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Armenia

Three key documents signed between the US and Armenia following the meeting between Trump and Pashinyan in Washington - Khandanyan

Arka News Agency, August 9, 2025

A number of important and key documents were signed between the US and Armenia following the meeting between US President Donald Trump and Armenian Prime Minister Nikol Pashinyan in Washington. Sargis Khandanyan, Chairman of the Standing Committee on Foreign Relations of the National Assembly of Armenia, stated that very important documents were signed. In particular, he highlighted the signing of a key document concerning the “Crossroads of Peace” project. He stated that this document gives the Crossroads of Peace project the highest praise from the United States, adding that it is a strategic project, in response to the reaction of a number of opposition representatives that it is just a brochure that the authorities carry under their arms back and forth. "The second document concerns energy, which is enshrined in the concept of strategic partnership between the two countries. The United States will cooperate and support Armenia in the issue of energy security, in particular, importance is attached to the development of civilian nuclear energy, and the United States expresses its readiness to implement investments in this matter. In particular, in the issue of building a new nuclear power plant, the United States will provide tangible support to Armenia. In addition to nuclear energy, there is also renewable energy," he said. Khandanyan

said that the third important document that was signed between the US and Armenia concerns the development of technology and artificial intelligence.

https://arka.am/en/news/politics/three-key-documents-signed-between-the-us-and-armenia-following-the-meeting-between-trump-and-pashin/?sphrase_id=12696546

Initialed agreement on establishment of peace and inter-state relations between Armenia and Azerbaijan published

Armenpress, August 11, 2025

The Armenian Foreign Ministry has published the text of the initialed Agreement on Establishment of Peace and Inter-State Relations between the Republic of Armenia and the Republic of Azerbaijan.

<https://armenpress.am/en/article/1226978>

Armenian, Iranian officials discuss joint energy projects

Armenpress, August 15, 2025

Deputy Minister of Territorial Administration and Infrastructure of the Republic of Armenia Vardan Kostanyan met with a delegation led by Deputy Minister of Oil of the Islamic Republic of Iran Ahmad Zeraatkar, the Ministry of Territorial Administration and Infrastructure has said. Kostanyan welcomed the guests and highlighted the importance of strengthening economic ties between the two countries. He emphasized the involvement of Iranian companies in infrastructure projects implemented in Armenia. Zeraatkar expressed gratitude for the reception and noted that the close partnership between Armenia and Iran is

yielding positive results in various fields. During the meeting, the sides discussed the "Construction of the 400 kV Iran-Armenia overhead power line and corresponding substation, the "Gas for electricity" programs, plans for further cooperation, as well as other sectoral issues. The sides agreed to continue discussions.

<https://armenpress.am/en/article/1227347>

Azerbaijan

US-Azerbaijan Strategic Working Group to boost regional energy, infrastructure projects - Neil Watson

Abdul Karimkhanov

Trend News Agency, August 9, 2025

The creation of a Strategic Working Group between the United States and Azerbaijan institutionalises US-Azerbaijani engagement, facilitating continuous dialogue on security, energy, and economic diversification, British journalist and political scientist Neil Watson told Trend. He noted that the Joint Declaration signed between Azerbaijan and Armenia in Washington is a unique and historic moment of public alignment between Baku and Yerevan on the principles of peaceful coexistence and mutual recognition of sovereignty.

<https://www.trend.az/azerbaijan/business/407888.html>

Azerbaijan and Armenia undertake to resolve problematic issues bilaterally

Trend News Agency, August 11, 2025

Azerbaijan and Armenia undertake to resolve problematic issues bilaterally, said

the text of the peace agreement between Baku and Yerevan, released by the Azerbaijani MFA, Trend reports. The Parties, without prejudice to their rights and obligations under international law and treaties binding on them in their mutual relations, shall seek to resolve any dispute concerning the interpretation or application of this Agreement through direct consultations, including through the Commission provided for in Article XIII. If these consultations do not lead to a result acceptable to both Sides within six months, the Parties will resort to other means of peaceful settlement of the dispute.

<https://www.trend.az/azerbaijan/4079475.html>

Azerbaijani servicemen join military parade in Pakistan

Ministry of Defence of the Republic of Azerbaijan, August 14, 2025

On August 13, a military parade was organized for the first time in connection with Pakistan's Independence Day and Marka-e-Haq (Battle of Truth) in Islamabad. Along with the political and military leadership of Pakistan, the parade was attended by the First Deputy Minister of defence of the Republic of Azerbaijan – Chief of the General Staff of the Azerbaijan Army, Colonel General Karim Valiyev, representatives of the embassy and military attaché office of Azerbaijan in the Islamic Republic of Pakistan, as well as other official guests. Azerbaijan's presence in the parade included a parade contingent from the Azerbaijan Army, joining the ranks of

participating armed forces from various countries.

<https://mod.gov.az/en/news/azerbaijani-servicemen-join-military-parade-in-pakistan-video-55378.html>

Chief of General Staff of Azerbaijan Army visits Pakistan

Ministry of Defence of the Republic of Azerbaijan, August 14, 2025

Delegation headed by the First Deputy Minister of defence of the Republic of Azerbaijan – Chief of the General Staff of the Azerbaijan Army, Colonel General Karim Valiyev departed for Islamabad at the invitation of the Chief of the Army Staff of the Armed Forces of the Islamic Republic of Pakistan, Field Marshal Syed Asim Munir. At the welcoming ceremony, Colonel General Karim Valiyev and Field Marshal Asim Munir passed along the guard of honor in accordance with the protocol. The national anthems of both countries were performed. At the end of the ceremony, a wreath was laid in front of the monument to the Martyrs. The visit involves a broad exchange of views on the current state and progress of cooperation between the defence Ministries of Azerbaijan and Pakistan and issues of common interest. At the end of the meeting, Colonel General Karim Valiyev congratulated Field Marshal Asim Munir and the personnel of the Pakistan Army on the occasion of Pakistan's Independence Day and Marka-e-Haq (Battle of Truth) on behalf of the leadership of the Azerbaijan Ministry of defence.

<https://mod.gov.az/en/news/chief-of-general-staff-of-azerbaijan-army-visits-pakistan-55372.html>

Bahrain

Bahrain space agency joins global talks on moon exploration

News of Bahrain, August 2, 2025

The Bahrain Space Agency took part in an international meeting focused on coordinating global efforts for lunar exploration. The agency was represented by Dr. Mohammed Al Othman, Engineer Ali Al Mahmood, and Engineer Hala Ibrahim. The meeting, known as the ATLAC Lunar Consultation Group, is supervised by the United Nations Office for Outer Space Affairs (UNOOSA). It brought together experts from around the world to discuss challenges and opportunities related to moon exploration. Held in a hybrid format, the session combined in-person discussions in Vienna with virtual participation. Representatives from several member states, including Bahrain, shared insights and recommendations.

