western allies keep leveling accusations against Iran without providing any evidence that Tehran had supplied Russia with ballistic missiles.

<https://en.irna.ir/news/85596549/G7-renews-claims-Iran-supplied-Russia-with-missiles>

## Iraq

### **Iraq ministry of defence orders 12 airbus H225M helicopters**

Times Aerospace, September 9, 2024

The contract was signed in Baghdad by the Minister of Defence of Iraq Thabet al-Abbasi in the presence of the French Ambassador Patrick Durel. These helicopters will be operated by the Iraqi Army Aviation command replacing older Mi-17s for a wider range of missions: counter-terrorism, special operations, tactical troop transport, attack, ground fire support, MEDEVAC and combat search and rescue. Deliveries will start in 2025. Iraq already operates a fleet of Airbus helicopters from the H125, H135 and H145 families. “We are very pleased to welcome a new member in the H225M

family,” said Bruno Even, CEO of Airbus Helicopters. “The H225M is a combat-proven platform used around the world by many operators, including the French Air Force, for combat search and rescue missions. It has proven its worth and saved many lives since entering into service,” he added. “The H225M is unmatched in terms of range, payload and also mission systems. It has been designed to operate challenging missions in the most demanding environments. We are looking forward to seeing the H225M contribute to Iraq’s safety and sovereignty.”

<https://www.timesaerospace.aero/news/defence/iraq-ministry-of-defence-orders-12-airbus-h225m-helicopters>

### **Iraq to purchase eight South Korean M-SAM air defence systems worth \$2.63 billion**

Global Defense News, September 12, 2024

According to Defence Arabic on September 9, 2024, Iraqi Defence Minister Thabet Al-Abbasi announced that the contract for the South Korean Cheongung-II (M-SAM II) air defence missile system has been finalized and will be signed next week. According to Heo Baek-yoon, the contract involves eight batteries of this system, also known as the "Korean Patriot," and is expected to be worth around 3.5 trillion Korean won, or approximately \$2.63 billion. This marks another step in expanding South Korea's defence exports in the Middle East, following previous deals with the United Arab Emirates (UAE) and Saudi Arabia. The KM-SAM is part of a multi-layered defence strategy, targeting both aircraft and ballistic missiles with guidance

systems that combine inertial navigation, midcourse updates, and terminal active radar homing.

<https://armyrecognition.com/news/army-news/army-news-2024/iraq-to-purchase-eight-south-korean-m-sam-air-defense-systems-worth-2-63-billion-next-week>

## Israel

### Israeli defence companies showcase in India advanced tech to counter drone threats

The Economic Times, September 5, 2024

An event in New Delhi saw nine Israeli defence companies showcasing advanced technologies to counter drone threats. The seminar, held from September 2 to 4, aimed to enhance security cooperation between Israel and India. Representatives from both countries' defence ministries and industries participated, focusing on addressing the growing threat of drones in security and criminal aspects. Israel, India strengthens security ties through advanced cooperation against drone threats. Seeking to enhance security cooperation between Israel and India in combating drone threat, an event was held here during which nine Israeli defence companies showcased advanced technologies to counter such threats, according to an official statement issued on September 5. The seminar from September 2 to 4 featured participation from the representatives and senior officials from Israel's Ministry of Defence, economic and security attaches, and representatives from India's Ministry of Defence, and defence and civilian industries from both countries, the statement issued by the Israeli Embassy

here said. The seminar focused on "addressing the growing threat of drones", both in security and criminal aspects, which poses a significant challenge to the security forces worldwide due to their ability to be used for intelligence gathering, weapon carrying and precise attacks, it added. Throughout the seminar, nine Israeli defence companies showcased advanced technologies to counter the drone threat.

<https://economictimes.indiatimes.com/news/defence/israeli-defence-companies-showcase-in-india-advanced-tech-to-counter-drone-threats/articleshow/113102583.cms?from=mdr>

### Ballistic missile fired from Yemen triggers sirens across central Israel

Emanuel Fabian

Times of Israel, September 15, 2024

A surface-to-surface ballistic missile was fired at central Israel from Yemen by the Iran-backed Houthis on September 15. The missile attack set off sirens across central Israel at around 6:30 a.m., with alerts heard from the east of Tel Aviv to Modiin. The military made several attempts to intercept the missile, the Israel Defence Forces said, though the results of the attempts were still being investigated. The IDF said the ballistic missile fell apart in the air over Israel, citing an initial probe. "From a preliminary examination, it appears that the missile apparently disintegrated in the air," the military said in a statement.

