



Volume 5 | Issue 10

SYLLOGE ON WEST ASIA

**FOCUS, NUCLEAR, MISSILES & OTHER
SECURITY ISSUES IN WEST ASIA**

16 May - 31 May 2025



MANOHAR PARRIKAR INSTITUTE FOR
DEFENCE STUDIES AND ANALYSES

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Armenia

Defence companies from Armenia have expressed interest in investing in Uttar Pradesh's upcoming defence corridor

News.am, May 24, 2025

Defence companies from Greece and Armenia have expressed interest in investing in Uttar Pradesh's upcoming defence corridor, wrote The Times of India. Representatives of the governments of both the countries met chief secretary Manoj Kumar Singh on the sidelines of a defence exhibition currently underway in Athens, Greece and discussed potential collaboration with Indian companies. The CS led a delegation to Athens for the three-day exhibition, where he met various other industry heads to discuss investments for the UP defence corridor. On Tuesday, the CS, along with India's Ambassador to Greece, Rudrendra Tandon, inaugurated the India Pavilion at the exhibition and then interacted with Greece's Chief of Defence General Dimitrios Choupis.

<https://news.am/eng/news/884423.html>

Slovak PM offers nuclear energy cooperation with Armenia

Armenpress, May 26, 2025

Slovak Prime Minister Robert Fico has attached importance to deepening the mutually beneficial and practical cooperation with Armenia, especially in nuclear energy and defence industry. Speaking at a joint press conference with Armenian Prime Minister Nikol Pashinyan, PM Fico said his delegation includes members of the business community who are interested in cooperation with Armenia in areas where both countries have

matching potential. "Armenia and Slovakia have the same type of reactors. We discussed the further management of spent nuclear fuel. There are specialised companies in both countries, let's have great cooperation through their united efforts, around which we have already agreed upon," Fico said. He said the two countries have a preliminary agreement to cooperate in nuclear energy, where Slovakia is ready to involve both state and private experts and companies. PM Fico also spoke about the Armenian Prime Minister's peace agenda and the course of the Armenian-Azerbaijani talks.

<https://armenpress.am/en/article/1220627>

How Armenia became important to India's defence export strategy

Arshaluis Mgdesyan

Civil Net, May 26, 2025

An interview with Dr. Swasti Rao, Geopolitical Expert and Defence Consultant to the Indian Ministry of Defence, talks to CivilNet about the rapidly expanding military cooperation between India and Armenia. In recent years, the defence relationship between India and Armenia has emerged as one of the most significant developments in South Caucasus geopolitics. What began as modest cooperation has transformed into a comprehensive strategic partnership, with India becoming Armenia's largest defence supplier. Well, as you know, India and Armenia ties have taken a very strong fillip after 2020. Especially in the last two to three years, India has emerged as one of the key defence suppliers to Armenia. In fact, India is Armenia's number one defence supplier, followed by France as the number

two defence supplier. So right now, I think the most important department of our bilateral ties is certainly defence industry cooperation. There is no doubt about it. India is also very proud to offer Armenia state-of-the-art platforms at prices which are very competitive. You know, really the Western equipment is very expensive, but Indian equipment is as good but not expensive.

<https://www.civilnet.am/en/news/953120/how-armenia-became-important-to-indias-defense-export-strategy/>

Azerbaijan

Azerbaijan eyes 40 JF-17 block III jets in \$4.2 billion deal ? Pakistan's largest-ever fighter export on the brink

Defence Security Asia, May 25, 2025

At present, speculation is mounting within global defence circles that Azerbaijan may have dramatically increased its procurement of JF-17 “Thunder” light multirole fighter aircraft from an initial 16 units to a staggering 40, in a deal reportedly valued at US\$4.2 billion (RM18.48 billion). The aircraft in question are said to be the latest and most advanced iteration of the JF-17 family—Block III—a 4.5-generation fighter co-developed by Pakistan and China and hailed as one of the most cost-effective combat aircraft in the current global market. Despite the intensity of reports circulating in both regional and international media, there has been no official confirmation thus far from the Azerbaijani, Pakistani, or Chinese governments regarding the alleged expansion of the order. If confirmed, however, the expanded deal would represent a historic breakthrough for

Pakistan’s aerospace industry, symbolising its evolution from a domestic defence producer to a competitive arms exporter capable of winning high-value contracts on the global stage.

https://defencesecurityasia.com/en/azerbaijan-eyes-40-jf-17-block-iii-jets-in-4-2-billion-deal-pakistans-largest-ever-fighter/#google_vignette

NATO Military education experts visit Azerbaijan under DEEP Program

Nazrin Abdul

Azer News, May 31, 2025

As part of NATO’s Defence Education Enhancement Programme (DEEP), a delegation of military education experts is currently visiting Azerbaijan, holding meetings at the National Defence University (NDU) and its affiliated specialised military education institutions. Azernews reports, citing Ministry of Defence of Azerbaijan, the visit began with a review meeting at the NDU, where the two sides discussed ongoing military education reforms in 2024 and explored future cooperation opportunities. During the visit, the NATO delegation also toured the Military Management Institute, the Heydar Aliyev Military Institute, and the Military Medical Faculty. The experts were briefed on institutional structures and programs and received detailed responses to their inquiries. At each location, discussions focused on the structure and goals of specialised military education programs, the progress made since previous meetings, and ways to further enhance curricula, improve faculty skills, and expand digital learning systems. The exchange of ideas also covered long-term

objectives for strengthening Azerbaijan's military education system in line with NATO standards.

<https://www.azernews.az/nation/242643.html>

Cyprus

Cyprus defence industry sees rapid growth, generates €40 million annually

Rebekah Gregoriades

Cyprus Mail, June 3, 2025

Cyprus' defence industry has expanded significantly in recent years, growing from just a handful of companies to around 30, and now generates approximately €40 million in annual revenue, the House energy, commerce and industry committee heard. Defence Minister Vasilis Palmas described the industry as a matter of "emblematic importance" and reaffirmed that its development remains a priority for the government. Meeting focused on the growth of the defence sector and the role of innovation in sustaining its momentum. Palmas said the industry is now capable of producing complete products and supplying both the broader public sector and private enterprises, thereby benefiting other areas of the economy as well. He added that companies active in the defence industry also draw funds from the EU, certifying in a way their credibility. The defence ministry also provided funding to companies to promote their products and participate in exhibitions around the world. Regarding the distribution of EU SAFE programme funds for armaments, Palmas

explained that up to 60 per cent was be distributed to large countries and that a smaller share remained to be shared among the rest.

