



Volume 5 | Issue 13

SYLLOGE ON WEST ASIA

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

01 July - 15 July 2025



MANOHAR PARRIKAR INSTITUTE FOR
DEFENCE STUDIES AND ANALYSES

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Armenia

Armenia ready to expand cooperation with EIB

Armenpress, July 3, 2025

Armenian Minister of Territorial Administration and Infrastructures Davit Khudatyan has met with a delegation of the European Investment Bank (EIB) led by Matteo Rivellini, Head of Division, Public Sector - Eastern Neighbourhood, Enlargement and Neighbourhood. Khudatyan underscored that the EIB is a key partner in implementing major infrastructure projects and cooperation with the EIB is of key importance for Armenia, the ministry said in a press release. The minister stressed readiness to expand the circle of cooperation. The joint projects in the water and road construction sectors were discussed.

<https://armenpress.am/en/article/1223973>

The Armenian nuclear power plant has been connected to the united energy system

Armenia NPP, July 13, 2025

Following the outage-2025, on July 13 of this year, at 03:58 am, the 3rd turbine-generator of the Armenian Nuclear Power Plant was connected to the unified energy system of Armenia, one day earlier than planned. As of now, the plant is operating in its normal mode, adhering to safety and reliability standards.

<https://anpp.am/en/news/22/>

France 24 rebuts false reports on alleged nuclear waste shipments to Armenia

Armenpress, July 14, 2025

The French television channel France 24 has refuted false claims alleging that France secretly transported nuclear waste to Armenia. In a report prepared by the channel, correspondent Catalina Marchant de Abreu emphasised that the disinformation, which quickly went viral on social media, is entirely false. "The publication appeared on June 26 and began circulating the same day. It was viewed more than 2.1 million times on the X platform alone," she said. She said that the claim alleged that the French company Orano, which operates in the nuclear energy sector, needed a new nuclear waste storage site and had chosen Armenia for this purpose. It even claimed that Prime Minister Nikol Pashinyan allegedly accepted "a shady French donation" of 1.6 million euros, sacrificing a national park, wildlife, and public health for profit. She noted that users widely shared the fake story, which included a video narrated in French by a voiceover with a pronounced accent, which is not characteristic of professional journalistic standards.

<https://armenpress.am/en/article/1224755>

Azerbaijan

Did Israel use Azerbaijani airspace to strike deep into Iran?

Defence Security Asia, July 1, 2025

A fresh flashpoint in the volatile Caucasus has thrust Azerbaijan's deepening ties with

Israel under the spotlight, as Tehran now alleges that Baku covertly enabled Israeli fighter jets to breach Iranian airspace and unleash precision strikes during a tense 12-day air campaign. The Iranian regime, already battling unprecedented internal and external pressures, has formally demanded that Azerbaijan launch an impartial investigation into claims that Israeli aircraft exploited its airspace, particularly the critical Caspian Sea corridor, to bomb targets in and around Tehran with devastating accuracy. According to senior Iranian security officials, these air raids were “logistically impossible” without a discreet regional partner, pointing squarely at Baku’s decades-old but often understated “energy-for-arms” pact with Tel Aviv — a relationship that now risks inflaming a wider regional confrontation. Iran’s intelligence circles argue that its strategic allies, including Armenia, Turkmenistan and Russia, would not permit such corridor access, leaving Azerbaijan as the only feasible conduit for Israeli fighter jets and drones to operate deep behind Iranian lines.

https://defencesecurityasia.com/en/tension-s-erupt-did-israel-use-azerbaijani-airspace-to-strike-deep-into-iran/#google_vignette

Why are ties between Azerbaijan and Russia fraying?

Mansur Mirovalev

Aljazeera, July 1, 2025

In 2001, a man was stabbed to death near a lakeside restaurant in Yekaterinburg, an urban centre in Russia’s Ural Mountains region. With his dying breath, he whispered the names of his alleged killers to the

police, local media claimed. The man and his presumed murderers were ethnic Azeris, Turkic-speaking Muslims whose families fled to Russia in the 1990s after the war in Nagorno-Karabakh, an Azeri region dominated by ethnic Armenians. But it took Russian authorities 24 years to identify and detain the presumed suspects – even though they ran the restaurant and never went into hiding. Two alleged suspects died while being rounded up on Friday. One suffered a “heart attack” while the other suspect’s cause of death “is being established”, according to Russian prosecutors. They also purported that the suspects were part of “a criminal group” allegedly involved in other murders and the sale of counterfeit alcohol that killed 44 people in 2021.

<https://www.aljazeera.com/news/2025/7/1/why-are-ties-between-azerbaijan-and-russia-fraying>

Azerbaijan signs \$2 billion investment agreements with Pakistan on sidelines of ECO summit

Usama Iqbal Khawaja

Arabnews, July 4, 2025

Azerbaijan signed investment agreements worth \$2 billion with Pakistan on Friday to boost economic cooperation, said an official statement released in Islamabad, in a major development during Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif’s visit to the Central Asian state for the Economic Cooperation Organization (ECO) summit. The two-day summit, hosted in Khankendi, Azerbaijan, focused on a sustainable and climate-resilient future for the region. In his address, Sharif warned that climate change

posed an existential threat to ECO member states, highlighting the impact of melting glaciers, floods, desertification and declining crop yields. He also emphasized more trade, tourism and regional integration to enhance economic prosperity.

<https://www.arabnews.com/node/2606923/pakistan>

Iran

US betrayed diplomacy, Araghchi tells EU policy chief after attacks on nuclear sites

Tehran Times, July 1, 2025

Iranian Foreign Minister Abbas Araghchi says the United States betrayed the diplomatic process and undermined dialogue by attacking Iran's nuclear facilities while the two countries were in the middle of negotiations. Araghchi made the remarks during a telephone conversation on Tuesday with European Union Foreign Policy Chief Kaja Kallas where he discussed the latest regional developments following the joint military aggression by the Zionist regime and the United States against the Islamic Republic of Iran. He further highlighted Iran's lack of trust in the United States, saying: "The Zionist regime and the U.S. launched military attacks on Iran at a time when Tehran was engaged in diplomatic negotiations. It was the United States that betrayed the diplomatic process and undermined dialogue." During the call, Araghchi condemned the silence and inaction of certain Western governments in the face of Israel's clear violations of

international law and war crimes. He stressed that all governments have a legal and moral duty to strongly denounce the military assault carried out by the Zionist regime and the United States against Iranian territory.

<https://www.tehrantimes.com/news/515188/US-betrayed-diplomacy-Araghchi-tells-EU-policy-chief-after-attacks>

G7 issues statement on Iran nuclear program

Mehr News Agency, July 1, 2025

The G7 foreign ministers have issued a controversial statement urging renewed talks on Iran's nuclear program, while expressing unconditional support for Israel and overlooking its nuclear arsenal. The foreign ministers of the G7 countries issued a joint, one-sided, and arguably unrealistic statement, calling for the resumption of negotiations aimed at reaching a comprehensive, verifiable, and sustainable agreement regarding Iran's nuclear program. According to Qatar-based Al Jazeera media outlet, the G7 statement made no mention of Israel's nuclear arsenal, a major threat to both Middle Eastern and global security. Instead, it claimed that resuming negotiations could lead to an agreement that prevents nuclear proliferation and ensures regional stability. The G7 members also welcomed the ceasefire between Iran and Israel and called for continued diplomatic efforts to reduce tensions.

<https://en.mehrnews.com/news/233862/G7-issues-statement-on-Iran-nuclear-program>

O.P.C.W. condemns Israeli strikes on Iran's chemical facilities

Islamic Republic News Agency, July 1, 2025

A large majority of countries participating in a special session of the Executive Council of the Organisation for the Prohibition of Chemical Weapons (O.P.C.W.) have condemned Israeli strikes on Iranian chemical facilities as a flagrant violation of international law. The meeting, in The Hague at Iran's request, was convened in response to recent attacks carried out against Iran during the 12-day war imposed by Israel. Iranian Ambassador to the Netherlands Hadi Farajvand—who also serves as Iran's representative to the O.P.C.W.—denounced the Israeli aggression, which targeted civilians, including women, children, and scientists, as well as research centers and petrochemical sites.