<https://www.timesofisrael.com/ballistic-missile-fired-from-yemen-triggers-sirens-across-central-israel/>



### **PM said to warn Israel faces ‘large-scale confrontation’ with Hezbollah in near future**

Times of Israel, September 15, 2024

Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu was said to have warned security chiefs during a strategic discussion on September 12, that Israel was facing a “large-scale confrontation” with Hezbollah in the north of the country, a possibility that he contended would not diminish the military pressure on Hamas in Gaza. According to Channel 13 news, Netanyahu believes that Israel is headed for an inevitable all-out confrontation with Hezbollah, as a diplomatic solution that could bring an end to the near-daily cross-border clashes with the Lebanese terror group remains elusive. Citing an unnamed Netanyahu associate, Channel 13 reported that no timeline had been established for the expected confrontation, which has been promised by top officials for months, and as such, it could be in weeks or months from now.

<https://www.timesofisrael.com/pm-said-to-warn-israel-faces-large-scale-confrontation-with-hezbollah-in-near-future/>

### **Jordan**

#### **JODDB partners with UK's SAE media group to hold 1st counter-drone technology conference in July**

Jordan News Agency, September 4, 2024

The spokesperson for the Jordan Design and Development Bureau (JODDB), Head of Sales and Business Strategy Department, Ratib Abu Al-Ragheb, announced a Jordanian-British partnership

to hold a conference and exhibition for counter-drone technology, the first of its kind in the region, through a partnership between JODDB and UK's SAE Media Group in July. Abu Al-Ragheb said that the conference was held in two countries, the United States of America and the UK, and will be held for the first time in the Middle East in Jordan under the patronage and support of the Jordan Armed Forces (JAF) - Arab Army, and the JODDB. Abu Al-Ragheb added, "We, in JODDB, seek to be leaders in organizing such events and highlighting the development in the Kingdom with this technology and the development in the defence and technological industries in general," pointing out that such events contribute effectively to economic, tourism, and investment development." He said that the conference will discuss all existing challenges, given the great acceleration in technology and challenges, and the emergence of new types of wars such as hybrid warfare, sixth wars and cyber warfare, due to the presence of drones that have changed the nature of these wars.

[https://www.petra.gov.jo/Include/InnerPage.jsp?ID=63166&lang=en&name=en\\_news](https://www.petra.gov.jo/Include/InnerPage.jsp?ID=63166&lang=en&name=en_news)

#### **SOFEX 2024 concludes after wide local, international participation**

Jordan Times, September 5, 2024

The 14th Special Operations Forces Exhibition and Conference (SOFEX) 2024 concluded on September 3 in Aqaba, after witnessing a wide local and international participation. The director-general of the Jordan Design and Development Bureau (JODDB) and vice chairman of SOFEX

said that the significance and success of the exhibition serve as a catalyst for building further partnerships and cooperation in the future, according to a Jordan Armed Forces-Arab Army (JAF) statement. He pointed out that this international exhibition, inaugurated by His Majesty King Abdullah, the Supreme Commander of JAF, attracted more than 300 companies specialising in defence and security industries and representatives from 73 countries. The director-general added that SOFEX 2024, held under the theme "Collaboration and Convergence to Strengthen Global Security", featured the second edition of the "Levitare" exhibition that is specialised in drones, which play a pivotal role in special operations for reconnaissance and surveillance missions, and reducing human risks. Also, Levitate was the first event to be held at the Aqaba International Exhibition and Convention Centre, which comprises 175,000 square metres of indoor and outdoor exhibition space, the statement added.