<https://www.newsofbahrain.com/bahrain/116618.html#:~:text=The%20Bahrain%20Space%20Agency%20took,Mahmood%2C%20and%20Engineer%20Hala%20Ibrahim.>

Nuclear-powered aircraft carrier arrives in Bahrain

Sandeep Singh Grewal

Gulf News Daily, August 11, 2025

One of the largest warships in the world made its port call in Bahrain, sending a clear message to adversaries that the US security commitment and its naval presence in Gulf waters are here to stay. Nuclear-powered aircraft carrier USS Nimitz

returned for a scheduled port call at the Khalifa Bin Salman Port with more than 5,000 crew members onboard and a fleet of F-18 super jets and attack helicopters.

<https://www.gdnonline.com/Details/1360420/Nuclear-powered-aircraft-carrier-arrives-in-Bahrain>

Bahrain's chief of staff tours US Navy aircraft carrier USS Nimitz

Al Defaiya, August 14, 2025

Lieutenant General Theyab bin Saqr Al Nuaimi, Chief of Staff of the Bahrain Defence Force (BDF), visited the US Navy aircraft carrier USS Nimitz. At the start of the visit, the Chief of Staff received a briefing on the carrier's functions, operations, capabilities, and assigned missions. He then toured the vessel, viewing its sections, advanced systems, and modern navigation equipment. Lieutenant General Al Nuaimi commended the high level of the US Navy, noting that cooperation between the Royal Bahrain Naval Force (RBNF) and the US Navy reflects the close and longstanding ties between Bahrain and the United States. He said such cooperation stems from the two countries' partnership across various domains, particularly in military and defence, Bahrain News Agency (BNA) reported. Earlier, His Highness General Shaikh Mohammed bin Isa Al Khalifa, Commander of the National Guard, received Lieutenant General Theyab bin Saqr Al Nuaimi, Chief of Staff of the Bahrain Defence Force (BDF). Lieutenant General Shaikh Abdulaziz bin Saud Al

Khalifa, the National Guard Staff Director, was present.

<https://www.defaiya.com/news/defence%20News/Asia/2025/08/14/bahrain-s-chief-of-staff-tours-us-navy-aircraft-carrier-uss-nimitz>

Bahrain 'using advanced security technologies in satellite projects'

Gulf News Daily, August 17, 2025

The Bahrain Space Agency (BSA) is already integrating advanced security technologies, like cybersecurity, into its satellite projects, its chief executive, Dr. Mohammed Al Aseeri has said. He cited the Al Munther satellite as an example of Bahraini innovation in this field.

<https://www.gdnonline.com/Details/1360908>

Iran

Iran eyes domestic launch for next telecoms satellite after Russian liftoff

Iran International, August 2, 2025

Iran plans to launch the second model of its Nahid-2 telecommunications satellite using the domestically developed Simorgh rocket after last week's liftoff aboard a Russian Soyuz vehicle, the head of Iran's Space Agency said. "The second Nahid-2 will be launched by the Simorgh rocket after final adjustments," Hassan Salarieh, head of the Iranian Space Agency, said. "We have the internal capacity to carry out the launch ourselves." The current version of Nahid-2 was launched into orbit last week from Russia's Vostochny Cosmodrome as part of

a multi-payload mission. Iran confirmed it was one of the satellites onboard after Russian media referred only to a “foreign customer.”

<https://www.iranintl.com/en/202508025872>

Iran says enrichment capability intact, warns US against military aggression

IRNA, August 3, 2025

In an interview with Financial Times, Araqchi said that Iran reserves the right to resume its enrichment program, adding that the when and how would depend on the conditions. He warned the US must realize technology cannot be destroyed by bombs. Only negotiations can lead to an agreement that satisfies both sides, he said. Tehran and Washington were involved in indirect nuclear negotiations mediated by Oman when Israel launched large-scale aggression against Iran on June 13. Washington also joined the Israeli war of aggression and bombed three of Iran’s main nuclear facilities on the pretext of preventing Iran from what it claimed to be developing nuclear weapons. According to Araqchi, if America’s main concern is that Iran never acquires nuclear weapons, that is achievable. He said military aggression has shown the futility of force against Iran’s nuclear program, warning that continued confrontation would not only complicate diplomacy but could eliminate the chance of returning to talks. Iran, he said, will only rejoin negotiations if convinced of Washington’s genuine intent for a win-win deal. Araqchi also criticized the European parties’ invocation of the so-called “snapback mechanism” under the 2015 Iran

nuclear deal, saying that triggering the mechanism marks the end of their role in nuclear talks.

<https://en.irna.ir/news/85903960/Iran-says-enrichment-capability-intact-warns-US-against-military>

IAEA delegation to visit Iran without inspectors, Al Mayadeen reports

Tehran Times, August 3, 2025

An International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA) delegation will arrive in Tehran next week to discuss implementing Iran’s binding parliamentary law suspending formal cooperation with the UN nuclear watchdog, Al Mayadeen reported, citing anonymous sources. In a pivotal shift, the talks will focus solely on "the political aspect" of the relationship, with inspectors explicitly excluded from the delegation—a condition mandated by Iran’s post-attack legislative framework. The visit follows Iran’s suspension of official IAEA cooperation in late June, ratified by the Guardian Council after U.S. and Israeli airstrikes hit civilian nuclear facilities at Natanz, Isfahan, and Fordow. Parliamentary Speaker Mohammad-Baqer Qalibaf declared cooperation impossible until the agency provides "concrete security guarantees" for nuclear sites and condemns the attacks—a step the IAEA has yet to take. Al Mayadeen’s sources emphasized that this marks "a new chapter in relations," defined entirely by Tehran’s terms.

<http://tehrantimes.com/news/516391/IAEA-delegation-to-visit-Iran-without-inspectors-Al-Mayadeen>

Iran demands compensation for future nuclear talks with U.S.

Iran Wire, August 4, 2025

Iran's Foreign Ministry spokesman said the country will seek compensation from the United States in any future negotiations, without providing details about potential talks. Esmail Baghaei told reporters that upcoming negotiations would be "completely different" and that Iran intends to hold America accountable for past policies. The comments come as Iran faces severe economic sanctions and growing international isolation over its nuclear program. Baghaei criticized U.S. support for Israel and said Washington "should review" international court rulings.

<https://iranwire.com/en/news/143752-iran-demands-compensation-for-future-nuclear-talks-with-us/>

Wary of Israeli military threat, Iran establishes 'National Defence Council'

The Arab Weekly, August 4, 2025

More than a month after the 12-day war with Israel, Iran's top security body decided to establish a "national defence council", reviving an institution which dates back to the Iran-Iraq war. "The Supreme National Security Council approved the establishment of the National Defence Council," state television said. The body, which will be chaired by the president and will include top military commanders among other senior officials and ministers, will be tasked with "reviewing defence strategies" and "enhancing the capabilities of Iran's armed forces", it added. Although

billed as a new institution, the Council already exists in the Islamic Republic's Constitution and was active during the early years of the Iran-Iraq war in the 1980s, Mansour Haghighatpour, a politician close to Ali Khamenei's advisor Ali Larijani, told Eghtesad News.