<https://en.irna.ir/news/85878010/O-P-C-W-condemns-Israeli-strikes-on-Iran-s-chemical-facilities>

Bombs not to end Iran's nuclear industry: AEOI chief

Mehr News Agency, July 2, 2025

The head of the Atomic Energy Organisation of Iran (AEOI) reminded the enemies that it is impossible to destroy the country's nuclear industry with bombardment. Speaking to reporters after a weekly cabinet session, Mohammad Eslami denounced the Israeli and US military strikes on Iran's nuclear sites as a blow to the United Nations Charter. The military attacks on Iran's nuclear sites signalled that

the law of the jungle is prevailing in the world and one cannot survive without strength, he said, adding, "The Iranian nation has realised it very well." The AEOI chief emphasised that Iran's nuclear industry is not something that could be eliminated with bombs, because it is a homegrown industry and technology embedded in the country. Progress in the nuclear industry of Iran will always continue decisively, he stated. While the Zionist regime waged a war of aggression against Iran on June 13 and struck Iran's military, nuclear and residential areas for 12 days, the US stepped in and conducted military attacks on three nuclear sites in Iran's Natanz, Fordow and Isfahan on June 22.

<https://en.mehrnews.com/news/233929/Bombs-not-to-end-Iran-s-nuclear-industry-AEOI-chief>

Fordow nuclear site 'seriously damaged', declares Araghchi

Tehran Times, July 2, 2025

"No one exactly knows what has transpired in Fordow. That being said, what we know so far is that the facilities have been seriously and heavily damaged," Araghchi told CBS News in an interview aired. He added that Iran's Atomic Energy Organisation (AEOI) is assessing the damage, and a report will be submitted to the government. U.S. President Donald Trump joined an Israeli war against Iran on June 24, dropping bunker buster bombs on the Fordow facility and firing cruise missiles at two other Iranian nuclear sites in Esfahan and Natanz. The attacks, deemed illegal under international law, landed

Trump airstrikes on the most important American base in West Asia, the Al Udeid Air Base in Qatar, which Iran targeted with missiles less than 48 hours after the US offensive on its soil. Trump has since been in full swing to prove to Democratic and some Republican Congress members that his attacks "obliterated" Iran's nuclear sites, particularly Fordow.

<https://www.tehrantimes.com/news/515240/Fordow-nuclear-site-seriously-damaged-declares-Araghchi>

How Iran struck heart of Israel's military-scientific hub

Mehr News Agency, July 2, 2025

Iran's retaliatory missile strikes reduced the renowned Israeli military-affiliated Weizmann Institute of Science, located in the city of Rehovot, south of Tel Aviv, to smoldering ruins. Once a cornerstone of the Israeli regime's scientific and military research, the institute, known for its close ties to the Israeli military-industrial complex, now lies devastated and inoperable. According to Israeli media, the precision strike was "far from accidental" and targeted a hub of cutting-edge research tied to the Tel Aviv regime's military, in fields such as physics, biotechnology, and artificial intelligence. In a media interview with Channel 13, Alon Chen, president of the Israeli Weizmann Institute, acknowledged that Iranian ballistic missiles struck key buildings within the sprawling complex with extreme precision, causing extensive and irreparable damage. His statement contradicted earlier claims made by some regime officials that the missile strikes were random and the damage caused

was minimal. "The destruction is extensive, and our initial assessments indicate damages ranging from \$300 million up to half a billion," Chen told the Israeli television channel.

<https://en.mehrnews.com/news/233901/How-Iran-struck-heart-of-Israel-s-military-scientific-hub>

Iran facing more than NATO

Tehran Times, July 2, 2025

In this context, these two countries have defined specific objectives regarding Iran, including the claimed attempt to halt Iran's nuclear program and eliminate nuclear capabilities. However, evidence and indicators—especially the nature of the selected targets and operations—clearly show that these countries, particularly Israel, are pursuing goals that go beyond nuclear discussions. For example, during these operations, a wide range of civilians were targeted and more than 900 people were martyred; this indicates that the objectives of the recent aggressions are much deeper and more dangerous than what is officially claimed. It seems that the selection of such methods—particularly the first day's operation, which had a complex, combined, and multilayered nature—could have been designed with objectives such as toppling the government and even disintegrating the country. In fact, the enemy's goals are directed not only at the national level but also regionally at weakening Iran's position and dismantling the Islamic Republic's levers of power.

<https://www.tehrantimes.com/news/515238/Iran-facing-more-than-NATO>

IAEA reacts to Iran's suspension of cooperation

Mehr News, July 3, 2025

The International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA) has reacted to Tehran's suspension of cooperation with the agency. According to Mehr News Agency, the Wall Street Journal reported on Wednesday that the IAEA spokesperson said the agency is aware of Iran's position regarding the suspension of cooperation and will wait for more official information. The report also noted that the IAEA still maintains a team of inspectors in Iran. Iranian President Masoud Pezeshkian, in accordance with Article 123 of the Constitution of the Islamic Republic of Iran, has signed into law the "Act Mandating the Government to Suspend Cooperation with the International Atomic Energy Agency." The bill was passed by the Iranian Parliament on June 25, 2025, and approved by the Guardian Council on the same day. The law has now been officially communicated to the Atomic Energy Organisation of Iran, the Supreme National Security Council, and the Ministry of Foreign Affairs for implementation.

<https://en.mehrnews.com/news/233941/IAEA-responds-to-Iran-s-suspension-of-cooperation>

Iran rejects negotiating on ending its nuclear program

Mehr News Agency, July 3, 2025

Iran's Foreign Minister Abbas Araghchi has dismissed the European Union's recent push to initiate talks aimed at halting Iran's nuclear program. The statement came on

Wednesday in response to comments made by EU foreign policy chief Kaja Kallas, who on Tuesday urged Iran to engage in immediate negotiations to curb its nuclear activities. In a post on X, Araghchi stated that Kallas disregarded the principles enshrined in the Nuclear Non-Proliferation Treaty (NPT), which explicitly affirms the right of all signatory states, including Iran, to develop, research, and utilize nuclear technology for peaceful purposes. He argued that the EU's call undermines Iran's sovereign rights under international law and fails to acknowledge the complexities of the existing nuclear agreements. Araghchi further criticized the EU's stance by referencing UN Security Council Resolution 2231, which endorsed the 2015 Joint Comprehensive Plan of Action (JCPOA), commonly known as the Iran nuclear deal.

<https://en.mehrnews.com/news/233938/Iran-rejects-negotiating-on-ending-its-nuclear-program>

No talks unless US abandons deception and commit to diplomacy, Iran says

Tehran Times, July 4, 2025

Iran's Foreign Ministry says the United States must first prove its genuine commitment to diplomacy if Washington seeks further negotiations with Tehran on the country's nuclear program. In an interview with the UK-based Sky News television news channel aired, ministry spokesman Esmail Baghaei stressed that the White House must first prove its genuine commitment to a diplomatic path before any potential resumption of the halted nuclear talks between Iran and the

U.S., Press TV reported. "They (the Americans) must truly demonstrate their adherence to diplomacy. Diplomacy should not be misused or turned into a tool for deception or psychological warfare against their adversaries," he said. Asked whether Tehran and Washington would resume talks, Baghaei said, "I know there have been indirect contacts. Our Foreign Minister [Abbas Araghchi] is in talks with Oman, Qatar, and other countries, and as I said, diplomacy never stops."

<https://www.tehrantimes.com/news/515253/No-talks-unless-US-abandons-deception-and-commit-to-diplomacy>

Iran has no plans to stop uranium enrichment

Mehr News Agency, July 4, 2025

Iran will not retaliate further for the US' attacks against its nuclear sites, a senior government official said, and added that Iran is open to negotiations with Washington but has no plans to stop uranium enrichment. In an interview with NBC News in Tehran, Deputy Foreign Minister Majid Takht-Ravanchi said the U.S. had caused "serious damage" to Iran's nuclear program with what he called "a naked act of aggression" on June 21. Asked if Iran planned further retaliation, Takht-Ravanchi said, "As long as there is no act of aggression being perpetrated by the United States against us, we will not respond again." Takht-Ravanchi asked "how can we trust the Americans?" following the attacks during these negotiations. "We want them to explain as to why they misled us, why they took such an egregious action against

our people," he added. Even so, he suggested that his nation would be open to new talks if these requests are satisfied. "We are for diplomacy" and "we are for dialogue," he said, But the U.S. government needs "to convince us that they are not going to use military force while we are negotiating," he said. "That is an essential element for our leadership to be in a position to decide about the future round of talks."