<https://jordantimes.com/news/local/sofex-2024-concludes-after-wide-local-international-participation>

## **Kuwait**

### **Kuwait concludes naval drill aimed at repelling hostile acts**

Kuwait News Agency, September 13, 2024

The Ministry of Interior on September 13, declared conclusion of the naval drill, "bahri-5," that involved boats of the coast guards, the navy and police aircraft. The exercise aimed at elevating level of the combat preparedness of the naval forces

and bolstering their capacities to safeguard the territorial waters, marine regions and robustly resist any threat from hostile forces and foiling smuggling bids. Participating personnel fired live ammunition, deployed light and heavy arms during the drill.

<https://www.kuna.net.kw/ArticleDetails.aspx?id=3181305&Language=en>

### **Kuwait to join IAEA "Rays of Hope" initiative as regional center**

Kuwait News Agency, September 15, 2024

Kuwait has reached an initial agreement to join as a regional center for the Rays of Hope initiative launched by the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA) to help low- and middle-income countries and enhance their ability to obtain cancer treatment. In remarks to KUNA September 15, the Head of the Radiotherapy and Oncology Department at the center and the head of the Kuwaiti delegation to Vienna, Dr. Yasser Hassan, confirmed that the visit aimed to meet with technical officials from the IAEA to discuss the development of radiotherapy techniques, the importance of this step in establishing new partnerships that work to expand capabilities in the field of radiotherapy. He noted that the preliminary agreement allows Kuwait, represented by the Department of Radiotherapy and Oncology, to join as a representative center in the region within the innovative initiative of the Atomic Energy Agency (Rays of Hope).

<https://www.kuna.net.kw/ArticleDetails.aspx?id=3182474&language=en#>

### **Kuwait naval deputy chief commander meets UAE, Saudi peers**

Kuwait News Agency, September 15, 2024

The Ministry of Defence announced, Sunday that Rear Admiral of the Naval Force Saif Al-Hamlan made two official visits to the sisterly UAE and Saudi Arabia. During the visits, Al-Hamlan met with Commander of the UAE Naval Forces, Rear Admiral Pilot Sheikh Saeed bin Hamdan Al-Nahyan of the UAE, and Commander of the Eastern Fleet of the Royal Saudi Naval Forces, Rear Admiral Sajer Al-Enezi. A Ministry statement said the visits; that took place last week, came within the framework of strengthening joint military cooperation, during which training and exchanging experiences were discussed, in addition to coordination among GCC naval commands to enhance joint maritime operational capabilities.

<https://www.kuna.net.kw/ArticleDetails.aspx?id=3182501&language=en>

### **Lebanon**

#### **Hezbollah rains rockets on Israeli base near Tiberias after Kfar Rumman airstrike**

Naharnet, September 15, 2024

Hezbollah said September 14, that it fired dozens of Katyusha rockets at an Israeli artillery and precision missile base in Yiftah Elifelet northwest of Lake Tiberias, deep in northern Israel. It said the attack was a response to an overnight Israeli airstrike that wounded ten people in the Nabatieh district town of Kfar

Rumman. Hezbollah had earlier said that it fired Katyusha rockets at an Israeli base in Ami'ad near Safad in response to a deadly strike on the West Bekaa town of al-Ahmadiyah. The group also targeted a tank in the occupied Shebaa Farms in response to that attack. An Israeli drone meanwhile targeted the southern border town of Mays al-Jabal after an overnight Israeli airstrike on the forest of the town of Kounine. The Israeli army for its part said that it attacked rocket launchers that were used to target northern Israel overnight and on Saturday morning, describing the empty building targeted in Kfar Rumman as a "military building." It also said that it fired artillery shells at several areas in south Lebanon.

<https://www.naharnet.com/stories/en/308002-hezbollah-rains-rockets-on-israeli-base-near-tiberias-after-kfar-rumman-airstrike>

### **Oman**

#### **Oman signs technical cooperation framework document with IAEA**

Times of Oman, September 11, 2024

The Sultanate of Oman and the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA) signed in Vienna the Technical Cooperation Framework document for the period 2024-2029. The cooperation framework, the third document signed by Oman, comprises cooperation programmes in the fields of radiation safety, agriculture, food safety, human health, water resources, environment and cultural heritage. The step reflects keenness to meet the objectives of Oman Vision 2040. The document was signed by Yousef

Ahmed Al Jabri, Permanent Representative of the Sultanate of Oman to the International Atomic Energy Agency, and Hua Liu, Deputy Director General of the IAEA Technical Cooperation.