<https://www.thearabweekly.com/wary-israeli-military-threat-iran-establishes-national-defence-council>

Iran hangs nuclear scientist over alleged espionage for Israel's Mossad

Iran International, August 6, 2025

Iran's judiciary announced that Rouzbeh Vadi, a nuclear scientist and member of the Nuclear Science and Technology Research Institute under the Atomic Energy Organization of Iran, had been executed for allegedly spying for Israel. Vadi, who held a doctorate in reactor engineering, had co-authored a 2011 research paper with senior Iranian nuclear experts later killed during the June conflict with Israel, according to his Google Scholar profile. According to the Telegram channel of Amir Kabir University, Vadi was a doctoral graduate of the university. He co-authored a paper with Abdolhamid Minouhchehr and Ahmad Zolfaghari, two prominent nuclear specialists killed during the 12-day war. The judiciary said he was convicted of transferring classified information about one of the scientists killed in those attacks to Mossad. Its official outlet Mizan reported that Vadi "knowingly and deliberately" cooperated with Israel's intelligence service.

<https://www.iranintl.com/en/202508061542>

Iranian missiles and air defences ready for another war, Guards outlet says

Iran International, August 7, 2025

Iran's repaired air defences and stock of unused missiles mean it can fend off Israeli attack and wreak more damage in another war, a media outlet affiliated with Islamic Revolutionary Guard Corps said. "Iran's air defence was damaged early in the 12-day war, but since then Iran has rebuilt and modernized its systems. Israel now realizes that Iran's air defence in a future war would be multiple times stronger," Tasnim News wrote in an editorial. One of the most comprehensive official takes from Iran's security apparatus which was badly bludgeoned in the June conflict, the article doubled down on an official narrative that Tehran had triumphed and pledged greater future accomplishments. Another Israeli attack is highly unlikely, it added, warning that concerns in Iran of renewed hostility in Iran was unhelpful speculation.

<https://www.iranintl.com/en/202508078094>

Iran runs covert nuclear procurement network with Vienna-based front firms

Iran International, August 11, 2025

A procurement network tied to a shadowy Iranian military organization stretches into Europe using front companies to supply sensitive technology to the Islamic Republic's nuclear program, according to an Iran International investigation. The network is run on behalf of the Organization of Defensive Innovation and Research (SPND), a defence Ministry body

established in 2010 which the United States calls a successor to Iran's alleged pre-2004 nuclear weapons program. Western governments have sanctioned SPND for years, citing its role in the potential proliferation of weapons of mass destruction. The network purchases dual-use and military-grade equipment, including in the field of neutronics—a highly sensitive discipline vital to controlling chain reactions in nuclear reactors and, in a military context, producing or controlling neutrons for weapons design, a source familiar with its activities said.

<https://www.iranintl.com/en/202508065656>

Iran's defence chief in Iraq to discuss an 'important security agreement'

Associated Press, August 11, 2025

The head of Iran's top Defence body visited Iraq to discuss a security agreement between the two countries, described as important, though details remain scant. Iraq, which has managed to stay on the sidelines as military conflicts raged nearby for almost two years while balancing relations with Iran and the United States, had accused Israel of using its airspace to launch strikes on the Islamic Republic during a 12-day war in June and filed a complaint to the U.N. Security Council. Iraq's government also tried to restrain local Iran-linked armed groups from entering the fray at the time. Ali Larijani, secretary of Iran's Supreme National Security Council, said an "important security deal" with Iraq has been drafted,

ahead of his visit to the neighboring country, reported state-run IRNA news agency. Larijani did not provide any details.

<https://apnews.com/article/iran-iraq-security-deal-larijani-8b89956de9c043703a1c3253de981f86>

Iran pushes back on Zangezur corridor deal, sets talks with Armenia

Iran International, August 11, 2025

High-level consultations with Armenia over the proposed new US-controlled Zangezur corridor are underway, Iran's foreign ministry said, disputing reports the route had been leased to the United States for 99 years. The announcement follows a US-brokered peace deal between Armenia and Azerbaijan signed at the White House. The agreement grants Washington rights to develop the route—renamed the “Trump Route for International Peace and Prosperity”—linking mainland Azerbaijan to its Nakhchivan exclave through southern Armenia. Tehran has repeatedly warned against foreign control over the corridor, which bypasses both Iran and Russia.

<https://www.iranintl.com/en/202508112173>

Iran, IAEA agree to continue consultations amid Tehran's demands for new framework

Tehran Times, August 12, 2025

Deputy Foreign Minister Kazem Gharibabadi announced that Iran and the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA) have agreed to continue consultations following talks in Tehran,

marking a potential thaw in relations after cooperation was suspended in June. The breakthrough follows Tehran's call for a fundamental restructuring of its engagement with the UN nuclear watchdog, citing the IAEA's failure to fulfill its responsibilities during U.S.-Israeli attacks on civilian nuclear sites in June. IAEA Deputy Director General Massimo Aparo led the international body's delegation, and although inspections did not take place, both sides agreed to advance technical discussions. “Taking into account the discussions held during the meeting, it was decided to continue consultations,” Gharibabadi said, stressing that future cooperation will depend on meaningful IAEA reforms.

<https://www.tehrantimes.com/news/516752/Iran-IAEA-agree-to-continue-consultations-amid-Tehran-s-demands>

Iran nuclear dispute entirely based on fabricated Israeli data, official says

Iran International, August 12, 2025

The head of Iran's Atomic Energy Organization has criticized Israeli claims about Tehran's nuclear activities, saying the program is peaceful and the allegations are based on a distorted and inaccurate dossier. “A fabricated and fake dossier created by Israel fuels accusations and pretexts — nothing but an attempt to stop our peaceful nuclear program,” Mohammad Eslami said. Eslami also included the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA) in his criticism, saying the agency must condemn the killing of individuals involved in Iran's nuclear program in Israeli attacks, Revolutionary

Guards-affiliated Tasnim News reported. "The assassination of Iran's nuclear scientists, who had no military affiliations, is among their crimes, and such actions by the regime must be strongly condemned by the IAEA," Eslami said.

<https://www.iranintl.com/en/202508125925>

Egypt is not mediating talks between Iran and IAEA, sources tell Tehran Times

Tehran Times, August 13, 2025

Reports suggesting Egypt is brokering talks between Iran and the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA), which are currently negotiating a new cooperation framework, are false, sources with knowledge of the talks told the Tehran Times. Iran has always been in direct contact with the UN nuclear watchdog and does not need a third party to facilitate that communication, sources said. Iran's Foreign Ministry Spokesperson Esmaeil Baghaei previously dismissed such reports, saying during a press conference that there is no need for mediation between Tehran and the IAEA. He made the remarks as a deputy of the agency was in Iran, holding discussions with Iranian officials.