<https://cyprus-mail.com/2025/06/03/cyprus-defence-industry-sees-rapid-growth-generates-e40-million-annually>

Iran

IRGC chief hints at defence tech breakthrough: 'Revelation through action imminent'

Tehran Times, May 16, 2025

Iran's Islamic Revolution Guard Corps (IRGC) Commander-in-Chief, Major General Hossein Salami, has signalled an imminent transformation in the nation's defence systems by announcing a top-secret technological breakthrough soon to be demonstrated on the field. At a ceremony honoring the late President Ebrahim Raisi in Tehran on Thursday, Salami offered few details, describing the advance as a watershed moment in military innovation. "In recent weeks, we have reached an unprecedented milestone in our defence capabilities—a development I am not detailing today because its impact will soon speak for itself," he stated, underscoring that this achievement will solidify Iran's irreversible strategic superiority. The announcement builds on Iran's proven track record of indigenous military innovation, particularly in air defence. The Bavar-373 system—a flagship achievement operational since 2019 and comparable to Russia's S-400—

boasts a 300-kilometer engagement range, advanced radar immunity to jamming, and the ability to track stealth aircraft and ballistic missiles.

<https://www.tehrantimes.com/news/513121/IRGC-chief-hints-at-defense-tech-breakthrough-Revelation-through>

Iran's Khamenei slams 'nonsense' US nuclear demands

Al-Jazeera, May 20, 2025

Iran's Supreme Leader Ayatollah Ali Khamenei has derided demands from the United States that it halt nuclear enrichment as negotiations between the two countries hang in the balance. "Saying things like 'We will not allow Iran to enrich uranium' is nonsense. No one [in Iran] is waiting for others' permission," said Khamenei in a speech reported by the country's semi-official Mehr News Agency. He added that he did not know whether talks would "bring results". Since mid-April, Washington and Tehran have held four rounds of Omani-mediated talks aimed at getting Iran to limit its nuclear programme in exchange for sanctions relief. However, repeated clashes between the pair have thrown the next round of negotiations, which the news agency Reuters said were expected to take place in Rome at the weekend, into doubt. US President Donald Trump ditched the 2015 Joint Comprehensive Plan of Action signed by Iran and world powers during his last term in office. Intent on striking a new deal since his return to power in January, he has revived his "maximum pressure" approach against Iran, warning last week that talks

needed to "move quickly or something bad is going to happen".

<https://www.aljazeera.com/news/2025/5/20/irans-khamenei-slams-nonsense-us-nuclear-demands>

Iran insists it will never stop enriching uranium as US says it must if new deal is to be reached

The Economic Times, May 21, 2025

Iran's top diplomat insisted on Wednesday that Tehran will never stop enriching uranium, further underlining the Islamic Republic's red line in negotiations with the United States over its rapidly advancing nuclear programme. The comments by Iranian Foreign Minister Abbas Araghchi come after multiple rounds of talks between the two nations, including at an expert level over the details of a possible deal. However, none has been reached yet and American officials including President Donald Trump, Mideast envoy Steve Witkoff and Secretary of State Marco Rubio maintain that Iran must give up enrichment - something it didn't do in its 2015 nuclear deal with world powers. "I have said it before, and I repeat it again: uranium enrichment in Iran will continue - with or without an agreement," Araghchi said, according to state television. Araghchi added that Iran is "currently reviewing whether to participate in the next round and when to take part" in talks with the US. The US and Oman, which is mediating the negotiations, have yet to announce any fifth round of talks. Trump's trip to the Mideast last week delayed any new meeting.

Negotiators previously met in Muscat, Oman, and Rome. "We have never abandoned diplomacy. We will always be present at the negotiating table, and the main reason for our presence is to defend the rights of the Iranian people," Araghchi said. "We stand against excessive demands and rhetoric at the table."

<https://economictimes.indiatimes.com/news/defence/iran-insists-it-will-never-stop-enriching-uranium-as-us-says-it-must-if-new-deal-is-to-be-reached/articleshow/121318064.cms?from=mdr>

Armenia PM, Iran defence minister discuss regional security

Mehr News, May 21, 2025

Prime Minister Nikol Pashinyan received delegation led by the Minister of Defence and Armed Forces Logistics of Iran, Brigadier General Aziz Nasirzadeh, who is in Armenia for an official visit. Prime Minister Pashinyan expressed satisfaction with the dynamic development of Armenia-Iran relations, noting that they are based on natural bilateral interests, the PM's office has said in a readout, local Armenian media reported. He emphasised the political will of both countries' leadership to expand and deepen cooperation and highlighted the importance of fully realising existing opportunities and taking consistent steps in that direction. Brigadier General Nasirzadeh conveyed the warm greetings of Iranian President Masoud Pezeshkian to Prime Minister Pashinyan and stated that Iran is interested in developing multilateral cooperation with Armenia. He reaffirmed

Iran's unconditional support for Armenia's sovereignty and territorial integrity. The two sides discussed issues related to the Armenia-Iran cooperation agenda and the importance of ensuring regional security and stability.

<https://en.mehrnews.com/news/232131/Armenia-PM-Iran-defense-minister-discuss-regional-security>

Iran's nuclear threat is loud and clear! Tehran sends shocking message to Donald Trump, United States ahead of talks

The Economic Times, May 22, 2025,

Iran's top diplomat insisted Wednesday that Tehran will never stop enriching uranium, reinforcing the Islamic Republic's hard line ahead of a new round of indirect talks with the United States over its fast-advancing nuclear program, as per a report. Iran's foreign ministry later confirmed it has agreed to take part in the next round of talks in Rome, as per the report. The comments by Iranian Foreign Minister Abbas Araghchi come after multiple rounds of talks between the two nations, including at an expert level over the details of a possible deal. American officials including President Donald Trump, Mideast envoy Steve Witkoff and Secretary of State Marco Rubio maintain that Iran must give up enrichment — something it didn't do in its 2015 nuclear deal with world powers. "I have said it before, and I repeat it again: uranium enrichment in Iran will continue — with or without an agreement," Araghchi said, according to state television. Araghchi added that Iran was "currently

reviewing whether to participate in the next round and when to take part” in talks with the U.S. Negotiators previously met in Muscat, Oman, and Rome but Trump’s trip to the Mideast last week delayed any new meeting.

<https://economictimes.indiatimes.com/news/international/us/irans-nuclear-threat-is-loud-and-clear-tehran-sends-shocking-message-to-donald-trump-united-states-ahead-of-talks/articleshow/121324393.cms?from=mdr>

LIMA 2025: Iran details two previously unknown radar systems

Akhil Kadidal

Janes, May 23, 2025

The Iranian Ministry of Defence and Armed Forces Logistics (MODAFL) has presented information on two ground-based pulsed X-band radar systems for the first time. The radars were displayed during the Langkawi International Maritime and Aerospace (LIMA) Exhibition 2025 held in Malaysia from 20 to 24 May. Identified as the P-3009 medium-range ground surveillance radar and the P-3017 low-altitude surveillance radar, both systems entered service with the Islamic Republic of Iran Armed Forces in 2017, a MODAFL official told Janes. However, the official added that details of these two systems were previously not made public outside Iran. “The radars were wholly developed in Iran, including the chipsets and sensors,” the MODAFL official added. According to information presented by MODAFL at the exhibition, the P-3009 is designed to detect and track ground-based movements, including trucks, cars, motorcycles, and

people. The system identifies the ground targets after detection, with automatic tracking of the moving targets conducted thereafter, MODAFL said, adding that the system has two modes: single target tracker (STT) and track-while-scan (TWS). The radar can detect human movement at ranges of up to 15,000 m, light vehicles up to 25,000 m, and heavy vehicles up to 40,000 m, according to the radar's specification sheet. The minimum detection range is 200 m.