<https://timesofoman.com/article/149748-oman-signs-technical-cooperation-framework-document-with-iaea>

### **Indian Army contingent departs for India- Oman joint military exercise Al Najah v**

Ministry of Defence, September 12, 2024

The Indian Army contingent departed the 5<sup>th</sup> edition of India-Oman Joint Military Exercise al najah. The exercise is scheduled to be conducted from 13<sup>th</sup> to 26<sup>th</sup> September 2024 at Rabkoot Training Area in Salalah, Oman. Exercise al najah has been held biennially since 2015, alternating between India and Oman. Last edition of the same exercise was conducted at Mahajan in Rajasthan. The Indian Army contingent comprising 60 personnel is being represented by a Battalion of the Mechanised Infantry Regiment along with personnel from other arms and services. The Royal Army of Oman contingent also comprising of 60 personnel will be represented by the troops of Frontier Force. Aim of the Joint Exercise is to enhance joint military capability of both sides to undertake counter terrorism operations under Chapter VII of the United Nations Charter. The exercise will focus on operations in the Desert environment.

<https://pib.gov.in/PressReleaseIframePage.aspx?PRID=2054052>

## **Palestine**

### **Many killed in Israeli attacks on Gaza city**

Urooba Jamal

Al-Jazeera, September 15, 2024

Several Palestinians killed in Israeli attacks on family home in Sheikh Radwan and Zeitoun neighbourhoods of Gaza City. The Israeli army says there is a “high probability” an Israeli air raid in November last year was responsible for the deaths of three people held captive in Gaza. A missile fired by Yemen’s Houthi rebels lands deep inside Israel, triggering air raid sirens in Tel Aviv and across central Israel. Israel’s military ordered Palestinians to leave parts of Beit Lahiya in northern Gaza as the Palestinian Foreign Ministry warned that the evacuations were a “prelude to the annexation of Gaza” for “settlement purposes”. At least 41,206 people have been killed and 95,337 wounded in Israel’s war on Gaza. In Israel, the number of those killed in the Hamas-led attacks on October 7 is at least 1,139, while more than 200 people were taken captive.

<https://www.aljazeera.com/news/liveblog/2024/9/15/israels-war-on-gaza-live-israel-kills-21-in-north-gaza-orders-evacuation>

## **Qatar**

### **Qatar tops countries in global cyber security index 2024**

Qatar News Agency, September 13, 2024

The National Cyber security Agency (NCSA) announces that the State of Qatar

has achieved a major accomplishment in the Global Cyber security Index (GCI) 2024, as it was classified as a "model" country at the international level in the field of cyber security. According to the index issued September 13, by the International Telecommunication Union of the United Nations, the State of Qatar was classified in this classification due to its excellence in the various pillars that represent cyber security obligations at the state level, namely: legal, technical, regulatory, capacity development, and cooperation.

<https://www.qna.org.qa/en/News-Area/News/2024-09/13/0037-qatar-tops-countries-in-global-cybersecurity-index-2024>

## Saudi Arabia

### **Aramco digital, Groq partner to build world's largest AI inferencing data center**

Saudi Press Agency, September 12, 2024

Aramco Digital Company and Groq, a leader in artificial-intelligence (AI) inference, announced their partnership to establish the world's largest inferencing data center in the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia. The strategic collaboration marks a significant step forward in advancing the Kingdom's digital transformation initiatives and solidifying its position as a global leader in AI and cloud computing. The announcement was made on the sidelines of the Global AI Summit (GAIN Summit), which concludes in Riyadh. The inferencing data center will play a pivotal role in Aramco Digital's vision to leverage advanced technologies that drive

operational excellence and support the Kingdom Vision 2030.