<https://www.tehrantimes.com/news/516762/Egypt-is-not-mediating-talks-between-Iran-and-IAEA-sources-tell>

Iran's foreign minister says US sanctions 'may be as lethal as war'

Iran International, August 13, 2025

Iran's foreign minister accused the United States and its allies of imposing sanctions that cause mass casualties, citing a study he

said showed they may be as deadly as armed conflict. "Western regimes have long claimed that sanctions are a bloodless alternative to war," Abbas Araghchi wrote on social media platform X. "Reality check: New study by The Lancet says unilateral sanctions, particularly by the US, may be as lethal as war. 500+k lives claimed annually since 1970s, mostly children and the elderly." Araghchi called for international recognition of sanctions as crimes against humanity and urged targeted countries to unite against them. "It is high time for inhumane sanctions imposed by the US and its accomplices to be recognized as crimes against humanity," he said. "Targeted nations should coordinate efforts to forge unified and collective response." The remarks come as Iran faces the potential reimposition of United Nations sanctions under the "snapback" mechanism of the 2015 nuclear deal, with European powers warning of action if Tehran does not return to talks by the end of August.

<https://www.iranintl.com/en/202508139480>

Britain, France and Germany threaten to reimpose sanctions on Iran as nuclear program deadline nears

Associated Press, August 14, 2025

The top diplomats of Britain, France, and Germany threatened to reimpose sanctions on Iran as an end-of-the-month deadline nears for the country to resume negotiations with the West over its nuclear program and cooperation with the United Nations nuclear watchdog. The three countries, known as the E3, wrote in a letter to the United Nations that they were willing to trigger a process known as the "snapback"

mechanism, which allows one of the Western parties to reimpose U.N. sanctions, if Tehran doesn't comply with its requirements. French Foreign Minister Jean-Noël Barrot posted the letter to X. He co-signed it along with top diplomats from Germany and the United Kingdom. "E3 have always committed to use all diplomatic tools at our disposal to ensure Iran does not develop a nuclear weapon," the letter said. "We have made clear that if Iran is not willing to reach a diplomatic solution before the end of August 2025, or does not seize the opportunity of an extension, E3 are prepared to trigger the snapback mechanism." The Iranian government didn't immediately respond to the development, but parliament member Manouchehr Mottaki — who was Iran's top diplomat for five years in the 2000s — warned of a swift reaction to any move to trigger the snapback mechanism.

<https://apnews.com/article/iran-france-germany-uk-iaea-nuclear-weapons-dd9c8dbc65b13e1d85ff66fd157fee3e>

Iran, China, Russia hold nuclear talks

Mehr News Agency, August 15, 2025

Representatives from Tehran, Moscow, and Beijing held a meeting to discuss Iran's nuclear file. Russian Permanent Representative to Vienna-based International Organizations, Mikhail Ulyanov, announced that the Iranian, Chinese, and Russian teams, led by permanent representatives in Vienna, held yet another traditional meeting to compare notes and coordinate their positions and actions on the Iranian nuclear dossier. He

added that this coordination proved to be very helpful.

<https://en.mehrnews.com/news/235404/Iran-China-Russia-hold-nuclear-talks>

Russia in talks with Iran on small nuclear plants

Mehr News Agency, August 15, 2025

Russia is in talks with Iran regarding the construction of small modular nuclear power plants (NPPs) on Iranian territory, aiming to finalize agreements in the future, Rosatom CEO Alexey Likhachev said. "Such negotiations are underway. I hope that sooner or later such agreements will be concluded," the chief executive said, TASS reports. Russia has always been an active participant in the process of resolving the Iranian nuclear issue, he stressed, adding that as the Joint Comprehensive Plan of Action was formed and launched, Moscow played a key role in providing technical and diplomatic support to Tehran.

<https://en.mehrnews.com/news/235415/Russia-in-talks-with-Iran-on-small-nuclear-plants>

Iraq

Security officials brief anti-terror panel over PKK disarmament

Hurriyet Daily News, August 8, 2025

Senior security officials from the Turkish government have briefed the members of an anti-terror commission at the parliament over the latest developments regarding the disarmament and dissolution of PKK. The National Solidarity, Brotherhood and Democracy Commission held its second

meeting on August 8 under the leadership of parliament Speaker Numan Kurtulmuş and with the participation of the lawmakers from the political parties. Defence Minister Yaşar Güler, Interior Minister Ali Yerlikaya and National Intelligence Organization (MİT) chief İbrahim Kalın attended the meeting upon the invitation of the commission for briefing the lawmakers about PKK's ongoing disarmament process.

<https://www.hurriyetdailynews.com/security-officials-brief-anti-terror-panel-over-pkk-disarmament-212325>

Iraq, Iran sign border security agreement

Amr Salem

Iraqi News, August 12, 2025

Iraq and Iran signed a new security agreement aiming to strengthen cooperation across the borders between the two countries. The agreement was signed during the official visit of the Secretary of the Supreme National Security Council of Iran, Ali Larijani, to Baghdad, which sought to deepen bilateral security cooperation amid escalating regional instability. The Iraqi Prime Minister, Mohammed Shia al-Sudani, later met with Larijani and attended a ceremony held to sign the agreement, which officials say aims to improve border security operations. Al-Sudani highlighted Iraq's commitment to strengthening ties with Iran, underscoring mutually beneficial partnerships in different fields and reaffirming Baghdad's opposition to what it described as Israeli aggression against Iran,

according to a statement released by the Prime Minister's Office (PMO).

<https://www.iraqinews.com/iraq/iraq-iran-sign-border-security-agreement/>

Israel

Israel's Dror-1 satellite reaches orbit 36,000 km. above Earth, begins mission

Jerusalem Post, August 1, 2025

Israel's Dror-1 communications satellite has successfully entered its orbit some 36,000 km. above the Earth and has begun its operational mission, Israel Aerospace Industries (IAI) confirmed. Upon entering its orbit, the satellite sent images to the IAI engineering team showing its several systems and tools being deployed. These included two solar panels and four communication antennas, as well as its main engine. The telemetry received from the satellite marks "another major milestone in Israel's journey to space independence," IAI CEO Boaz Levy was quoted by Israeli media as saying, adding that the images indicated the satellite's "full functionality and successful entry into orbit."