<https://www.janes.com/osint-insights/defence-news/defence/lima-2025-iran-details-two-previously-unknown-radar-systems>

Iranian slip-up reveals key information on nuclear site’s air defences: How vulnerable is Natanz to western attacks?

Military Watch Magazine, May 24, 2025

The publication of a two-second clip of an Iranian command centre by state media sources has reportedly resulted in an operational security failure, and provided valuable information to both analysts and potential attackers regarding the air defences in place around one of the country’s most sensitive targets, the Natanz nuclear facility. Commenting on the new information, researcher with the James Martin Center for Nonproliferation Studies, Sam Lair, stated the clip provided “the clearest look that we’ve had for air defences for nuclear sites,” and provided a “remarkable” amount of data on defences that were previously kept tightly secret. Iran’s lack of modern combat aircraft, or of any kind of airborne early warning and control (AEW&C) aircraft, has left the country very heavily reliant on its network of ground based radars and surface-to-air

missile systems to protect its airspace, with a number of sophisticated systems having been developed domestically while others have been procured from Russia. Lair and his associates were able to geolocate the radars protecting Natanz, building up a picture of four radars including a local Najm 804 radar developed for the Khordad 15 long range surface-to-air missile system, a smaller radars associated with the Russian Tor short ranged anti-missile system, and two derivatives of the Soviet P-12 radar - a system that saw extensive use during the Vietnam War.

<https://militarywatchmagazine.com/article/iranian-slipup-key-information-defences-natanz>

Iran integrates three VTOL drones to strengthen its military autonomy and deterrent power

Global Defense News, May 26, 2025

In a clear demonstration of its autonomous defence capabilities, the Iranian Army officially introduced three newly developed vertical take-off and landing (VTOL) drones during a ceremony held on May 22, 2025, at the Army's drone and aviation base in the southeastern city of Zahedan. These drones, named Homa, Dideban (meaning "Watchdog"), and Shahin-1 ("Falcon-1"), reflect the Islamic Republic's ongoing efforts to develop military technologies suited to modern operational requirements without relying on foreign sources. The Homa drone is designed to operate at a maximum altitude of over 12,000 feet (3,657 meters). It is capable of carrying out various reconnaissance missions, particularly in electronic warfare environments. Equipped with night vision

capabilities, its VTOL configuration eliminates the need for a runway, enhancing deployment flexibility across diverse terrains. Its hybrid design allows it to transition to fixed-wing flight, improving endurance and operational range. The Dideban drone, intended for use by Iran's Ground Forces, is notable for its lightweight and portable construction. Featuring both day and night vision systems, it can accurately identify targets on the ground. It can fly at an altitude of 6,000 feet and is specifically designed for reconnaissance and target acquisition missions, including those conducted in electronic warfare scenarios.

<https://armyrecognition.com/news/aerospace-news/2025/iran-integrates-three-vtol-drones-to-strengthen-its-military-autonomy-and-deterrent-power>

Iran-US nuclear negotiations 'ongoing': Oman

Amer Solyman and Betul Yilmaz

Anadolu Agency, May 28, 2025

Oman's foreign minister said that indirect nuclear negotiations between Iran and the US are ongoing. "The discussions are ongoing, and we hope they lead to what is desired and satisfactory for both sides, in a way that serves security and stability on these global issues," Badr Albusaidi said following a meeting with Iranian President Masoud Pezeshkian in Muscat. Pezeshkian arrived in the Omani capital on Tuesday for a two-day visit, his first tour to a Gulf state since taking office in July 2024. Albusaidi said Oman looks forward to launching "a new phase of relations with Iran based on Pezeshkian's visit to achieve prosperity in

political, diplomatic, economic, and cultural fields.” Iran and the US have been engaged in nuclear diplomacy for the past two months, with Oman mediating five rounds of indirect talks so far, held in Muscat and Rome. Uranium enrichment has emerged as a key sticking point in the ongoing negotiations, with the US calling for its dismantling while Iran insisting the program will continue. Last week, Iran’s Supreme Leader Ayatollah Ali Khamenei said that he does not expect talks with the US to yield results and asserted that Iran “needs no one’s permission” to enrich uranium.

<https://www.aa.com.tr/en/americas/iran-us-nuclear-negotiations-ongoing-oman/3582465>

Iran rejects IAEA report alleging increased enriched uranium stockpile

Al-Jazeera, May 31, 2025

Iran has rejected a report from the United Nations nuclear watchdog that alleges Tehran has increased its stockpile of highly enriched, near weapons-grade uranium by 50 percent in the last three months. Iran said that the accusation from the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA) was “politically motivated and repeats baseless accusations”. It all comes as nuclear deal negotiations are under way between the United States and Iran, with the Iranian Foreign Minister Abbas Araghchi saying that his country would respond to “elements of a US proposal” his Omani counterpart, Badr Al-Busaidi, had presented during a short visit to Tehran. Araghchi said that the proposal would be “responded to in line with the principles, national interests and

rights of the people of Iran”. Tehran insists that its nuclear programme is for peaceful purposes only. The IAEA said that as of May 17, Iran had amassed 408.6kg (900.8 pounds) of uranium enriched up to 60 percent – the only non-nuclear weapon state to do so, according to the UN agency – and had increased its stockpile by almost 50 percent to 133.8kg since its last report in February.

<https://www.aljazeera.com/news/2025/5/31/iran-increases-stockpile-of-enriched-uranium-by-50-percent-iaea-says>

IAEA levels new claims about Iran's nuclear program

Mehr News, May 31, 2025

The International Atomic Energy Agency, in a confidential report, raised new accusations about Iran's nuclear program. Iran has further increased its stockpile of uranium enriched to near weapons-grade levels, a confidential report by the U.N. nuclear watchdog claimed Saturday and called on Tehran to urgently change course and comply with the agency’s probe. The report by the Vienna-based International Atomic Energy Agency — which was seen by The Associated Press — claims that as of May 17, Iran has amassed 408.6 kilograms (900.8 pounds) of uranium enriched up to 60%. That’s an alleged increase of 133.8 kilograms (294.9 pounds) since the IAEA’s last report in February. Speaking at the Tehran Dialogue Forum (TDF) earlier in May, Iranian President Masoud Pezeshkian asserted Iran’s right to use peaceful nuclear technology for vital sectors, while reiterating that the country neither seeks nor believes in nuclear

weapons. Referring to persistent accusations from some Western powers, Pezeshkian said, “Others continue to claim that Iran is pursuing nuclear weapons. These are nothing but baseless, warmongering allegations.”