<https://en.mehrnews.com/news/233958/Iran-has-no-plans-to-stop-uranium-enrichment>

US reckless bombing of Iran's nuclear sites set a dangerous precedent, China warns

Tehran Times, July 5, 2025

Chinese Foreign Minister Wang Yi said on Friday that strikes against Iran lacked legitimacy, emphasizing that recent military clashes between Israel and Iran must not be repeated. Wang made these comments during a joint news conference with French Foreign Minister Jean-Noel Barrot in Paris. When asked about China's stance on the Iranian nuclear issue and the current situation in the Middle East, Wang said the Iranian nuclear issue could have been a model for resolving international disputes through dialogue and consultation, but it is now triggering a new round of crisis in the Middle East. China respects Iran's right to peaceful use of nuclear technology as a signatory to the NPT. Although the world has heard the knock on the door of peace, it has ultimately failed to open the door to peace, he said while expressing

China's deep regret on this and called for reflections upon the lessons.

<https://www.tehrantimes.com/news/51526/US-reckless-bombing-of-Iran-s-nuclear-sites-set-a-dangerous-precedent>

IAEA pulls inspectors from Iran as standoff over access drags on

Arab News, July 5, 2025

The UN nuclear watchdog said it had pulled its last remaining inspectors from Iran as a standoff over their return to the country's nuclear facilities bombed by the United States and Israel deepens. Israel launched its first military strikes on Iran's nuclear sites in a 12-day war with the Islamic Republic three weeks ago. The International Atomic Energy Agency's inspectors have not been able to inspect Iran's facilities since then, even though IAEA chief Rafael Grossi has said that is his top priority. Iran's parliament has now passed a law to suspend cooperation with the IAEA until the safety of its nuclear facilities can be guaranteed. While the IAEA says Iran has not yet formally informed it of any suspension, it is unclear when the agency's inspectors will be able to return to Iran. "An IAEA team of inspectors today safely departed from Iran to return to the Agency headquarters in Vienna, after staying in Tehran throughout the recent military conflict," the IAEA said on X.

<https://www.arabnews.com/node/2606943/middle-east>

Pezeshkian says Iran open to dialogue, but finds it hard to trust US again

Tehran Times, July 7, 2025

Iranian President Masoud Pezeshkian carried out an online interview with an American journalist, where he spoke of the 12-day war with Israel, and how Iran finds it increasingly difficult to trust the U.S. when it comes to diplomacy. "We were at the negotiating table. We were in talks; the U.S. President had asked us to engage in talks to establish peace," Pezeshkian told Tucker Carlson. "During those talks, we were told that without U.S. permission, Israel would not launch any attacks. Yet, just before the sixth round — while we were still negotiating — Netanyahu practically dropped a bomb on the negotiating table and destroyed diplomacy." Pezeshkian took office in summer of 2024 promising his voters that he would enter talks with the U.S. to resolve issues between the two countries through dialogue. Indirect Iran-US talks on the Iranian nuclear program began in April of 2025. Only days ahead of a scheduled sixth round of negotiations, Israel unleashed airstrikes on Iranian soil, targeting the country's nuclear sites, military and civilian infrastructure, and residential buildings

<https://www.tehrantimes.com/news/51535/5/Pezeshkian-says-Iran-open-to-dialogue-but-finds-it-hard-to-trust>

Iran denounces U.S.-Israeli attacks as gross violation of U.N. Charter

Islamic Republic News Agency, July 7, 2025,

Foreign Minister Abbas Araqchi has once again denounced the recent military aggression by the Israeli regime and the United States against Iran as a blatant violation of international law, including the United Nations Charter. Araqchi's condemnation came during a meeting with his Brazilian counterpart, Mauro Vieira, on the sidelines of the 17th BRICS Summit in Rio de Janeiro on Sunday evening. He stated that the illegal attacks of the United States and Israel also violated the non-proliferation regime and the foundation of diplomacy, which has great consequences for regional peace and security. Commending Brazil for its firm and principled stance in condemning aggressive actions against Iran, the top diplomat attributed "the Zionist regime's warmongering and expansionism with impunity" to the comprehensive support it receives from the United States and some European countries.

<https://en.irda.ir/news/85881851/Iran-denounces-U-S-Israeli-attacks-as-gross-violation-of-U-N>

Why Iran emerged victorious in its war with Israel

Salman Parviz

Tehran Times, July 8, 2025

The so-called '12-Day War' started with Israeli airstrikes against Iran in the early morning of June 13. The regime's assault occurred just days before Iran and the

United States were set to meet for a sixth-round indirect nuclear talks in Oman, sabotaging the diplomatic process and unravelling any potential progress made during the previous five rounds. An event precursor to the assault was the illegal Israeli strike on Iran's diplomatic premises in Damascus on April 1, 2024, which destroyed the Iranian embassy's consular section. It also resulted in the martyrdom of Brigadier General Muhammad Reza Zahedi, a commander of the IRGC Quds Force, his deputy General Muhammad Hadi Haji Rahimi, and five of their accompany officers. Iran retaliated less than two weeks after the attack with Operation 'True Promise I', then was known as world's largest drone operation. It marked the first direct military confrontation between the two arch enemies. Iran launched Operation 'True Promise II' on October 1 following Israel's assassination of Hamas leader Esmail Haniyeh in Tehran. The E-3 along with many other silent Western nations, supported the Israeli strikes, using the usual justifications that "Iran cannot have a nuclear bomb." However, numerous demonstrations were held by the Muslim diaspora in the West and around the world condemning the Israeli aggression.

<https://www.tehrantimes.com/news/515362/Why-Iran-emerged-victorious-in-its-war-with-Israel>

Some of Iran's Enriched Uranium Survived Attacks, Israeli Official Says

David E. Sanger

The New York Times, July 10, 2025

Israel has concluded that some of Iran's underground stockpile of near-bomb-grade

enriched uranium survived American and Israeli attacks last month and may be accessible to Iranian nuclear engineers, according to a senior Israeli official. The senior official also said that Israel had begun moving toward military action against Iran late last year after seeing what the official described as a race to build a bomb as part of a secret Iranian project. The official spoke on condition of anonymity because of the sensitivity of the information. The official said Israeli intelligence picked up the nuclear weapons activity soon after the Israeli Air Force killed Hassan Nasrallah, the longtime leader of Hezbollah, the Iran-backed militia in Lebanon. That observation prompted the Israeli prime minister, Benjamin Netanyahu, to prepare for an attack with or without U.S. help. In the days surrounding Israel's attack on Iran in mid-June, and President Trump's subsequent decision to join in the action, U.S. intelligence officials said they had seen no evidence of a move by Iran to weaponise its stockpile of near-bomb-grade uranium.

<https://www.nytimes.com/2025/07/10/us/politics/iran-attacks-damage.html>

Iran tells IAEA to end 'double standards' before nuclear talks can resume

Aljazeera, July 10, 2025

Iran's president has warned the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA) to abandon its "double standards" if it hopes to restore cooperation over the country's nuclear programme, amid an acute mistrust following Israel and the

United States' attacks on Iranian nuclear sites last month, and the UN nuclear watchdog's refusal to condemn the strikes. Speaking to European Council President Antonio Costa by phone on Thursday, President Masoud Pezeshkian said, "The continuation of Iran's cooperation with the agency depends on the latter correcting its double standards regarding the nuclear file," according to Iranian state media.