<https://www.jpost.com/defence-and-tech/article-863895>

David's Sling air and missile Defence system successfully completes advanced upgrade tests

Israel Ministry of Defence, August 4, 2025

Amid the ongoing Swords of Iron war and following Operation Rising Lion, the Israeli Missile Defence Organization (IMDO) within the Directorate of Defence Research

& Development (DDR&D) in the Israel Ministry of Defence (IMOD), in cooperation with the U.S. Missile Defence Agency (MDA) and Rafael Advanced Systems as the prime contractor, has successfully completed a planned series of developmental flight tests of the David's Sling Weapon System as part of its operational learning process. The David's Sling system successfully performed a series of live-fire tests, with scenarios simulating future threats, enhancing the system's capabilities and significantly improving its ability to face the IDF's various combat arenas. The successful tests represent another significant breakthrough in upgrading the system, which has already demonstrated high operational capabilities during the Swords of Iron War and Operation Rising Lion, with successful operational interceptions that saved lives and prevented substantial damage.

<https://www.gov.il/en/pages/david-s-sling-air-and-missile-defence-system-successfully-completes-advanced-upgrade-tests-4-aug-2025>

Israel to launch NIS 40 million to launch lab for homegrown space tech, research advancement

Jerusalem Post, August 4, 2025

Israel is launching an initiative to set up a national R&D laboratory to kick-start spacebound technology development, the Israel Space Agency and Innovation Authority announced. The lab, backed by a NIS 40 million funding initiative, will help the full range of Israel's space sector, from established firms to start-ups still getting

their feet off the ground. The program will further provide eligible firms with benefits starting from around 35% off of market launch costs. The overall goal of the program is to help boost Israel's role in the global space sector, giving firms in the Jewish state a more competitive edge. The lab is expected to launch at least 15 dedicated Israeli payloads into orbit.

<https://www.jpost.com/defense-and-tech/article-863196>

Israel completes live-fire tests of David's Sling weapon system

Airforce Technology, August 5, 2025

The Israeli Missile Defence Organization (IMDO), in collaboration with the US Missile Defence Agency (MDA) and Rafael Advanced Defence Systems, has concluded a series of live-fire trials involving the David's Sling weapon system. The planned series of developmental flight tests challenged the David's Sling system with evolving threat scenarios, leading to further enhancements in its capabilities. These tests are part of the system's ongoing "operational learning process".

<https://www.airforce-technology.com/news/israel-david-sling-weapon-system/?cf-view>

IDF intercepts missile from Yemen, 68th launched by Houthis since March

The Times of Israel, August 5, 2025

The Iran-backed Houthis in Yemen fired a ballistic missile at Israel early on August 5th, causing sirens to sound in central Israel

and in Jerusalem-area towns. The Israel Defense Forces said the missile was successfully intercepted by air defenses. There were no reports of impacts or injuries. The Houthis, in a statement, claimed to have targeted Ben Gurion Airport. Since March 18, when the IDF resumed its offensive against Hamas in the Gaza Strip following the collapse of a ceasefire there, the Houthis in Yemen have launched 68 ballistic missiles and at least 18 drones at Israel. Several of the missiles have fallen short. This attack was the first such incident since the Houthis attempted a drone attack on Israel.

<https://www.timesofisrael.com/idf-intercepts-missile-from-yemen-68th-launched-by-houthis-since-march/>

Israeli robotic Defence firm sees 'big change' in unmanned combat

Seth J. Frantzman

Breaking Defence, August 6, 2025

In a war everything changes, said Yossi Wolf, the CEO of Roboteam defence. "You see it in Ukraine and the Israel defence Forces," he added. Speaking to Breaking Defence, Wolf was talking specifically of the explosion in use of unmanned systems, including ground robotics, which he said have been "very operational in the Gaza war." He said that prior to the conflict that began on October 7 with the Hamas attack on Israel, robots were a relatively niche solution, and a more legally restricted one. In September 2023, just prior to the war, the Israel Defence Forces received a new Spark UAV which was deemed a "gateway" to

fifth-generation drones. During the war the Israel Air Force also established a new drone squadron. Israel also rolled out unmanned M113s and also unmanned D-9 bulldozers. Wolf notes that the IDF began equipping small drones with grenades, an effort he credits to the IDF's Yiftah unit, which specializes in developing new combat solutions.

<https://breakingdefence.com/2025/08/israeli-robotic-defence-firm-sees-big-change-in-unmanned-combat/>

Preparing 'all theaters of war': Surprise IDF exercise tests readiness for large-scale attacks

The Jerusalem Post, August 10, 2025

A surprise exercise titled "Dawn," meant to test the readiness of the IDF general headquarters and main command centers, began on August 10th, the military announced. Under the direction of Chief of Staff Lt.-Gen. Eyal Zamir, the drill is meant to test the heat-of-the-moment readiness and abilities of the IDF to deal with large-scale attacks. As part of the exercise, surprise scenarios and multi-scene events will be practiced in all possible "theaters of war," the military explained.

<https://www.jpost.com/israel-news/article-863746>

Israel signs \$260 million deal with Elbit Systems for locally produced advanced aerial munitions

Defence Industry Europe, August 11, 2025

Israel's Ministry of Defence has signed contracts worth about \$260 million (NIS

900 million) with Elbit Systems for locally produced aerial munitions for the Israel Defence Forces. The weapons will be manufactured at Elbit's facilities in Israel, which employ thousands of workers and have been operating at surge capacity since the start of the Swords of Iron War. "We continue supporting the Israel Ministry of Defence with advanced solutions that enhance the operational readiness of the Israel Defence Forces," Elbit Systems President and CEO Bezhalet (Butzi) Machlis said.

<https://defence-industry.eu/israel-signs-260-million-deal-with-elbit-systems-for-locally-produced-advanced-aerial-munitions/>

South Sudan denies reports of Gaza resettlement talks with Israel

i24News, August 14, 2025

South Sudan's government formally denied claims that it is engaged in discussions with Israel to resettle Palestinians from Gaza on its territory, calling the reports "baseless" and "untrue." The statement, issued by the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and International Cooperation, stressed that the allegations "do not reflect the official position or policy" of the country. They urged media outlets to "verify their information through official channels before publication" in order to avoid spreading unfounded rumors. The denial comes after several international news agencies, including the Associated Press, reported that Israel has been in contact with certain African states notably South Sudan, to explore options for temporarily or

permanently relocating Palestinians from Gaza.

<https://www.i24news.tv/en/news/israel/diplomacy-defence/artc-south-sudan-denies-reports-of-gaza-resettlement-talks-with-israel>

IAF's most advanced transport helicopter enters production, Lockheed-Martin announces

The Jerusalem Post, August 14, 2025

Sikorsky has begun final assembly of the first CH-53K King Stallion heavy-lift helicopter for the IAF, the Lockheed Martin subsidiary announced. The cockpit and cabin sections of the helicopter were recently joined at the company's facility in Connecticut. The aircraft is the first of 12 ordered by the Defense Ministry in a \$2 billion deal signed in 2023. Delivery of the first two helicopters is scheduled for 2028. The CH-53K, which will be known in Israel as the Pere, is intended to replace the aging CH-53D Yas'ur fleet. It offers significantly enhanced performance, including the ability to carry three times the payload, higher cruising speeds, increased combat survivability, and reduced maintenance demands.