<https://en.mehrnews.com/news/232503/IA-EA-levels-new-claims-about-Iran-s-nuclear-program>

Iraq

Iran signals willingness to share nuclear technology with Iraq

Shafaq, May 5, 2025

Iranian President Masoud Pezeshkian expressed Iranian readiness to share experiences and achievements, including peaceful nuclear technology applications, with Muslim countries and their neighbours, according to Iran’s Mehr News Agency. During a meeting in Tehran with Iraqi Deputy Prime Minister and Foreign Minister Fuad Hussein, Pezeshkian voiced satisfaction with the positive ties between governors of the two countries' border provinces, calling the relationship a strong foundation for expanding cross-border trade and regional cooperation. He emphasised the importance of speeding up joint infrastructure projects, especially in the transportation and railway sectors, saying such efforts would further strengthen Iranian-Iraqi ties. On the nuclear issue, Pezeshkian reiterated that Iran remains open to reassuring Washington if concerns persist over its nuclear program. “We will never bow to pressure,” he said, affirming that Iran “will not deprive its people of the benefits of peaceful nuclear technology. “We do not seek anyone’s

permission to achieve growth and progress for our people.”

<https://shafaq.com/en/Iraq/Iran-signals-willingness-to-share-nuclear-technology-with-Iraq>

Iraq to Negotiate Nuclear Energy Agreement with Russia

John Lee

Iraq Business News, May 29, 2025

The Iraqi Council of Ministers has authorised the Chairman of the Iraqi Atomic Energy Commission to negotiate and sign a draft cooperation agreement with the Russian Federation. The agreement will focus on the peaceful use of nuclear energy, in line with Iraq's constitutional provisions. The Ministry of Foreign Affairs has been tasked with preparing the necessary documentation for final approval by Prime Minister Mohammed S. Al-Sudani. This step marks an expansion of Iraq's international partnerships in science and energy, and aims to advance the country's capabilities in nuclear technology for civil applications.

<https://www.iraq-businessnews.com/2025/05/29/iraq-to-negotiate-nuclear-energy-agreement-with-russia/>

Israel

Microsoft confirms AI, cloud services to Israeli Defence Ministry amid Gaza war scrutiny

Gizem Nisa Çebi

Anadolu Agency, May 17, 2025

Microsoft has confirmed it provides cloud and artificial intelligence services to

Israel's Defence Ministry, while denying its tools were used to harm civilians in Gaza, as scrutiny intensifies over the role of US tech firms in the ongoing war. In a statement published Thursday, the company acknowledged public and internal concerns about whether Microsoft Azure and AI products had been used "to target civilians or cause harm" in Gaza. The statement follows months of pressure from Microsoft employees and rights groups, demanding transparency over its relationship with the Israeli military. "We take these concerns seriously," the company said, adding it had launched an internal review and hired an external firm for additional investigation. "Based on these reviews, including interviewing dozens of employees and assessing documents, we have found no evidence to date that Microsoft's Azure and AI technologies have been used to target or harm people in the conflict in Gaza." Microsoft confirmed that it maintains a commercial relationship with the Israeli Defence Ministry (IMOD), providing software, professional services, Azure cloud and AI services — including tools such as language translation.

<https://www.aa.com.tr/en/americas/microsoft-confirms-ai-cloud-services-to-israeli-defense-ministry-amid-gaza-war-scrutiny/3571775>

New US intel suggests Israel readying to strike Iranian nuclear facilities — report

Times of Israel, May 21, 2025

New intelligence obtained by the United States suggests that Israel is making preparations to strike Iranian nuclear facilities, CNN reported on Tuesday, citing

multiple US officials familiar with the intelligence. It was not clear whether Israeli leaders have made a final decision and there was disagreement within the US government about whether they would ultimately decide to carry out strikes, CNN added, citing the officials. The report could not immediately be confirmed. The National Security Council did not respond to a request for comment. The Israeli Embassy in Washington did not immediately respond, nor did the Israeli Prime Minister's Office, which was contacted after hours. One source familiar with the intelligence told CNN the likelihood of an Israeli strike on an Iranian nuclear facility "has gone up significantly in recent months."

<https://www.timesofisrael.com/new-us-intel-suggests-israel-readying-to-strike-iranian-nuclear-facilities-report/>

Is World War imminent? As Israel plans to strike Iran's nuclear installations, here's what the consequences could be

The Economic Times, May 21, 2025

Israel's potential strike on Iranian nuclear facilities amid U.S. diplomatic efforts raises global concerns, impacting oil markets and regional stability. Israel Preparing for Potential Strike on Iran's Nuclear Facilities Amid Diplomatic Tensions- Recent U.S. intelligence indicates that Israel is making preparations for a possible military strike on Iranian nuclear facilities, even as the Trump administration continues diplomatic efforts with Tehran. This development suggests a significant escalation in the already tense relations between the two nations. According to multiple U.S. officials,

intercepted communications and observed Israeli military movements, including the relocation of air munitions and completion of air exercises, point toward potential preparations for an attack on Iran's nuclear infrastructure. While no final decision has been made by Israeli leadership, the likelihood of such a strike has reportedly increased in recent months. President Donald Trump has been pursuing a diplomatic resolution to concerns over Iran's nuclear program, setting a 60-day deadline in mid-March for progress in negotiations. Despite these efforts, Iran's Supreme Leader Ayatollah Ali Khamenei has expressed skepticism about reaching a deal, particularly over demands to halt uranium enrichment.

<https://economictimes.indiatimes.com/news/international/us/is-world-war-imminent-as-israel-plans-to-strike-irans-nuclear-installations-heres-what-the-consequences-could-be/articleshow/121318337.cms?from=mdr>

Nibe limited secures \$17.52 million export order from Israel for universal rocket launchers

The Economic Times, May 24, 2025

NIBE Limited, a pioneering Indian manufacturer of critical defence systems, is pleased to announce the receipt of a significant export Purchase Order valued at USD 17.52 million from a globally renowned leading technology-based company in Israel. The order involves the manufacturing and supply of Universal Rocket Launchers with a range capability of up to 300 kilometres - a highly advanced technology being produced in India for the first time for the global market. This is a

landmark achievement for NIBE Limited and a proud milestone for India's defence manufacturing sector. With this contract, we reaffirm our commitment to the Prime Minister's vision of 'Atmanirbhar Bharat' and Make in India, bringing world-class defence technology to Indian soil. The Universal Rocket Launcher is among the most advanced in its class and is designed to outperform currently available global alternatives. This order not only marks a major step forward in NIBE Limited's international expansion but also strengthens India's strategic position in the field of modern warfare systems.