<https://www.aljazeera.com/news/2025/7/10/iran-tells-iaea-to-end-double-standards-before-nuclear-talks-can-resume>

Iran's envoy to Russia: Tehran's nuclear rights non-negotiable

Tehran Times, July 12, 2025

In an interview with Russian media, Iranian Ambassador to Russia Kazem Jalali stated that recent U.S. and Israeli strikes on Iran's nuclear facilities have solidified the country's resolve to maintain and develop its nuclear program. "The attacks strengthened Iran's determination to build a desirable future for the country, and as we go toward that goal, our intellectual and scientific elite will continue to adamantly defend its nuclear program as an indisputable and legitimate right," Jalali told Tass. The ambassador's remarks follow a 12-day war on Iran ignited by the Israeli regime's attacks on Iranian nuclear and military sites beginning June 13, which assassinated top commanders and scientists. Over a thousand Iranians were martyred in the conflict, most of them civilians. The U.S. later joined the offensive, deploying massive ordinance

penetrators and Tomahawk missiles against civilian nuclear sites at Natanz, Esfahan, and Fordow.

<https://www.tehrantimes.com/news/515519/Iran-s-envoy-to-Russia-Tehran-s-nuclear-rights-non-negotiable>

Supreme National Security Council to manage future cooperation with I.A.E.A.: Araqchi

Islamic Republic News Agency, July 12, 2025

Foreign Minister Abbas Araqchi says all future cooperation with the International Atomic Energy Agency (I.A.E.A.) will be carried out through Iran's Supreme National Security Council (S.N.S.C.). Addressing ambassadors, officials, and heads of foreign and international missions in Tehran, Araqchi said the Islamic Republic's cooperation with the I.A.E.A. has not stopped but taken a new form, based on a parliamentary law, following the war of aggression launched by the Israeli regime and the United States. "Iran has been a committed member of the Non-Proliferation Treaty (N.P.T.). From now on, relations with the Agency will be managed through the Supreme National Security Council," he said, adding that the I.A.E.A.'s request for continued cooperation with Iran will be reviewed on a case-by-case basis. At the beginning, the foreign minister thanked the countries and organisations that condemned the Israeli-U.S. war of aggression and expressed sympathy for the Iranian government and people. More than 120 countries, as well as many international organisations, such as

the Non-Aligned Movement (NAM), the Organisation of Islamic Cooperation (O.I.C.), the Persian Gulf Cooperation Council (G.C.C.), the BRICS, and the Shanghai Cooperation Organisation (S.C.O.) had condemned the attacks.

<https://en.irna.ir/news/85886304/Supreme-National-Security-Council-to-manage-future-cooperation>

What comes after the 12-day war on Iran?

Batool Subeiti

Tehran Times, July 12, 2025

When U.S. President Trump says, "We destroyed, crushed, and ended the Iranian nuclear project," and uses expressions of victory, the message behind it contradicts reality and carries defeat. However, when Iran declares that its nuclear facilities were significantly damaged, that too carries a contradictory message, one of victory, as in, Iran cannot be stopped and will pursue its interests. America's statement reflects incapacity — a recurring failure where major goals are set but not achieved, only to be masked by such statements. This happened in Yemen when Trump declared he would unleash hell and end the Yemeni challenge in the Red Sea. Yet, after seven weeks, he declared victory without achieving any of his goals. Similarly, when he reached a point of inability in facing what he calls the "Iranian threat," he came out with statements that reflected the opposite of strength.

<https://www.tehrantimes.com/news/515515/What-comes-after-the-12-day-war-on-Iran>

Iraq

V2X awarded Iraqi F-16 support services contract

Airforce Technology, July 1, 2025

Aerospace and defence company V2X has secured a cost-plus-fixed-fee contract on an undefinitised basis to deliver support services for the Iraq F-16 Fighting Falcon fighter jet initiative. The contract commences with an initial value of \$118m to facilitate an immediate onset of services, with a commitment to fully define the contract terms by the end of 2025. The anticipated duration for the full scope of work under this contract is five years. Under the US foreign military sales (FMS) programme, V2X will provide a range of services including base operations, life support, and additional operational support. In 2011, Iraq placed an initial order for 18 F-16 Block 52 aircraft, amounting to \$3bn. This was followed by a subsequent order for an additional 18 jets in October 2012. V2X mission support senior vice president Ken Shreves said: “This award is a testament to the strength of V2X’s full-spectrum capabilities. We are honoured to have been selected to deliver this critical strategic capability to the Iraqi Air Force in this high-stakes environment.”

<https://www.airforce-technology.com/news/v2x-f-16-iraq-services/?cf-view>

Kurdish fighters in northern Iraq to hand over weapons in first step toward disarmament

Arab News, July 3, 2025

A Kurdish militant group that has waged a long-running insurgency in Türkiye

announced its fighters in northern Iraq will begin handing over their weapons, marking the first concrete step toward disarmament as part of a peace process. The Kurdistan Workers’ Party, or PKK, announced in May it would disband and renounce armed conflict, ending four decades of hostilities. The move came after PKK leader Abdullah Ocalan, who has been imprisoned on an island near Istanbul since 1999, urged his group in February to convene a congress and formally disband and disarm. Ocalan, 76, continues to wield significant influence in the Kurdish movement despite his 25-year imprisonment. His call to end the fighting marked a pivotal step toward ending the decades-long conflict that has claimed tens of thousands of lives since the 1980s.

<https://www.arabnews.com/node/2606757/middle-east>

Iraq bolsters air defence: Korean missiles and French radars expected soon

Shafaq News, July 5, 2025

Iraq’s Ministry of Defence confirmed, that its air defence modernisation program is moving forward without delays. Tahseen Al-Khafaji, the Ministry’s Director of Media and Moral Guidance, told Shafaq News that Iraq will soon receive an advanced Korean air defence system along with modern radar technology secured through a French partnership. “Our upgrades for air defence, Army Aviation, and Air Force units are on schedule, with strong backing from the Commander-in-Chief [Prime Minister Mohammed Shia al-Sudani],” Al-Khafaji noted. In September

2024, Iraq signed an agreement with South Korea's LIG Nex1 to acquire the Cheongung-II medium-range system, which includes launchers, multifunction radar, and command infrastructure, making Iraq the third country in the Middle East to obtain the platform after the UAE and Saudi Arabia.

<https://shafaq.com/en/Security/Iraq-bolsters-air-defense-Korean-missiles-and-French-radars-expected-soon#:~:text=In%20September%202024%2C%20Iraq%20signed,the%20UAE%20and%20Saudi%20Arabia.>

Israel

Israel's 12-day war with Iran was a test of technological dominance

Stav Levaton

Times of Israel, July 1, 2025

In just 12 days of conflict with Iran, Israel put decades of military innovation to the test, demonstrating a level of technological dominance and strategic coordination that reshaped the battlefield against a growing missile and drone threat. The conflict, which began with Israel's "precise, preemptive strike" against Iran on June 13, marked the most extensive and deadly military exchange to date between the two regional adversaries. The operation, named "Rising Lion," saw Israel launch hundreds of airstrikes deep inside Iranian territory, deploy its arsenal of drone capabilities, and activate its multi-layered defence systems in response to Iran's retaliatory missile attacks. The campaign came to an abrupt halt on June 24, when US President Donald Trump announced a ceasefire had been

brokered, bringing the high-stakes clash between Israel and Iran to a close, for now. Although initial impressions suggested a dip in interception rates, data shows that Israel's multi-layered air defence maintained a success rate of approximately 86 percent against ballistic missiles launched from Iran, consistent with previous operations. That figure was bolstered by the rapid deployment of upgraded Arrow missile systems just a week before the conflict began.

<https://www.timesofisrael.com/israels-12-day-war-with-iran-was-a-test-of-technological-dominance/>

New missile defences, EW tactics aided Israel during 12-day Iran conflict

Seth J. Frantzman

Breaking Defence, July 1, 2025

During the recent twelve-day conflict with Iran, Israel broke out new defence technologies, including the first Israeli operational use of the Barak air defence systems as well as the first public disclosure about an Israeli Defence Forces unit that uses electromagnetic spectrum defences to counter drones. Israel's war with Iran came about after more than 600 days of a multi-front conflict that began on Oct. 7, 2023 when Hamas attacked Israel. The long war has provided Israel ample time to prepare for the kinds of threats that Iran had in store for Israel. "Israel's successful integration of the Arrow, David's Sling, Iron Dome, and AI-driven precision targeting systems has transformed the conventional battlefield." Eric Mandel, director of the Middle East Political Information Network (MEPIN)

told Breaking Defence. “This revolution is reshaping the future of modern warfare,” he added. Yaakov Katz, author of *Shadow Strike*, a book about Israel’s raid on Syria’s nuclear program, and a Fellow at the Jewish People Policy Institute added that “Israel showcased once again in combat operations some of the most superior and advanced technology; from missile defense systems, to electro-magnetic systems to electronic warfare to shoot down drones.” “The Barak MX (Opens in a new window) system provides a comprehensive defense solution against a wide range of aerial threats, including aircraft, missiles – such as cruise missiles, sea-to-sea missiles, rockets and ballistic missiles.” IAI added that the system is used by various customers around the world and deploys “a family of interceptors designed for ranges of up to 35km, up to 70km, and up to 150km.”