<https://www.jpost.com/defense-and-tech/article-864248>

Mossad Chief Barnea meets Qatari PM in Doha, confirms partial hostage deal is 'off the table'

The Jerusalem Post, August 14, 2025

Mossad chief David Barnea traveled to Doha, Qatar, to meet with Qatari Prime

Minister Mohammed bin Abdulrahman Al Thani for matters "not regarding negotiations for a hostage deal," a senior security source stated. "The head of the Mossad even made it clear in the meeting that a partial deal had been dropped," the source said. This comes after Hamas gave a green light to the possibility of resuming negotiations.

<https://www.jpost.com/israel-news/defense-news/article-864224>

Israel boosting air defences in preparation for possible Iran war - Walla

Iran International, August 15, 2025

Israeli defence forces are accelerating plans to strengthen the country's advanced defence capabilities in anticipation of a new wave of missile attacks from Iran or its Yemeni proxy forces, Walla News reported. Director General of the defence Ministry, Major General Amir Baram, has ordered the expedited development and production of air defence systems, including the Arrow 3, Arrow 4, Iron Dome, David's Sling, and a ground-based laser system, according to the report. The directive also covers additional ground-based laser systems, various radar systems, and other classified technologies. Each of these defence systems covers different capabilities. The Iron Dome is a short-range system that intercepts rockets and artillery shells with a range of 4-70 km (2-43 miles). It uses radar to detect and track threats, and its interceptors destroy them mid-air. Arrow 3 and Arrow 4 are long-range ballistic missile defence systems. Arrow 2

intercepts missiles in the upper atmosphere, while Arrow 3 targets them in space, making it effective against threats such as Iran's ballistic missiles. David's Sling is a medium-range defence, intercepts tactical ballistic missiles, cruise missiles, and drones (40-300 km, 24-186 miles range)

<https://www.iranintl.com/en/202508153417>

Jordan

Jordanian students win 2 bronze medals at Int'l Nuclear Science Olympiad

Jordan News Agency, August 11, 2025

A team of Jordanian students won two bronze medals at the 2025 International Nuclear Science Olympiad, recently held in Malaysia with the participation of top students and researchers worldwide. The team excelled in nuclear physics, energy, and peaceful applications of nuclear technology, showcasing the advanced scientific level of Jordanian students and their ability to compete internationally in nuclear sciences, the Jordan Atomic Energy Commission (JAEC) said. The achievement followed more than eight months of specialized training provided by the JAEC, including lectures on nuclear physics, peaceful nuclear energy applications, hands-on practice at JAEC facilities and laboratories, and visits to research centers in the field. Students also trained on radiation measurement devices and learned about the latest global techniques and practices.

https://www.petra.gov.jo/Include/InnerPage.jsp?ID=74417&lang=en&name=en_news

Jordan's King meets Syrian FM, US envoy over Syria developments

Arab News, August 12, 2025

King Abdullah II of Jordan met separately with Syrian Foreign Minister Asaad Al-Shaibani and US Ambassador to Turkiye and Special Envoy for Syria Thomas Barrack to discuss the latest developments in Syria, the Jordan News Agency reported. Both meetings, which were also attended by Crown Prince Hussein bin Abdullah II, focused on supporting Syria's security, stability, sovereignty and territorial integrity. King Abdullah highlighted the importance of US support for Syria's reconstruction in a way that protects the rights of all Syrians, and said Jordan was ready to share its expertise to strengthen Syrian institutions.

<https://www.arabnews.com/node/2611623/middle-east>

Jordan, UAE military chiefs discuss boosting defence cooperation

Al Defaiya, August 14, 2025

Chairman of the Jordanian Joint Chiefs of Staff, Major General Yousef Ahmed Al-Huneiti, met with UAE Joint Operations Commander Major General Awad Saeed Al-Ahbabi to discuss expanding military cooperation and joint efforts in regional security. The talks, held at the General Command of the Jordan Armed Forces - Arab Army, covered ways to deepen coordination, share expertise, and strengthen readiness across multiple defence fields. Al-Huneiti noted the two armies' continued collaboration in delivering humanitarian and relief aid to

Gaza through joint airdrop operations. Praising the close military ties as a reflection of the leaderships' shared vision, Al-Huneiti said the partnership boosts integration and preparedness to face common challenges. Al-Ahbabi lauded the Jordanian Armed Forces' role in safeguarding regional stability and stressed the importance of building on the strategic partnership between the two militaries. The meeting was attended by senior Jordanian officers, the Acting UAE Ambassador, and the UAE Military Attaché in Amman, Petra news agency reported.

<https://www.defaiya.com/news/defence%20News/Asia/2025/08/14/jordan-uae-military-chiefs-discuss-boosting-defence-cooperation>

Jordan, Syria discuss improving, starting up activities at joint zone, border crossing

Jordan News Agency, August 15, 2025

Yarub Qudah, Minister of Industry, Trade, and Supply, discussed with Qutaiba Badawi, Chairperson of the Syrian General Authority for Land and Sea Ports, a number of topics intended to advance economic ties and fortify the partnership between Amman and Damascus. During his visit to the Syrian Nassib border crossing, which is next to the Jordanian Jaber crossing, Qudah emphasized Jordan's commitment to expediting work and finalizing transactions at the Jaber-Nassib border crossing, in coordination and follow-up with our Syrian partners, according to a ministry statement. This will help to improve trade and transportation, make it easier for people to move around, and keep an eye on and

swiftly address any issues that may come up. The two sides examined the facilities and operational processes for the movement of trucks and passengers during a field visit of the crossing facilities. They also discussed the measures put in place to speed up trade between the two friendly nations. The two parties reaffirmed their willingness to take the required steps to improve respond to the growing amount of trade and land transportation between the two nations, as well as to handle any issues or challenges that may come up at the border crossing.

https://petra.gov.jo/Include/InnerPage.jsp?ID=74607&lang=en&name=en_news

Kuwait

Kuwait amends weapons law, bans knives, air guns in public spaces

Khatim Al Amir

Gulf News, August 4, 2025

In a sweeping update to its decades-old weapons legislation, Kuwait has enacted a new law extending restrictions beyond firearms to include knives and air-powered guns, Al Seyassah Arabic daily reported. The move comes as authorities report a surge in violent incidents involving such weapons and seek to close what they describe as dangerous legal loopholes. The changes, enacted under Decree Law No. 90 of 2025, mark the first major revision of the country's 1991 firearms law. For the first time, so-called sharp -edged weapons, including knives, machetes, and blunt objects — and high-calibre air guns will be

subject to licencing, usage restrictions, and criminal penalties.