<https://economictimes.indiatimes.com/news/defence/nibe-limited-secures-17-52-million-export-order-from-israel-for-universal-rocket-launchers/articleshow/121381376.cms?from=mdr>

Trump warns Netanyahu off Iran strike as nuclear talks continue

Al-Jazeera, May 28, 2025

United States President Donald Trump has said that he told Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu to hold off on any strike against Iran to give his administration more time to push for a new nuclear deal with Tehran, as several rounds of talks have been held in Oman and Italy. Trump told reporters on Wednesday at the White House that he relayed to Netanyahu a strike "would be inappropriate to do right now because we're very close to a solution". The Israeli leader has been threatening a bombardment of Iranian nuclear facilities. Iran has said it would respond with severity if any such attack were launched. In the meantime, Iran may pause uranium

enrichment if the US releases frozen Iranian funds and recognises its right to refine uranium for civilian use under a “political deal” that could lead to a broader nuclear accord, two Iranian official sources told the Reuters news agency.

<https://www.aljazeera.com/news/2025/5/28/trump-warns-netanyahu-off-iran-strike-as-nuclear-talks-continue>

Jordan

Israel strengthens border with Jordan with defence, nuclear facilities

Ammon, May 19, 2025

Following the Israeli government's announcement that the Cabinet had approved Defence Minister Yisrael Katz's proposal to build a security barrier on border with Jordan, the Ministry of Defence presented a security plan outlining the measures to be taken to protect and fortify the border. According to Channel 12, the Cabinet had approved a plan to establish a security barrier on the eastern border and strengthen control over the Jordan Valley on the western side by establishing nuclear facilities in Nahal, preparatory training camps, and agricultural farms. The plan, presented by the Ministry of Defence and the Israeli army, includes the establishment of a multi-layered defence system along a 425-kilometer stretch, from the southern Golan Heights to the north of Eilat. The system will combine a physical barrier with advanced sensors, detection and warning capabilities, security components, information and communications technology, operational command centers, and more, along with the deployment of

light, flexible, and mobile forces adapted to the changing terrain and security threats.

<https://en.ammonnews.net/article/81580>

Jordan-Israel security cooperation continues quietly but unabated

Emily Milliken

Atlantic Council, May 27, 2025

In the almost two years since the October 7, 2023 Hamas attack and launch of Israel's war in Gaza, Jordan has made several diplomatic moves that could indicate their relationship with Israel is in trouble: Pulling out of a joint water-for-energy deal with the United Arab Emirates (UAE) and Israel in November 2023, recalling Amman's ambassador from Israel, voting to expel the Israeli ambassador to Jordan in May 2024, and calling for a weapons embargo on Israel, to name a few. And since the collapse of the January 2025 ceasefire between Israel and Hamas, Jordanian officials like King Abdullah II and Foreign Minister Ayman Safadi have issued several inflammatory comments about Israel and rejected suggestions to relocate Palestinians from Gaza to neighbouring countries. Yet, on a military and intelligence level, cooperation continues to thrive. In April 2024, Jordan, in coordination with the United States, assisted in the downing of many of the more than three hundred missiles and drones that Iran and its proxies launched at targets in Israel. French Rafale fighter jets also intercepted some of those weapons at Amman's request. This support came amid reports from an Iranian Revolutionary Guard Corps (IRGC)-linked news agency that Iran had threatened

Jordan that it would become a target if it cooperated with Israel again.

<https://www.atlanticcouncil.org/blogs/menasource/jordan-israel-security-cooperation-continues-quietly-but-unabated/>

Lebanon

Lebanon to use Egyptian military expertise to disarm Palestinian militants, says President Aoun

Kamal Tabikha

The National, May 19, 2025

Lebanon plans to use Egypt's military expertise to dismantle and disarm Palestinian militant factions operating within its borders, President Joseph Aoun said during a visit to Cairo. The move is part of broader efforts by the Lebanese government to restore internal security and assert the state's exclusive control over weapons, a key priority for Mr Aoun's administration. Egypt's President Abdel Fattah El Sisi welcomed Mr Aoun to the Ittihadiya Presidential Palace, where the two leaders held a closed-door meeting followed by expanded discussions with delegations from both sides. At a joint press conference, Mr El Sisi described the visit as a reflection of the "historic and strategic" ties between Egypt and Lebanon, emphasising deep cultural, political and economic connections between the two nations. The meeting comes at a critical juncture for both countries and the region. Lebanon is grappling with economic crises and political instability, while Egypt is working to consolidate its leadership role in the Arab world and contending with its

own set of economic hardships. Mr Aoun was elected as Lebanon's president in January 2025, marking the end of more than two years of political deadlock during which the country was without a head of state.

<https://www.thenationalnews.com/news/mena/2025/05/19/lebanon-to-use-egyptian-military-expertise-to-disarm-palestinian-militants-says-president-aoun/>

Lebanese PM condemns wave of Israeli attacks on southern Lebanon

Al-Jazeera, May 22, 2025

Lebanese Prime Minister Nawaf Salam has denounced a wave of Israeli attacks across southern Lebanon, calling on the international community to pressure Israel to respect a ceasefire reached in November with Lebanese group Hezbollah. Lebanon's official National News Agency (NNA) said on Thursday that the Israeli military struck a building in Toul, a town in the Nabatieh governorate. The army had earlier warned residents to evacuate the area around a building it said was used by Hezbollah. Lebanese media outlets also reported Israeli bombardment in the towns of Soujod, Touloun, Sawanna and the Rihan Mountain – all in the country's south. In a statement, Salam's office said the Israeli attacks come at a "dangerous" time, just days before municipal elections in Lebanon's southern districts. The contests are expected to be dominated by Hezbollah and its allies, and there have been growing concerns about the safety of voters, especially in border towns, amid the continued Israeli occupation of parts of southern Lebanon. "Prime Minister Salam

stresses that these violations will not thwart the state's commitment to holding the elections and protecting Lebanon and the Lebanese," his office said in its statement.

<https://www.aljazeera.com/news/2025/5/2/lebanese-pm-condemns-wave-of-israeli-attacks-on-southern-lebanon>

Oman

Iran agrees with Oman to hold 5th round of talks with US

Mehrnews, May 21, 2025

The Iranian Foreign Ministry spokesman has approved the Omani foreign minister's suggestion to hold the fifth round of indirect Iran-US talks. Referring to the recommendation made by Oman and its consultations to hold another round of Iran-US talks on Friday in Rome, the capital of Italy, Esmaeil Baghaei, the spokesman for the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Islamic Republic of Iran, announced in a statement on Wednesday evening that his country has agreed to such a proposal. Baghaei stated that the Iranian negotiating team is determined and steadfast in pursuing the Iranian nation's rights and interests to benefit from peaceful nuclear energy, including enrichment, and the lifting of oppressive sanctions, and will not spare any effort or initiative in reaching those objectives. The Omani Foreign Minister Sayyid Badr bin Hamad bin Hamood Albusaidi wrote in a post on his X account earlier that "The 5th round of Iran-US talks will take place in Rome this 23rd May." The Iranian and US delegations have held four rounds of indirect talks on Tehran's nuclear program and the lifting of

US sanctions in the Omani capital Muscat and Italy's Rome.