<https://breakingdefense.com/2025/07/new-missile-defenses-ew-tactics-aided-israel-during-12-day-iran-conflict/>

US approves \$510m JDAM guidance kits sale to Israel

Airforce Technology, July 1, 2025

The US State Department has approved a potential \$510m foreign military sale (FMS) of munitions guidance kits, along with munition support and other related equipment to Israel. The Israeli government seeks to procure 3,845 units of KMU-558B/B Joint Direct Attack Munition (JDAM) guidance kits compatible with the BLU-109 bomb and 3,280 units of KMU-572 F/B JDAM guidance kits suitable for the MK 82 bomb body. The agreement also

encompasses non-major defence equipment items such as engineering services, logistics, and technical support from both the US government and contractors, in addition to other related elements of logistics and program support.

<https://www.airforce-technology.com/news/us-israel-jdam-guidance-sale/?cf-view>

Israel’s defence ministry reports success of air defence and weapon systems in Operation Rising Lion

Defence Industry Europe, July 1, 2025

The Israeli Ministry of Defence’s Directorate of Defence Research and Development (DDR&D, also known as MAFAT) has completed its evaluation of advanced weapons systems used during Operation Rising Lion. The Ministry reported the systems prevented over \$15 billion in property damage and protected lives from ballistic missile and UAV threats. According to the Ministry, 86% of ballistic missiles launched from Iran towards Israel were intercepted. This was credited to recent upgrades to the Arrow system, with the latest integration occurring just a week before the operation. Iron Dome and David’s Sling also underwent enhancements, including a breakthrough Iron Dome test in March that demonstrated the system’s ability to counter drone swarms. During the operation, the multi-layered Israeli air defence system achieved a 99% interception rate against Iranian drones. The UAV Array played a significant role, operating continuously across long distances and accumulating

thousands of flight hours. These unmanned systems conducted over 500 strikes and interdictions within Iranian territory.

<https://defence-industry.eu/israels-defence-ministry-reports-success-of-air-defence-and-weapon-systems-in-operation-rising-lion/>

Israeli satellites took tens of millions of photos of Iran leading up to recent war

The Jerusalem Post, July 1, 2025

Israeli satellites took tens of millions of photos of Iran leading up to, and during, the recent war, the Defence Ministry announced. Comprehensive space-based intelligence gathering captured tens of millions of square kilometers through day-night surveillance, producing over 12,000 satellite images of Iranian territory. Since the Islamic Republic spans approximately 1.6 million square kilometers and much of the Israeli operation focused on the Tehran area and Western Iran, parts of Iran needed to be photographed extensively.

<https://www.jpost.com/israel-news/defense-news/article-859664>

Israeli assessment of recent conflict with Iran reveals 86 percent success rate in Missile Interception

Foundation for Defence of Democracies, July 2, 2025

The Israeli Defence Ministry reported that its aerial defences successfully intercepted 86 percent of ballistic missiles launched by Iran during the conflict in June. In a newly released assessment, the ministry estimated that the interception rate prevented more than \$15 billion in potential property damage and saved countless lives. Twenty-

eight civilians were killed during the strikes, with hundreds wounded as well. Unmanned aerial vehicles, or drones, accounted for 60 percent of Israeli Air Force flight hours and 50 percent of strike operations during the war, according to the assessment. The Israeli drones — the most advanced of which can fly for several hours without landing — logged over 500 airstrikes and interdictions, including missile-launcher hunts in Iran. The ministry also reported that Israel intercepted 99 percent of the hundreds of Iranian drones launched during the conflict. According to the ministry, the results were partly due to “system upgrades to Iron Dome and David’s Sling, combined with a breakthrough Iron Dome test against drone swarms conducted in March.” A study published on July 1 estimated that around 200 ballistic missile interceptors — a combination of Israel’s Arrow system and the U.S. THAAD and Aegis systems — were launched during the war. With each Arrow interceptor costing \$2-3 million and each THAAD interceptor costing an estimated \$13 million, the total outlay was in excess of \$1 billion.

<https://www.fdd.org/analysis/2025/07/02/israeli-assessment-of-recent-conflict-with-iran-reveals-86-percent-success-rate-in-missile-interception/>

Iranian missiles directly hit 5 Israeli military bases during 12-day war, radar data shows

Dilara Karatas, Sami Sohta, Betul Yilmaz

Anadolu Agency, July 6, 2025

Iranian missiles directly struck five Israeli military facilities during a 12-day war

between the two countries, radar data showed. The data published by the British daily The Telegraph and examined by US academics from Oregon State University revealed that six missiles fired by Tehran hit five bases in northern, southern, and central Israel. Among the targeted Israeli sites were a major air base, an intelligence-gathering center, and a logistics base, the data showed. Israeli authorities have not published any information about these attacks, as Tel Aviv censors the publication of any information about military sites. The Telegraph estimated that 16% of Iranian missiles reached Israel, getting through air defence systems, which aligns with the 87% success rate that the Israeli army stated. Tehran launched retaliatory missile and drone strikes, killing at least 29 people and wounding more than 3,400, according to figures released by the Hebrew University of Jerusalem.

<https://www.aa.com.tr/en/middle-east/iranian-missiles-directly-hit-5-israeli-military-bases-during-12-day-war-radar-data-shows/3623440>

BRICS nations condemn Israel over Iran war, in victory for Islamic Republic

Times of Israel, July 6, 2025

Iran won the support of fellow BRICS nations meeting in Rio de Janeiro today, with the bloc condemning Israel and the US for the assault on Iran's nuclear program and military infrastructure throughout the 12-day war last month. "We condemn the military strikes against the Islamic Republic of Iran since 13 June 2025,"

leaders say in a summit statement, without naming the US or Israel. "We further express serious concern over deliberate attacks on civilian infrastructure and peaceful nuclear facilities," the bloc says. The 11-nation grouping says the strikes "constitute a violation of international law. The declaration is a diplomatic victory for Tehran, which received limited regional or global support over a 12-day bombing campaign by the Israeli military, which culminated in US strikes on Iran's nuclear facilities at Natanz, Fordo and Isfahan.

https://www.timesofisrael.com/liveblog_entry/brics-nations-condemn-israel-over-iran-war-in-victory-for-islamic-republic/

Is an Iran nuclear deal still possible after the US-Israel strikes?

Chuck Freilich

The Jerusalem Post, July 7, 2025

In 2010, the US and Israel conducted a brilliant cyberattack against Iran's uranium enrichment plant at Natanz. The nuclear program was set back about a year by this first-ever cyberattack that caused physical damage. Of greater long-term consequence, Iran's deep national trauma at the time led it to rapidly ramp up its only nascent cyber capabilities. Within a few years, Iran had become one of the world's more active offensive cyber actors, especially against the US and Israel. The conflict with Iran last month raises several critical questions.

<https://www.jpost.com/opinion/article-860143>

IAI in action: advanced solutions shield Israel across all domains during Operation Rising Lion

Defence Industry Europe, July 7, 2025

The Israeli Air Force (IAF) has intercepted a long-range missile launched from Yemen by the Houthi rebels, one of Iran's proxies. It was the first use of the Arrow 3 against a long-range ballistic missile. Israel Aerospace Industries (IAI) played a key strategic role in Operation Rising Lion, delivering critical defence technologies that enabled real-time threat detection and response across multiple domains. As a national anchor for the State of Israel, IAI's systems were central to countering an unprecedented, coordinated attack involving approximately 550 ballistic missiles, alongside hundreds of cruise missiles, UAVs, and rockets. IAI's advanced radar systems, including the Green Pine and Multi-Mission Radar (MMR), successfully identified and classified all airborne threats, guiding interceptors with high precision. Operating under extreme conditions, these systems demonstrated remarkable resilience, accuracy, and coordination with all branches of Israel's security forces. The Arrow-2 and Arrow-3 defence systems were deployed to intercept ballistic missiles launched by Iran, neutralising long-range threats before they could cause harm. Meanwhile, IAI's Barak MX system operated effectively in both land and naval configurations, intercepting aircraft, cruise

missiles, rockets, and sea-to-sea threats to protect strategic assets.