<https://www.spa.gov.sa/en/N2170581>

### **Statement issued following the fourth meeting of High-Level Saudi-Chinese joint committee**

Saudi Press Agency, September 12, 2024

With the aim of bolstering Saudi-Chinese relations, Premier of the State Council of the People's Republic of China Li Qiang visited Saudi Arabia on September 11, 2024, to engage in discussions with His Royal Highness Prince Mohammed bin Salman bin Abdulaziz Al Saud, the Crown Prince and Prime Minister, focusing on strengthening the comprehensive strategic partnership between the two countries across all fields. The discussions also touched upon key regional and international issues of mutual interest. Both parties commended the robust economic, trade, and investment relations between the two nations, with Saudi Arabia being China's top trading partner in the Middle East and reciprocally, China being the Kingdom's foremost trading partner. Trade between the two countries reached \$48 billion by June 2024, with Saudi exports to China totaling \$24 billion and Chinese exports to the Kingdom also amounting to \$24 billion.

<https://www.spa.gov.sa/en/N2170273>

### **Saudi Arabia and South Africa are close to signing MoU in space industry**

Saudi Gazette, September 12, 2024

South Africa's Minister of Science, Technology and Innovation Dr Bonginkosi

Blade Nzimande announced that his country and Saudi Arabia are close to signing a new memorandum of understanding in the field of space industry, which will be implemented by the space agencies from both the countries. Speaking to Asharq Al-Awsat, he said that South Africa is keen to expand cooperation with the Kingdom in the field of developing joint satellites. He pointed out that this cooperation coincides with Saudi Arabia's efforts to enhance its capabilities in space sciences, including the recent establishment of the Space Weather Center in South Africa.

<https://www.saudigazette.com.sa/article/645479>

### **Saudi Arabia, Qatar sign agreement to exchange security information**

Saudi Gazette, September 12, 2024

Saudi Arabia and Qatar have signed a cooperation agreement to exchange personal data and information for security purposes. A memorandum of understanding (MoU) has also been signed between the ministries of Interior in the two countries for cooperation in the field of scientific, training and research activities. Saudi Interior Minister Prince Abdulaziz bin Saud and Sheikh Khalifa Al Thani, Minister of Interior and Commander of the Internal Security Force in Qatar, held official talks at the Qatari Ministry of Interior in Doha. Several topics of common interest were discussed, and cooperation between the two countries in the security fields and ways to support and develop them were reviewed.

<https://www.saudigazette.com.sa/article/645473>

## **Syria**

### **Syrian-Iranian talks to boost scientific, research cooperation**

Syrian Arab News Agency, September 9, 2024

Caretaker Minister of Higher Education and Scientific Research, Bassam Ibrahim, discussed on September 9, with the Iranian Ambassador in Damascus, Hussein Akbari, and an accompanying delegation, mutual cooperation in the scientific and research fields, work of the Joint Committee for Scientific Exchange, Scholarships for the current academic year, and mechanisms for activating the executive program that is signed between the two countries. Minister Ibrahim hailed the support provided by the Iranian side in terms of providing scholarships for Syrian students to continue their education in the first university stage and Master's degree, exchanging expertise, holding scientific conferences and publishing in scientific journals.

<https://sana.sy/en/?p=337928>

## **Turkiye**

### **Turkey advances plan for a national air-defence shield**

Cem Devrim Yaylali

Defensenews, September 11, 2024

Turkey has finalized key plans for its Çelik Kubbe – Steel Dome – air defence system, a project designed to enhance the nation's airspace security with advanced, multilayered defence capabilities. The decision came during the second meeting of the Defence Industry Executive

Committee (SSIK), chaired by President Recep Tayyip Erdoğan last month. The Steel Dome aims to integrate a wide range of air defence assets, creating a real-time operational picture and enabling centralized control with the help of artificial intelligence. The Steel Dome is a domestic initiative developed by Aselsan in collaboration with Roketsan and Turkish government research institute Tubitak Sage. It brings together existing and future sensors, communication networks, and weapons under one system for comprehensive airspace protection. The project's goal is to establish a unified defence network capable of defending Turkey against emerging aerial threats like drones and missiles.