<https://en.mehrnews.com/news/232135/Iran-agrees-with-Oman-to-hold-5th-round-of-talks-with-US>

Iran and Oman strengthen ties with high-level visit and 18 new agreements

Soheila Zarfam

Tehran Times, May 27, 2025

Two historically close Persian Gulf nations marked what could be the beginning of an even closer state of ties on Tuesday, as President Masoud Pezeshkian of Iran embarked on a high-ranking trip to Muscat, Oman. Upon arrival, Pezeshkian and his accompanying delegation were received by Sayyid Shihab bin Tarik al Said, Deputy Prime Minister for Defence Affairs, at the Royal Airport. Foreign Minister Abbas Araghchi was among several ministers accompanying the president. Later, Pezeshkian was welcomed by Sultan Haitham bin Tarik at an official reception ceremony. In a meeting with the Sultan, Pezeshkian expressed gratitude to Oman for its role in facilitating the ongoing indirect talks between Iran and the United States. Oman has been hosting the negotiations and serving as the go-between. "We appreciate the good efforts of our friendly and brotherly country, Oman, in mediating in the negotiations and hope this process leads to good results." He underscored Oman's strategic importance in Iran's foreign policy, adding, "The Islamic Republic of Iran has complete trust in Oman; this trust increases both parties' responsibility to strengthen relations and pursue more substantial agreements." The

U.S. had sought the UAE to act as the mediator. Iran, however, said it wants Oman to take on the role.

<https://www.tehrantimes.com/news/513617/Iran-and-Oman-strengthen-ties-with-high-level-visit-and-18-new>

Qatar

Trump's deal: Qatar to buy MQ-9B unmanned aircraft and counter-drone solutions from the U.S.

Defence Industry Europe, May 16, 2025

The U.S. Army awarded a action contract to RTX Corporation in the amount of USD 75 million for the production of 600 Coyote 2C Interceptors in direct support to the U.S. counter-unmanned aircraft systems mission. The United States and Qatar have reached a series of significant arms agreements worth \$3 billion, coinciding with President Donald Trump's visit to the Gulf state. These deals include the purchase of advanced counter-drone capabilities and sophisticated aerial drones. According to a White House fact sheet, one of the agreements involves a \$1 billion deal for Qatar's acquisition of cutting-edge counter-drone technology. This makes Qatar the first international customer for Raytheon's Fixed Site – Low, Slow, Small Unmanned Aerial System Integrated Defeat System (FS-LIDS), specifically designed to neutralise unmanned aircraft. The second deal, valued at nearly \$2 billion, involves the sale of MQ-9B aerial drones manufactured by General Atomics Aeronautical Systems. The State Department's Defence Security Cooperation Agency notified Congress of the prospective sale in March, detailing a

package worth \$1.96 billion. The package includes eight MQ-9B drones equipped with Seaspray maritime search radars, ground control stations, spare parts, and training. It also features a range of munitions, including AGM-114 Hellfire missiles, GBU-38 JDAM, GBU-54 Laser JDAM bombs, and GBU-12 Paveway II laser-guided bombs.

<https://defence-industry.eu/trumps-deal-qatar-to-buy-mq-9b-unmanned-aircraft-and-counter-drone-solutions-from-the-u-s/>

Iran in talks with Qatar, UAE, Oman to boost energy exchange

Mehrnews, May 24, 2025

Iran's minister of energy says that Iran is in talks with other countries including Qatar, the United Arab Emirates (UAE) and Sultanate of Oman to increase exchanges of energy. Abbas Aliabadi made the remarks on Saturday and emphasised that extensive consultations are underway with Qatar, the United Arab Emirates and Oman to increase and develop cross-border exchanges. Iran's Ministry of Energy is considering interaction and cooperation with other countries, trying to prevent incidents such as electricity grid collapse that occurred in some European countries, such as Spain, Aliabadi emphasised. To increase and develop cross-border exchanges, extensive consultations are underway with Qatar, the UAE, and Oman to increase electricity exchanges, he underlined. Earlier, Iran's First Vice President Mohammadreza Aref had stated that Iran is striving to become a regional energy hub, emphasising that

achieving that goal is a top priority for the administration of President Masoud Pezeshkian.

<https://en.mehrnews.com/news/232217/Iran-in-talks-with-Qatar-UAE-Oman-to-boost-energy-exchange>

DIMDEX 2026: Qatar to host the Middle East's largest naval defence show

Global Defence News, May 26, 2025

Doha will host the ninth edition of the Doha International Maritime Defence Exhibition and Conference (DIMDEX) from 19 to 22 January 2026. This event, organised by the Qatar Armed Forces under the patronage of His Highness Sheikh Tamim Bin Hamad Al-Thani, Amir of the State of Qatar, will take place at the Qatar National Convention Centre (QNCC) and aims to reinforce its position within the global maritime security landscape. DIMDEX 2026 will feature four pillars: a defence exhibition, the Naval Commanders Conference, VIP Delegations, and a warship display at Hamad Port showcasing modern naval capabilities. Held under the theme “A Global Hub for Defence Innovations: Invest in Possibilities to Shape a Secure Tomorrow”, DIMDEX 2026 seeks to drive technological innovation, promote strategic investments in future-oriented maritime capabilities, and contribute to the development of a safer and more sustainable maritime environment. For the first time, the event will extend over four full days, reflecting its continued growth and expanding scope. The exhibition is expected to gather defence ministers, chiefs of staff, senior government officials,

naval commanders, and industry executives in Doha. It will provide a space for strategic dialogue and business interaction, alongside a display of recent advancements in naval defence systems and maritime equipment.

<https://armyrecognition.com/news/army-news/2025/dimdex-2026-qatar-to-host-the-middle-east-s-largest-naval-defence-show>

Saudi Arabia

Saudi Arabia and the U.S.-Iran Nuclear talks: A strategic imperative for engagement

Layla Ali

Gulf Research Centre, May 28, 2025

As nuclear discussions between the United States and Iran continue, most recently with a fifth round of negotiations held in Rome on May 23, 2025, facilitated by Omani officials, Saudi Arabia cannot afford to remain a passive observer to a process that carries significant implications for regional power dynamics and national security. The Kingdom's core interests, security, sovereignty, and strategic equilibrium, are directly impacted by the contours and outcomes of any potential agreement between Washington and Tehran. Regardless of whether the discussions ultimately succeed or falter, the outcome has far-reaching implications. It is also the case that the Iranian nuclear file is no longer simply a technical or bilateral matter. It is intertwined with broader questions of regional security, power dynamics, and the strategic ambitions of major players. For Saudi Arabia, staying informed and

involved in the content and direction of the U.S.-Iran talks is therefore not merely a diplomatic necessity; it is a national security imperative.