<https://defence-industry.eu/iai-in-action-advanced-solutions-shield-israel-across-all-domains-during-operation-rising-lion/>

Katz: Iran's ballistic missiles still a threat, war was launched with 'greenish' light from Trump

Times of Israel, July 7, 2025

In his briefing with reporters today, Defense Minister Israel Katz says the existential threat from Iran's nuclear program has been removed, but Tehran's missile arsenal will continue to occupy Israel's attention. Katz says Iran has decided to restore their ballistic missile capabilities, which were heavily damaged during the 12-day war last month. Katz also details the preparation for the Iran war, which took place months in advance. Several meetings were held with the IDF's top brass regarding the US's potential involvement in Israel's war against Iran, with Katz deciding that Israel would accept at least a "greenish" light from America before going ahead with the operation, meaning approval for the opening strikes, but without the promise that the US would be directly involved on the offense or even willing to publicly back Israel. Katz tells reporters that US President Donald Trump spoke with a senior Israeli official ahead of the opening strikes, telling him, "You better succeed, because if you fail and Netanyahu calls me, I'll ask, 'Who is Bibi?'"

https://www.timesofisrael.com/liveblog_entry/katz-irans-ballistic-missiles-still-a-

[threat-war-was-launched-with-greenish-light-from-trump/](#)

Wartime innovation boosts Israeli defence tech growth, drawing global interest

The Jerusalem Post, July 8, 2025

Israeli army reservist Zach Bergerson felt he had to take action when he saw fellow soldiers having to rely on their eyes and ears to detect swarms of enemy drones overhead. So the high-tech professional, 36, developed a wearable device that uses mobile phone technology to warn troops of aerial threats. Like other reservists, Bergerson has leveraged his civilian expertise and military experience to bolster Israel's defence industry. Known as SkyHoop, his startup has since emerged from stealth mode - a period when startups typically work in secrecy - to be piloted in Ukraine with discussions under way for a trial by the US Defense Department. While US President Donald Trump brokers a Gaza ceasefire, Israeli startups like Bergerson's are drawing investment from US and Israeli venture capital firms and looking to build on a growing European market for Israeli defense exports.

<https://www.jpost.com/israel-news/article-860340>

Israel said to expect US backing for future strikes on Iran if it revives nuclear program

Nava Freiberg

Times of Israel, July 8, 2025

Israel anticipates the United States will permit it to launch new strikes on Iran in the

event that the Islamic Republic attempts to restart its nuclear program, and Jerusalem is preparing for that possibility. Later, as US President Donald Trump and Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu sat down for a dinner in the White House, both men praised the Israeli and American strikes on Iran's nuclear program last month, saying the campaign was a success, though they acknowledged the possibility that hostilities could restart if Iran does not want to keep the peace. Axios, citing two sources, reported before the Trump-Netanyahu meeting that Strategic Affairs Minister Ron Dermer had told officials after meetings in Washington last week that he thinks the White House would support new Israeli strikes under certain circumstances. An estimated 400 kilograms (882 pounds) of 60-percent-enriched uranium — a short step away from weapons-grade — is believed to have been stored in the underground sites, and both experts and Israeli officials have said that it may have been moved prior to the US bombardment. The White House has rejected that assessment, saying the uranium was buried in the strikes.

<https://www.timesofisrael.com/israel-said-to-expect-us-backing-for-future-strikes-on-iran-if-it-revives-nuclear-program/>

After strikes, Israel and US diverge on how to further pressure Iran

Samia Nakhoul

Times of Israel, July 9, 2025

When they met, US President Donald Trump and Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu basked in the glow of their

triumph over Iran. But the show of unity masked a divergence over their endgames in Iran, Gaza and the wider Middle East. Both leaders have touted the success of last month's strikes on Iran's nuclear infrastructure, declaring they had set back a program they say is aimed at acquiring a nuclear bomb. Yet, with intelligence assessments suggesting that Iran retains a hidden stockpile of enriched uranium and the technical capacity to rebuild, both Trump and Netanyahu know that their victory is more short-term than strategic, two diplomats say.

<https://www.timesofisrael.com/after-strikes-israel-and-us-diverge-on-how-to-further-pressure-iran/>

Trump under pressure: Israel demands Türkiye's F-35 access denied to protect stealth edge

Defence Security Asia, July 12, 2025

A senior Israeli official has renewed Tel Aviv's urgent call for President Trump to keep Türkiye locked out of the F-35 Joint Strike Fighter programme, insisting the stakes for Israel's survival are simply too high to gamble with. Quoted by U.S media, the unidentified official warned that admitting Ankara back into the stealth jet club while it continues to operate the Russian S-400 system would not only undermine Israel's qualitative military edge but could spark a dangerous shift in the Middle East's fragile air power balance. The warning comes as Türkiye tries to revive its suspended participation by leveraging its pivotal NATO role and President

Erdoğan's direct phone diplomacy with President Trump. Central to Israel's alarm is the threat posed by Türkiye's operational Russian-made S-400 Triumf air defence system, which defence analysts say could expose the F-35's stealth profile to Moscow. Türkiye signed the controversial S-400 deal with Russia in 2017 for an estimated USD 2.5 billion (around RM 11.8 billion), receiving its first battery deliveries in mid-2019 despite repeated US and NATO objections.

<https://defencesecurityasia.com/en/trump-under-pressure-israel-demands-turkiyes-f-35-access-denied-to-protect-stealth-edge/>

IDF to begin operational use of Arrow 4

Israel National News, July 13, 2025

The Arrow 4 interceptor missile may soon join Israel's missile defences, according to IAI CEO, Boaz Levy. Maariv reported that the missile is a direct continuation of the Arrow 3, designed to operate at shorter ranges but with improved accuracy. Alongside Arrow 4, IAI is working on the Arrow 5 missile that is supposed to eventually replace the Arrow 3 and deal with especially sophisticated ballistic threats. The new system is expected to enter operational trials within about two years, but will be accelerated if necessary. At the same time, Israel is preparing to supply Arrow systems to Germany, as part of a commitment to deploy defence batteries for it and neighbouring countries.

<https://www.israelnationalnews.com/news/411581>

Jordan

Jordanian army chief, dutch defence chief discuss bilateral cooperation general

Qatar News Agency, July 5, 2025

Jordanian Chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff Major General Yousef Ahmed Al-Hunaiti and Chief of Defence of the Dutch Armed Forces Onno Eichelsheim, who is visiting Jordan, discussed aspects of military cooperation and coordination, as well as ways to enhance relations and exchange expertise in the field of training to achieve the common interests of both armies. The meeting also addressed regional and international developments of common interest, as well as the security challenges facing the region.

<https://qna.org.qa/en/news/news-details?id=jordanian-army-chief-dutch-defense-chief-discuss-bilateral-cooperation&date=5/07/2025>

Kuwait

Kuwait gives importance to nuclear radiation safety plans

Zawya, July 1, 2025

The Ministry of Oil affirmed that nuclear radiation is one of the most dangerous health and environmental challenges in the modern era, and that Kuwait gives significant importance to this issue through an integrated regulatory system, well-studied emergency plans, and scientific monitoring networks covering all parts of the country to ensure the highest levels of environmental and health safety for society. This came in a speech by the Ministry's

Director of Public Relations and Media Sheikha Tamadher Khalid Al-Ahmad Al-Sabah in a seminar titled (Risks and Damages Resulting from Nuclear Reactors and Their Impact On Human Health) as part of its social responsibility towards raising society's awareness.