<https://www.defensenews.com/global/europe/2024/09/11/turkey-advances-plan-for-a-national-air-defense-shield/>

### **Turkish forces 'neutralize' 3 PKK/YPG terrorists in northern Iraq, Syria**

Faruk Zorlu

Anatolia Agency, September 15, 2024

Turkish security forces "neutralized" three PKK/YPG terrorists in northern Iraq and Syria, near the Turkish border, the country's National Defence Ministry said on September 15. The Turkish Armed Forces neutralized two PKK/YPG terrorists in the Operation Euphrates Shield region of northern Syria, and another one in the Operation Claw-Lock zone of northern Iraq, the ministry added. Turkish authorities use the term "neutralize" to imply the terrorists in question surrendered or were killed or captured. Terrorists often hide out in

northern Iraq, just across the Turkish border, to plot terror attacks in Türkiye. Ankara has launched a trio of successful anti-terror operations since 2016 across its border in northern Syria to prevent the formation of a terror corridor and enable the peaceful settlement of residents: Euphrates Shield (2016), Olive Branch (2018) and Peace Spring (2019). Nearby PKK/YPG forces have tried to target or harass Turkish troops and terrorise locals.

<https://www.aa.com.tr/en/middle-east/turkish-forces-neutralize-3-pkk-ypg-terrorists-in-northern-iraq-syria/3330798>

### **United Arab Emirates**

#### **EDGE Group, CONDOR to localise advanced non-lethal solutions, services in U.A.E**

Emirates News Agency, September 12, 2024

EDGE, one of the world's leading advanced technology and defence groups, has announced a joint business plan with its entity CONDOR, a world leader in non-lethal technology, to establish new non-lethal manufacturing and specialised training facilities in the UAE. Announced during a visit by CONDOR's Board of Directors to Abu Dhabi, the new strategic facilities will provide the latest non-lethal solutions and services to surrounding regions. The facilities will also position the UAE as an export hub for highly specialised defence, homeland security, and sovereignty capabilities.

<https://www.wam.ae/en/article/b55eqbd-edge-group-condor-localise-advanced-non-lethal>

## **UAE ranked as role model for cybersecurity in global report**

The National, September 13, 2024

The Emirates secured the highest tier one rating – for countries viewed as role models in the sector – in the Global Cybersecurity Index 2024, released on September 12. The index is compiled by the International Telecommunication Union, a specialised agency of the UN dedicated to information and communication technology. The UAE is one of 46 countries in the top ranking, alongside fellow Gulf countries Saudi Arabia, Oman, Qatar and Bahrain, as well as the United States, United Kingdom, Germany and France. The international list is the first released since 2021 and assessed 194 countries on five key cybersecurity pillars: legal, technical, organisational, capacity development, and co-operation. Tier one countries were recognised for demonstrating a strong commitment to improving in all five areas.

<https://www.thenationalnews.com/news/uae/2024/09/13/uae-ranked-as-role-model-for-cybersecurity-in-global-report/>

## **Yemen**

### **Yemen's Houthis claim missile attack on military target in central Israel**

Anadolu Agency, September 1, 2024

Yemen's Houthi group claimed September 1, to have struck a military target in Jaffa, central Israel with a new "hypersonic" ballistic missile. Houthi military spokesman Yahya Saree said the missile traveled a distance of 2,040 kilometers (1,260 miles)

and successfully hit its target, with Israeli air defences failing to intercept it. "Geographical obstacles, US-UK aggression, and espionage and interception systems will not prevent Yemen from supporting Palestine," he added. There was no immediate Israeli comment on the Houthi claim, but earlier the Israeli air force reportedly said it would investigate how the missile managed to travel so far without being intercepted.

<https://www.aa.com.tr/en/middle-east/yemen-s-houthis-claim-missile-attack-on-military-target-in-central-israel/3330712>

### **Yemen acquires new technology to penetrate defence systems**

Mehr News, September 15, 2024

Yemen has acquired a new technology, which it has used in the attack on American ships in the Red Sea, Yemeni sources reported, adding that the technology allows the Arab country's missiles and drones to penetrate the air defences of the enemy. The Yemenis announced that they had evaluated and investigated the defence systems of the Zionist enemy closely and learned from the defence systems of the American ships in the Red Sea. They stated that the Zionist enemy should not rely on its missile systems from now on. Yemen hit Tel Aviv, in central occupied Palestine, with a ballistic missile on September 15, morning penetrating all Israeli air defence systems.

<https://en.mehrnews.com/news/221255/Yemen-obtains-new-technology-to-penetrate-defense-systems>



# NUCLEAR AND ARMS CONTROL CENTRE

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

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