[https://www.grc.net/single-commentary/262#:~:text=saudi%20arabia%20has%20affirmed%20its,\(npt\)%20and%20without%20discrimination.](https://www.grc.net/single-commentary/262#:~:text=saudi%20arabia%20has%20affirmed%20its,(npt)%20and%20without%20discrimination.)

Saudi Arabia could finalise record-breaking purchase of 200 MQ-9B drones in talks with general atomics

Global Defence News, May 28, 2025

According to information published by Breaking Defence on May 21, 2025, Saudi Arabia is in advanced discussions with General Atomics Aeronautical Systems Inc. (GA-ASI) for the potential acquisition of up to 200 MQ-9B drones. If confirmed, this deal could become the largest international contract ever signed by the U.S. manufacturer. The project is part of a broader defence package estimated at \$142 billion, announced by former President Donald Trump during his recent visit to the Gulf region. A GA-ASI spokesperson, C. Mark Brinkley, confirmed that MQ-9Bs are included in the proposed package, though the White House has not specified whether the deal would be processed through a Foreign Military Sale (FMS) or a Direct Commercial Sale (DCS). Still under negotiation, the contract could create nearly 46,000 jobs in the United States and significantly enhance Saudi Arabia's intelligence, surveillance, and reconnaissance (ISR) capabilities. The deal is expected to cover a mix of MQ-9B SkyGuardian and SeaGuardian drones.

These medium-altitude, long-endurance (MALE) systems incorporate advanced technologies and meet NATO STANAG 4671 certification standards.

<https://armyrecognition.com/news/aerospace-news/2025/saudi-arabia-could-finalize-record-breaking-purchase-of-200-mq-9b-drones-in-talks-with-general-atomics>

Syria

Will lifting US sanctions be a key turning point for Syria?

Mawada Bahah

The New Arab, May 19, 2025

In a surprise statement last week in Saudi Arabia on the first stop of a Middle East tour, US President Donald Trump said he would lift all sanctions on Syria, a decision which caught the world off guard, including members of his own administration. The announcement, seen as the first step towards normalising ties, came after a 33-minute meeting with Syrian President Ahmed Al-Sharaa, the first such encounter between the presidents of the two countries in 25 years. Turkish President Recep Tayyip Erdogan joined Trump and Saudi Crown Prince Mohamed Bin Salman virtually in the meeting. "I will be ordering the cessation of sanctions against Syria in order to give them a chance at greatness," Trump told an investment forum in Riyadh, which gave him a standing ovation. "It's their time to shine. We're taking them all off," Trump said. "Good luck Syria, show us something very special." Back in Damascus, the

reaction was more restrained, with Al-Sharaa's supporters celebrating while others were more circumspect.

<https://www.newarab.com/analysis/will-lifting-us-sanctions-be-key-turning-point-syria>

ISIL (ISIS) launches first attacks against new Syrian government

Al-Jazeera, May 30, 2025

ISIL (ISIS) has claimed responsibility for an attack on the Syrian army, representing the armed group's first strike at government forces since the fall of Bashar al-Assad, according to analysts. In a statement released, ISIL said its fighters had planted an explosive device that struck a "vehicle of the apostate regime" in southern Syria. The bombing appears to mark an escalation by ISIL, which views the new government in Damascus as illegitimate but has so far concentrated its activities against Kurdish forces in the north. The blast, in the al-Safa desert region of Sweida province on May 22, reportedly killed or wounded seven Syrian soldiers. A second bomb attack, claimed by ISIL earlier this week, targeted fighters from the United States-backed Free Syrian Army in a nearby area. ISIL said one fighter was killed and three injured. There has been no official comment from the Syrian government, and the Free Syrian Army has yet to respond.

<https://www.aljazeera.com/news/2025/5/30/isil-isis-launches-first-attacks-against-new-syrian-government>

Turkiye

Turkey in talks with multiple countries for new Nuclear Power Plants

Yemen News Agency, May 21, 2025

Turkey announced it is negotiating with several countries, including Russia, regarding the construction of second and third nuclear power plants. The Turkish newspaper Sabah reported that Energy Minister Alparslan Bayraktar stated that Russia, South Korea, and China have expressed interest in these projects, along with other companies, including Canada's CANDU. He added: "We will select the most suitable option for Turkey." The minister had previously indicated that the final decision on building nuclear plants in Sinop (Black Sea region) and Thrace will be made in the coming months. Akkuyu Nuclear Power Plant is Turkey's first nuclear facility, being constructed by Russia's Rosatom. The project includes four VVER-1200 reactors (Generation III+) with a total capacity of 4,800 megawatts.

<https://www.saba.ye/en/news3485642.htm>

Turkey in nuclear plant talks with Candu, energy minister says

The New Arab, May 21, 2025

Turkey is in talks with Canada's Candu Energy and other companies regarding plans to build its second and third nuclear power plants, Turkish Energy Minister Alparslan Bayraktar said. Speaking to reporters during a visit to southeast Turkey on Monday, Bayraktar said Turkey wants to

"put a name" to the projects for its additional planned plants this year. "Russia, South Korea and China are interested in the second and third power plant. But in addition to these, there are also other countries and companies we are negotiating with," he said. "One of them is Canada, for example. The Candu company," he added. Candu did not immediately respond to a request for comment. Rosatom, Russia's state nuclear energy company, is building Turkey's first nuclear power station at Akkuyu in the Mediterranean province of Mersin under a \$20 billion accord from 2010. Turkey plans to build a second nuclear plant in the Black Sea region of Sinop and a third nuclear plant in the northwestern region of Thrace.

<https://www.newarab.com/news/turkey-nuclear-plant-talks-candu-energy-minister-says>

Türkiye dives into nuclear submarine era with NUKDEN Reveal

Global Defence News, May 30, 2025

According to information published by TurDef on May 27, 2025, during the 12th Naval Systems Seminar in Istanbul, Rear Admiral Timur Yılmaz, Commander of the Turkish Submarine Fleet, officially announced that Türkiye's future nuclear-powered submarine initiative will be named NUKDEN (for "Nükleer Denizaltı", which translates to "Nuclear Submarine"). This marks a major development in the Turkish Navy's long-term strategy, transitioning from the National Submarine (MILDEN) program to an emphasis on nuclear propulsion as part of its maritime modernisation. The announcement reinforces statements previously made by Admiral Ercüment Tatlıoğlu, Commander

of the Turkish Naval Forces, who outlined in an interview with Warships International Fleet Review that Türkiye would proceed with building nuclear-powered submarines as a strategic necessity. Tatlıoğlu emphasised the desire to achieve full design and production autonomy, describing nuclear submarine development as a continuation of the nation's 139-year aspiration for indigenous naval platforms. Rear Admiral Yılmaz noted that current efforts include planning and research that aim to launch the NUKDEN project shortly after the completion of MILDEN, underlining the importance of coordinated action across all national capabilities.