<https://gulfnews.com/world/gulf/kuwait/kuwait-amends-weapons-law-bans-knives-air-guns-in-public-spaces-1.500222098>

Kuwait to launch youth academy for AI, Space, Cybersecurity

Al Defaiya, August 3, 2025

Kuwait is set to launch a national youth academy focused on training young Kuwaitis in Artificial Intelligence (IA), space sciences, robotics, and cybersecurity, the Public Authority for Youth announced, Kuwait News Agency (KUNA) reported. The initiative follows a new memorandum of understanding between the Authority and the Kuwait Space Company to establish the academy, which will serve as a hub for empowering youth with cutting-edge skills. “The Authority places young people at the forefront of its priorities, as they are the future of Kuwait,” said Acting Director Nasser Al-Sheikh during a press briefing following the signing. He emphasized that the new academy will help develop and support youth capabilities through “innovative projects that reinforce their role in building the nation and developing society.”

<https://www.defaiya.com/news/Regional%20News/Kuwait/2025/08/03/kuwait-to-launch-youth-academy-for-ai-space-cybersecurity>

Kuwait signs contracts for \$3.27 billion power plant project

Al Arabiya, August 10, 2025

The Kuwait Authority for Partnership Projects (KAPP) signed contracts with Saudi's ACWA Power and the Gulf Investment Corporation for phases two and three of the Al-Zour North power plant. The value of the phases of the power plant project exceeds 1 billion Kuwaiti dinars (\$3.27 billion), the Kuwaiti authority's director general told Reuters. He said the investors, not the government, will bear the cost. The signing ceremony sets in motion one of the biggest electricity projects in the Gulf country as it seeks to address severe electricity shortages. Once completed, the Al-Zour North project will produce 2.7 gigawatts (GW) of power and 120 million gallons of water daily using combined-cycle technology, with construction set to take three years.

<https://english.alarabiya.net/business/energy/2025/08/10/kuwait-signs-alzour-north-power-plant-contracts>

Kuwait Coast Guard Chief, US CENTCOM Commander discuss joint security cooperation

Al Defaiya, August 12, 2025

The Director General of the Kuwait Coast Guard at the Ministry of Interior, Brigadier General Sheikh Mubarak Ali Al-Sabah, discussed with the Commander of the US Central Command (CENTCOM)

Commander, Admiral Brad Cooper, ways to enhance joint security cooperation. A statement by the Ministry of Interior of Kuwait said this came following Sheikh Mubarak Al-Sabah's visit to the US Central Command headquarters as part of his official visit to the United States, Kuwait News Agency (KUNA) reported. The statement added that Sheikh Mubarak conveyed the congratulations of Acting Prime Minister Sheikh Fahad Yusuf Al-Sabah to Admiral Cooper on his assumption of his new position as Commander of US Central Command, wishing him success in his duties. The statement also noted that the meeting delved into aspects of existing cooperation between the State of Kuwait and the United States at the security level, and ways to develop it to enhance the efficiency of joint work and maintain security and stability in the region.

<https://www.defaiya.com/news/Security/Security/2025/08/12/kuwait-coast-guard-chief-us-centcom-commander-discuss-joint-security-cooperation>

Lebanon

Lebanon cabinet meeting again on Hezbollah disarmament

Arab News, August 7, 2025

Lebanon's cabinet is set to meet again to discuss the thorny task of disarming Hezbollah, a day after the Iran-backed group rejected the government's decision to take away its weapons. With Washington pressing Lebanon to take action on the matter, US envoy Tom Barrack has made

several visits to Beirut in recent weeks, presenting officials with a proposal that includes a timetable for Hezbollah's disarmament. Amid the US pressure and fears Israel could expand its strikes in Lebanon, Prime Minister Nawaf Salam said that the government had tasked the army with developing a plan to restrict weapons to government forces by the end of 2025.

<https://www.arabnews.com/node/2610997/middle-east>

Oman

Oman's satellite launch pledge secures orbital slot

Jomar Mendoza, August 4, 2025

The Sultanate of Oman has successfully retained regulatory control over a prime geostationary orbital slot at 73.5° East after committing to launch a temporary satellite by December 2025, and to sign a contract for a Ka-band high-throughput satellite (HTS) before the end of this year. The full satellite, expected to deliver advanced broadband capacity, is targeted for launch in 2028. The decision by the International Telecommunication Union (ITU) to grant Oman this extension represents a major step forward for the Sultanate of Oman, which has faced multiple delays in executing its national satellite communications programme. The orbital slot is considered highly strategic, offering coverage across large parts of the Middle East, South Asia, and Central Asia—regions with growing demand for satellite-based broadband, broadcasting, and data services.

<https://www.zawya.com/en/economy/gcc/oman-secures-orbital-slot-with-satellite-launch-pledge-a430528g>

Oman, Saudi Arabia discuss cooperation in civil defence

Al Defaiya, August 7, 2025

An Omani delegation from the Civil Defence and Ambulance Authority visited the Directorate General of Civil Defence in the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia, with the aim of discussing cooperation in the field of civil defence between the Sultanate of Oman and the Kingdom. The delegation was headed Major General Sulaiman Ali Al Hussein, Chairman of the Civil Defence and Ambulance Authority. The visit was part of steps to enhance bilateral relations between the two countries, in addition to exchanging expertise and reviewing other matters of common interest in the field of civil defence. The delegation was received by Major General Dr. Hamoud Suleiman Al-Faraj, Director General of Civil Defence in the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia, and other officials, Oman News Agency (ONA) reported. The visit included a field tour of the Saudi Civil Defence Institute. During the visit, the Omani delegation was briefed about specialized training programmes for different levels offered to civil defence personnel. The members of the delegation took note of the techniques and equipment used at the institute and the systems applied in the field of risk prevention and response to emergencies.

<https://www.defaiya.com/news/Regional%20News/Oman/2025/08/07/oman-saudi-arabia-discuss-cooperation-in-civil-defence>

Saudi Arabia

First satellite data platform launched to advance Kingdom's space economy

Arab News, August 5, 2025

Neo Space Group, a space and satellite communications company under the Public Investment Fund, has launched Saudi Arabia's first dedicated Earth observation marketplace, advancing the Kingdom's space economy. Operated by UP42, a subsidiary of Neo Space Group, the Earth Observation platform was launched to meet the growing demand for high-resolution satellite imagery and space analytics across key sectors. It supports the Kingdom's economic transformation under Vision 2030 by integrating Earth Observation data into sectors such as environment, infrastructure, energy, real estate, mining, logistics, agriculture, and urban planning.