<https://www.zawya.com/en/economy/gcc/oil-min-kuwait-gives-significant-importance-to-nuclear-radiation-safety-plans-s4nrs5up>

Kuwait's interior minister inaugurates Unmanned Surface Vessels to boost maritime security

Al Defaiya, July 7, 2025

Kuwait's First Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of Interior Sheikh Fahad Al-Yousef Saud Al-Sabah on Monday inaugurated the Unmanned Surface Vessels (USVs) that newly added to the Kuwait Coast Guard fleet at the General Directorate of the Coast Guard. The ceremony was attended by Major General Ali Mesfer Al-Adwani, Acting Undersecretary of the Ministry of Interior and Major General Mujbil Fahad bin Shawq, Assistant Undersecretary for the Border Security Sector, as part of a comprehensive plan to enhance maritime security through advanced technology. Brigadier General Sheikh Mubarak Ali Al-Sabah, Director General of the Coast Guard, provided a detailed briefing on the USVs' advanced operational capabilities, noting their ability to operate autonomously for several days without direct human intervention, Kuwait News Agency (KUNA) reported.

<https://www.defaiya.com/news/Security/Security/2025/07/01/kuwait-s-interior->

[minister-inaugurates-unmanned-surface-vessels-to-boost-maritime-security](#)

Kuwait's new NeedleFish naval drones mark a turning point for regional maritime security

Army Recognition, July 9, 2025

On July 3, 2025, Kuwait's New NeedleFish Naval Drones Mark a Turning Point for Regional Maritime Security, as reported by Ocean Infinity. In an unprecedented move for the Gulf region, Ocean Infinity has delivered its high-speed NeedleFish Uncrewed Surface Vessels (USVs) to the Kuwaiti Coast Guard as part of an ambitious \$213 million maritime surveillance overhaul. The launch, integrated into "Project Vigilant," reflects Kuwait's response to growing maritime security demands across its 11,000 km² of territorial waters. By combining advanced robotics, marine intelligence, and real-time data streaming, this program demonstrates how cutting-edge unmanned systems are reshaping national defence priorities in the Arabian Gulf.

<https://armyrecognition.com/news/navy-news/2025/breaking-news-kuwaits-new-needlefish-naval-drones-mark-a-turning-point-for-regional-maritime-security>

Lebanon

US envoy says satisfied with Lebanese response on disarming of Hezbollah

Laure Al Khoury

Al-monitor, July 7, 2025

US envoy Thomas Barrack was satisfied by the response of Lebanon's authorities to a

request to disarm Hezbollah, although warned Lebanon risked being left behind as change sweeps other countries in the region. Lebanese leaders who took office in the aftermath of more than a year of hostilities between Israel and Hezbollah have vowed a state monopoly on bearing arms, while demanding Israel comply with a November ceasefire. Israel has warned it will continue to strike until Hezbollah has been disarmed, while the movement's leader Naim Qassem said Sunday his group would not surrender or lay down its weapons in response to Israeli threats. "I'm unbelievably satisfied with the response," Barrack, Washington's ambassador to Turkey and special envoy to Syria, told a press conference after meeting President Joseph Aoun. "It's thoughtful, it's considered. We're creating a go-forward plan," he said. "Now what it takes is a... thrust to the details, which we're going to do. We're both committed to get to the details and get a resolution," he said, adding: "I'm very, very hopeful."

<https://www.al-monitor.com/originals/2025/07/us-envoy-says-satisfied-lebanese-response-disarming-hezbollah>

Oman

"Al Hazm" Exercise Concludes in Sultanate of Oman

Al Defaiya, July 2, 2025

Rear Admiral Abdullah Khamis Al Raisi, Chief of Staff of the Sultan's Armed Forces (SAF), along with SAF Commanders and several Senior Officers, followed up at the

Joint Command and Staff College a part of the “Al-Hazm” exercise. The exercise is being conducted by participants of the 38th course, representing various military and security services as well as several friendly nations, Oman News Agency (ONA) reported. Attendees were briefed by the College's faculty on the progress of the exercise, while the participants provided an explanation of their engagement with the exercise scenarios and the proposed solutions to the hypothetical challenges across its various stages and activities. The “Al-Hazm” exercise, held from 23 June to 2 July, forms part of the course’s general curriculum and serves as the culmination of a series of exercises undertaken by the Joint Command and Staff College students. It aims to achieve the intended training objectives while aligning with the requirements of joint military operations.

<https://www.defaiya.com/news/Regional%20News/Oman/2025/07/02/al-hazm-exercise-concludes-in-sultanate-of-oman>

Oman’s national referral centre completes IAEA audit of nuclear medicine practices

Peter Lee, Anita Brink

IAEA, July 7, 2025

The IAEA carried out a Quality Management Audit in May in Nuclear Medicine Practices at Oman’s Royal Hospital — the country’s first institution to successfully complete a comprehensive peer review of its nuclear medicine services. The findings will enable the Royal Hospital to strengthen its processes and

practices further, thereby enhancing the care that the country’s patients receive. “Regular audits and assessments, underpinned by an overall quality management system, are essential for assuring the highest standard of care, especially against the backdrop of growing patient volumes,” explained Diana Paez, Head of Nuclear Medicine and Diagnostic Imaging in the IAEA Division of Human Health. “As a globally accepted programme which nuclear medicine departments can utilise to benchmark their practices against international standards, the IAEA Quality Management Audit in Nuclear Medicine Practices (QUANUM) identifies strengths as well as areas for improvement. This, in turn, helps to promote a culture of continuous evaluation, monitoring and improvement.”

<https://www.iaea.org/newscenter/news/omans-national-referral-centre-completes-iaea-audit-of-nuclear-medicine-practices>

Saudi Arabia

Saudi Arabia activates first Thaad missile defence system

BNM Gulf bureau, July 3, 2025

Saudi Arabia has activated its inaugural Terminal High Altitude Area Defence missile battery, marking a significant enhancement to the kingdom's air protection capabilities, Saudi Press Agency reported on July 3. The showcasing of the new defence system comes weeks after the 12-day war between Iran, Israel and the US where on the final night of missile strikes by Iran hit neighbouring Qatar. The

advanced US-manufactured system can neutralise ballistic missiles both within Earth's atmosphere and in space. Officials said the deployment strengthens protection of critical infrastructure and strategic national assets. The Air Defence Forces Institute in Jeddah hosted an activation ceremony following comprehensive testing and personnel training programmes conducted within Saudi Arabia. The kingdom joins the UAE as the second Gulf state to operate Thaad technology. The Emirates acquired two batteries in 2011, achieving operational status in 2016 as the first non-US nation to deploy the system. Qatar has also secured agreements for Thaad acquisition through a \$42bn US military hardware package announced during President Donald Trump's regional visit in May.

<https://www.intellinews.com/saudi-arabia-activates-first-thaad-missile-defence-system-389287/>

Saudi Arabia could join UK-Japan-Italy stealth fighter programme

The New Arab, July 9, 2025

Saudi Arabia could play a role in the development of a cutting-edge stealth fighter, currently being designed by Japanese, British, and Italian aircraft makers, in a move that could be a massive boost for the kingdom's developing defence industry. The Global Combat Air Programme is set to design a sixth-generation aircraft that will replace the UK and Italy's Eurofighter jet and Japan's Mitsubishi combat aircraft, both of which

are becoming increasingly obsolete with the new technology entering the military field. The Japan Times reported that the three countries are considering bringing Riyadh into the initiative, but only when the project is well underway. "There is no preclusion in having Saudi Arabia join the programme, but we first have to define certain criteria and clarify all the points," a source told The Japan Times. This means addressing issues such as tech-sharing and Riyadh's involvement would need to be approved by all members of the Global Combat Air Programme.

<https://www.newarab.com/news/saudi-arabia-could-join-uk-japan-italy-stealth-fighter-programme>

Syria

Syria blames US-backed Kurds for instability after failed meeting

Khaled Yacoub Oweis

The National, July 10, 2025

The Syrian government has accused the Kurdish-led and US-backed militia of delays in implementing a March deal to integrate into the country's armed forces, warning that the inaction would undermine newly-found stability. The mostly Kurdish, secular militia, called the Syrian Democratic Forces (SDF), has emerged as the most powerful rival to Hayat Tahrir Al Sham (HTS), a splinter group from Al Qaeda led by Mr Al Shara. HTS has taken central power since the ousting of former president Bashar Al Assad in December. The accusation came after a failed meeting

on Wednesday between the two sides during a visit to Damascus by Thomas Barrack, the American envoy to Syria. Mr Barrack is a key figure in the normalisation that started in May between Washington and the post-Assad order in Syria.