<https://armyrecognition.com/news/navy-news/2025/breaking-news-tuerkiye-dives-into-nuclear-submarine-era-with-nukden-reveal>

United Arab Emirates

UAE to boost energy investments in US to \$440bn by 2035

Arab News, May 16, 2025

The UAE plans to increase the value of its energy investments in the US to \$440 billion in the next decade, boosting President Donald Trump's efforts to secure major business deals on a Gulf tour. The wealthy oil power's strategy was announced during a presentation by Sultan Al-Jaber, Abu Dhabi oil giant ADNOC's CEO, to Trump during the last stage of his regional trip that has drawn huge financial commitments from the UAE, Saudi Arabia and Qatar. The enterprise value of UAE investments in the US energy sector will be boosted to \$440 billion by 2035 from \$70 billion now, Al-Jaber told Trump, adding US energy firms will also invest in the

UAE. “Our partners have committed new investments worth \$60 billion in upstream oil and gas, as well as new and unconventional opportunities,” Al Jaber said in front of a slide showing projects in the UAE under the logos of US companies ExxonMobil, Oxy and EOG Resources. Already in March, when senior UAE officials met Trump, the UAE had committed to a 10-year, \$1.4 trillion investment framework in the US to deepen reciprocal ties.

<https://www.arabnews.com/node/2600976/business-economy>

Strategic partnership focused on future: 17th session of the UAE-France Strategic Dialogue

United Arab Emirates Ministry of Foreign Affairs, May 23, 2025

In continuation of the longstanding strategic partnership between the United Arab Emirates and the French Republic, and consistent with the guidance of President His Highness Sheikh Mohamed bin Zayed Al Nahyan and Emmanuel Macron, President of the French Republic, the 17th session of the UAE-France Strategic Dialogue was held in Paris. Co-chaired by Khaldoon Khalifa Al Mubarak, Chairman of the Executive Affairs Authority, and Anne-Marie Descôtes, Secretary-General of the French Ministry for Europe and Foreign Affairs, the strategic dialogue builds upon the long-standing strategic partnership between the UAE and France. For more than 50 years, the UAE and France have forged an exceptional relationship marked by friendship, mutual trust and landmark initiatives such as the Louvre Abu Dhabi

and Sorbonne University Abu Dhabi. The 2025 Strategic Dialogue facilitated cooperation between the UAE and France in six priority fields: economy, education, culture, space, nuclear energy, and health. In each of these areas, the two sides reached a consensus on renewed and joint initiatives.

<https://www.mofa.gov.ae/en/MediaHub/News/2025/5/23/23-5-2025-UAE-UAE>

ENEC and GE Vernova Hitachi sign small modular reactor deployment evaluation MoU during World Utilities Congress

GE Vernova, May 27, 2025

The Emirates Nuclear Energy Company (ENEC) and GE Vernova Hitachi Nuclear Energy (GVH) have signed an MoU on the sidelines of the World Utilities Congress in Abu Dhabi, UAE, to jointly evaluate the deployment of the BWRX-300 Small Modular Reactor (SMR) technology internationally. The MoU enables ENEC and GE Vernova Hitachi to further cooperate following the signing of the MoU in 2023 on the sidelines of COP 28 to evaluate the technology as part of ENEC’s ADVANCE program for advanced nuclear technology. Nuclear energy is a crucial solution to meeting the current unprecedented demand for reliable, dispatchable, more sustainable power coming from a broad range of customers, including hyperscalers seeking to power data centers to support growth in the AI and technology sectors. The MoU was signed during a private ceremony at the World Utilities Congress in Abu Dhabi, UAE. HE Mohamed Al Hammadi, Managing Director and CEO of ENEC and Maví Zingoni, CEO of GE Vernova’s Power segment, exchanged signed MOUs as part

of their commitment to explore opportunities for international deployment by collaborating on a development roadmap to include site identification, licensing pathways, investment and commercialisation strategies and supply chain development.

<https://www.gevernova.com/news/press-releases/enec-ge-vernova-hitachi-sign-small-modular-reactor-deployment-evaluation-mou-during-world-utilities-congress>

Yemen

Israel launches strikes on two Yemen ports

Al-Jazeera, May 16, 2025

Israel says it has launched strikes on the Yemeni ports of Hodeidah and as-Salif in response to the Houthi rebels firing missiles towards Israel, days after the Yemeni group agreed a truce with the United States. The Israeli military said it carried out strikes on “terrorist infrastructure” on Friday, saying on X that the two ports had been used by the Houthi rebel group to “transfer weapons”. Al Masirah TV, a Houthi-affiliated outlet, also reported Israeli strikes on the two ports. The extent of any damage was not clear, and there no immediate reports of casualties. The Houthis have carried out a campaign of attacks against Israel in self-proclaimed solidarity with Palestinians after Israel launched its assault on Gaza in October 2023. Israel has carried out strikes in response, including one on May 6 that damaged Yemen’s main airport in Sanaa and killed several people.

<https://www.aljazeera.com/news/2025/5/16/israel-vows-to-kill-houthi-leader-after-striking-yemeni-ports>

US army panicked after Yemenis nearly downed F-35: Media

Mehr News, May 17, 2025

According to new reporting from local US media, a Yemeni surface-to-air (SAM) missile barely missed an American F-35 fifth-generation fighter, the crown jewel of the US fighter inventory. The American magazine the National Interest has cited a report by New York Times that a Yemeni surface-to-air (SAM) missile barely missed an American F-35 fifth-generation fighter, the crown jewel of the US fighter inventory. The incident raises questions about the survivability of one of America’s most advanced fighters, and raises concerns over how effective the relatively unsophisticated Houthi-led government air defence system has been at hampering US action. According to the report by the American media, “Several American F-16s and an F-35 fighter jet were nearly struck by Houthi air defenses, making real the possibility of American casualties,” military analyst Gregory Brew posted on X, adding that the Houthis were successful in shooting down “seven American MQ-9 drones (around \$30 million each), hampering Central Command’s ability to track and strike the militant group.” The Houthi air defence system is rudimentary. However, it is highly mobile—meaning the defence systems can pop up just about anywhere, making them unpredictable and hard to plan around. Moreover, the simplistic nature of the systems also helps them to avoid earlier detection by America’s advanced equipment.

<https://en.mehrnews.com/news/231923/US-panicked-after-Yemenis-nearly-downed-F-35-US-Media>

NUCLEAR AND ARMS CONTROL CENTRE

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