<https://www.thenationalnews.com/news/mena/2025/07/10/syria-blames-us-backed-kurds-for-instability-after-failed-meeting/>

IDF strikes Syrian forces moving in on Druze city at center of deadly clashes

Times of Israel, July 15, 2025

Israel bombed Syrian government forces rolling into a Druze-majority city in southern Syria following days of ethnic fighting there, in a rare direct attack on forces loyal to the new leadership in Damascus that Jerusalem had seen as a potential ally. Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu and Defence Minister Israel Katz said in a statement that they instructed the Israel Defence Forces to bomb Syrian forces and weapons nearing Sweida “following the attack on the Druze,” a day after Israel hit a number of Syrian tanks in what it said was a warning that it would act to protect the minority group. The attacks came as Syrian forces entered the city of Sweida to subdue deadly intercommunal clashes between the local majority Druze population and Bedouin clans that have reportedly left nearly 100 dead.

<https://www.timesofisrael.com/idf-strikes-syrian-forces-moving-in-on-druze-city-to-put-down-deadly-clashes/>

Türkiye

Türkiye unveils next-gen defence projects to reshape global military paradigms

Azernews, July 3, 2025

Haluk Görgün, President of the Turkish Defense Industry, recently made a series of significant announcements regarding groundbreaking projects that are expected to generate a “surprise effect” and fundamentally alter the established military paradigms worldwide. Görgün highlighted Türkiye’s ambition to further solidify its position in the highly competitive global defence market. This will be achieved through advanced developments in unmanned combat aircraft, cutting-edge air-to-air missile technology, artificial intelligence systems, and the creation of fully integrated defence architectures. Görgün underlined that the recent decisions taken at the Defence Industry Executive Committee, chaired by President Recep Tayyip Erdoğan, signal the beginning of a transformative new era for Türkiye’s defense sector, positioning the country at the forefront of military innovation.

<https://www.azernews.az/region/244110.html>

Kaan to Steel Dome: Türkiye powers ahead in historic defence drive

Betul Usta

Daily Sabah, July 3, 2025

Türkiye's defence sector, closely watched by the world, is going through a historic transformation while simultaneously

advancing the number of key strategic projects, including the development of a fifth-generation jet and the "Steel Dome" system. Presidency of Defence Industries (SSB) head Haluk Görgün evaluated Türkiye's defence model with Sabah newspaper, responding to the questions from Ankara representative Okan Müderrisoğlu and reporter Betül Usta. He offered details on a broad range of topics, from the Steel Dome to Kaan, air and missile defense systems, to cybersecurity. "We do not imitate what is being done elsewhere in the world. We know that we must focus on original, cost-effective production based on our real needs," Görgün said. "If we had followed others and simply copied what the world is doing, Türkiye could never have achieved its current success in unmanned aerial vehicles (UAVs)," he asserted. Moreover, he said they were aware of the need to work on projects that create a "surprise effect," adding that they are doing that.

<https://www.dailysabah.com/business/defence/kaan-to-steel-dome-turkiye-powers-ahead-in-historic-defense-drive>

Turkish defence and aerospace exports surge by 25% in first half of 2025

Defence Industry Europe, July 5, 2025

In June alone, Turkish exports in this sector rose by 10.4% year-on-year, amounting to USD 623 million. Monthly figures confirm continued growth, with USD 383 million in January (up 16%), USD 434 million in February (up 44%), USD 884.2 million in March, and a record USD 539 million in

April — a 54% increase year-on-year. "The Turkish defence and aerospace sector is a key factor not only for national security but also for the development of modern technologies, industry, and the entire economy," the press release stated. This ongoing growth is seen as vital for the country's strategic and economic advancement. In 2024, 55.4% of Turkey's defence and aerospace exports were directed to Europe and NATO allies, with the United States listed among the most important clients. This highlights Turkey's integration with key Western markets despite broader geopolitical shifts.

<https://defence-industry.eu/turkish-defence-and-aerospace-exports-surge-by-25-in-first-half-of-2025/>

Turkish defense firm to upgrade unmanned aerial vehicles for maritime missions

Goksel Yildirim and Emir Yildirim

Anadolu Agency, July 11, 2025

Turkish defense technology company Neta Elektronik has developed new antenna systems to improve the performance of unmanned aerial vehicles (UAVs) and unmanned combat aerial vehicles (UCAVs) operating from naval platforms. The company's new ground data terminal and air data terminal antennae are designed to ensure uninterrupted, high-speed data transmission during critical phases such as takeoff and landing — even in challenging maritime environments. The project aims to support the growing use of UAVs launched

from ships, and addresses a key technical requirement for ensuring safe operations on short-runway vessels and aircraft carriers. Specializing in RF (radio frequency) technologies and antenna solutions, Neta Elektronik said the systems were developed this year to meet the operational needs of mobile and sea-based UAV platforms. The antennae enable secure communication between airborne and surface units and form a critical link in real-time mission control and flight safety. The antennae will be unveiled at the International Defense Industry Fair (IDEF 2025) in Istanbul.

<https://www.aa.com.tr/en/economy/turkish-defense-firm-to-upgrade-unmanned-aerial-vehicles-for-maritime-missions/3628460>

United Arab Emirates

Abdullah bin Zayed affirms UAE's support for IAEA's pivotal role during call with Grossi

United Arab Emirates Ministry of Foreign Affairs, July 1, 2025

H.H. Sheikh Abdullah bin Zayed Al Nahyan, Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of Foreign Affairs, discussed cooperation between the UAE and the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA), as well as ways to enhance it across various fields, during a phone call with IAEA Director-General Rafael Grossi. During the call, H.H. Sheikh Abdullah reiterated the UAE's support for the pivotal role played by the IAEA in fostering the

peaceful use of nuclear energy technologies to achieve sustainable development, with full adherence to international safety and non-proliferation standards. H.H. Sheikh Abdullah underscored that the UAE values its partnership with the Agency, which has played a key role in advancing its peaceful nuclear programme in line with the highest international standards for nuclear safety, security and non-proliferation.

<https://www.mofa.gov.ae/en/MediaHub/News/2025/7/1/1-7-2025-UAE-UAE#:~:text=During%20the%20call%2C%20H.H.%20Sheikh,safety%20and%20non%2Dproliferation%20standards.>

Yemen

Israel threatens Iran-style airstrikes on Yemen after Houthi missile launch

Mohammad Sio

Anadolu Agency, July 1, 2025

Israeli Defence Minister Israel Katz threatened to launch airstrikes on the Houthi group in Yemen, similar to a recent assault launched against Iran. "Yemen will be treated like Tehran. After striking the head of the snake in Tehran, we will also strike the Houthis in Yemen," Katz wrote on X. "Whoever raises a hand against Israel – that hand will be cut off," he added. The threat came shortly after the Israeli army said that its Air Force had intercepted a missile fired from Yemen.

<https://www.aa.com.tr/en/middle-east/israel-threatens-iran-style-airstrikes-on-yemen-after-houthi-missile-launch/3619167>

Strong Yemeni air defence a big shock to Israeli aggressors

Mehr News Agency, July 9, 2025

Israeli regime's warplanes were caught by surprise after they faced strong Yemen air defence in their latest aggression on the impoverished country. Recently, Yemen's Ansarullah unveiled its indigenous air defence systems during a large-scale airstrike by the occupying regime of Israel against Yemen, launching dozens of missiles towards Israeli fighter jets. This incident has left the Zionists and their military theorists facing a significant shock. The Islamic Resistance of Yemen, which leads the Sanaa government, has repeatedly declared that it will not compromise in safeguarding the rights and interests of the Palestinian people and will vigorously oppose the campaign of crimes and genocide committed by the Zionists against them. In this context, Yemenis have inflicted a considerable wave of insecurity on the Zionists through repeated missile attacks on the occupied territories of Palestine in recent days.

<https://en.mehrnews.com/news/234147/Strong-Yemeni-air-defense-a-big-shock-to-Israeli-aggressors>

NUCLEAR AND ARMS CONTROL CENTRE

Sylloge on West Asia is compiled by Ms. Bhawna

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