<https://www.arabnews.com/node/2610741/saudi-arabia>

Saudi Arabia wins bronze at International Nuclear Science Olympiad

Asharq Al-Awsat, August 6, 2025

Saudi Arabia's national team secured the bronze medal in its second participation at the International Nuclear Science Olympiad (INSO2025), held in the Malaysian capital Kuala Lumpur from July 30 to August 6. The competition brought together 56 students from 14 countries. Azzam Al-Omari from Jeddah's education department clinched the bronze medal, bringing Saudi Arabia's total in the

competition to five international awards: one silver and four bronze.

https://english.aawsat.com/varieties/5172331-saudi-arabia-wins-bronze-int%E2%80%99l-nuclear-science-olympiad-2025%C2%A0?_wrapper_format=html&page=1

Syria

Syria attain Bronze Medal in the International Nuclear Science Olympiad

Syria Arab News Agency, August 5, 2025

Syria attained the Bronze Medal in the International Nuclear Science Olympiad (INSO) held in Malaysia with support from the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA). The event took place between July 30 and August 6. The Excellence and Creativity Authority said in a statement, a copy which was received by SANA, that student Muqdad Hassan Asfour from Homs, who is a student at the National Center for the Distinguished. The Syrian team who participated in the Olympiad included in addition to Asfour, Malak Abdullah Nashed, and Tamer Abdul Manan Bahlaq, high school students at the National Center for the Distinguished.

<https://sana.sy/en/?p=367502>

Turkey to provide Syria with weapon systems, equipment under new accord

The Jerusalem Post, August 14, 2025

Turkey will provide weapons systems and logistical tools to Syria under a military cooperation accord, a Turkish defence Ministry source said, adding that Ankara

would also train the Syrian army in using such equipment if needed. Turkey, a NATO member, has been one of Syria's main foreign allies since the ousting of president Bashar al-Assad last year. It has vowed to help train and restructure Syria's armed forces, rebuild the country and its state institutions, and support efforts to protect Syrian territorial integrity. In a first step towards a comprehensive military cooperation accord that they have been negotiating for months, Turkey and Syria inked a memorandum of understanding after extensive meetings between their foreign and defence ministers, and intelligence chiefs.

<https://www.jpost.com/middle-east/article-864220>

Turkey

Turkish defence giant Aselsan reports strong performance in H1

Daily Sabah, August 6, 2025

Turkish defence major Aselsan reported its financial results for the first half of this year, highlighting a positive trend in its growth strategy, as revenues jumped by over 11% compared to the same period last year and backlog orders reached a value of \$16 billion. The company, in a report shared on the Public Disclosure Platform (KAP), said that it signed direct and indirect export contracts worth \$1.3 billion in the first six months of the year, continuing its export-oriented growth strategy with "determination." During the first six months of 2025, revenue rose to TL 53.7 billion (\$1.32 billion), up 11.3% year-over-year, "driven by ongoing deliveries in areas

such as air defence, electro-optics, radar, avionics, electronic warfare, security and weapon systems."

<https://www.dailysabah.com/business/defence/turkish-defence-giant-aselsan-reports-strong-performance-in-h1>

Turkish drone giant Baykar picks Samsun for first Anatolian factory

Daily Sabah, August 8, 2025

Baykar, maker of Türkiye's globally renowned drones, will set up its first Anatolian production hub in the Black Sea province of Samsun, the company announced. "This new investment will bring high-tech manufacturing capabilities and high-quality jobs to Samsun. The Black Sea region will become an important center for the defence and aerospace industry," Baykar said in a statement on the social media platform X. The company is known for its Bayraktar TB2 tactical unmanned combat aerial vehicles, which gained global prominence after being used by Ukraine's military against Russian forces as well as in campaigns in Azerbaijan and North Africa.

<https://www.dailysabah.com/business/defence/turkish-drone-giant-baykar-picks-samsun-for-first-anatolian-factory>

Türkiye's Roketsan completes homegrown launch system's firing test aboard multirole frigate TCG Istanbul

Firdevs Bulut Kartal and Emir Yildirim

Anadolu Ajansi, August 15, 2025

Turkish defence firm Roketsan's indigenous vertical launch system "Midlas"

successfully completed its firing test, launching a Hisar-D RF missile aboard the TCG Istanbul multirole frigate, said the secretary of Turkish defence Industries (SSB). Haluk Gorgun said on the Turkish social media platform Next Sosyal that the test marked a success story in the Turkish defence industry. "This test once again demonstrated the reliability of our systems and our determination to improve step by step," he said. "The synergy of all teams working shoulder to shoulder, from Aselsan to Havelsan, and from STM to Roketsan, enhances the Turkish Navy's strength and grants our country strategic capabilities." The missile was launched off the coast of the northern province of Sinop on the Black Sea coast. The firing was followed by target detection using the Cenk 400-N 4-D search radar and the Akrep 300-N fire control radar. The Hisar-D fire control system used the Agras RF seeker head to carry out the mid-course and terminal phase guidance processes. Homegrown systems worked in perfect harmony and tandem to guide the missile during firing, detection, and tracking of the target at sea.

<https://www.aa.com.tr/en/Turkiye/Turkiye-s-roketsan-completes-homegrown-launch-system-s-firing-test-aboard-multirole-frigate-tcg-istanbul/3660719>

Turkiye poised to become global supply chain hub with Zangezur corridor opening

Emirhan Yılmaz, Emir Yildirim,
Anadolu Ajansi, August 15, 2025

Turkiye could emerge as a key hub in global supply chains with the opening of

the Zangezur transport corridor, a route set to connect western Azerbaijan with the Nakhchivan Autonomous Republic through Armenia. Azerbaijani President Ilham Aliyev and Armenian Prime Minister Nikol Pashinyan signed a joint declaration at the White House last week, after talks hosted by US President Donald Trump. Trump said the two countries had agreed to a deal that could last up to 99 years, covering the development of the corridor and ensuring Armenia's national sovereignty while granting Azerbaijan full access to Nakhchivan. Analysts say the project will offer Türkiye fresh opportunities to integrate energy, transportation, and digital infrastructure. Railway lines, pipelines, and fiber optic networks along the route could bolster Türkiye's role as a regional energy and communications hub while cutting costs. Bilgehan Engin, president of the Turkish Forwarding and Logistics Association (UTIKAD), called the corridor a strategic step in reshaping regional trade and geopolitical balances. "The Zangezur corridor has a chance to turn Türkiye into a logistics bridge between the east and the west," he told Anadolu, noting that the route begins in China and extends to Azerbaijan, Georgia, and Türkiye via the Caspian Sea before continuing to Europe.

<https://www.aa.com.tr/en/Turkiye/Turkiye-poised-to-become-global-supply-chain-hub-with-zangezur-corridor-opening/3660784>

Turkish defence industry leads Turkiye's next-gen robotics

Aliyah Aziz

AnewZ, August 15, 2025

From factories to battery plants, Turkiye's robotics surge is boosting output, quality, and global recognition. Turkiye's defence sector said it's driving a nationwide shift to next-generation industrial robots, which are now widely used in the automotive, aviation, shipbuilding, rail, and heavy machinery industries. Intecro Robotics chair Ali Şen said "there's hardly any industry left without robot technology," noting global defence and aerospace trends have made fully automated, high-speed production standard. Since 2013, Intecro has installed robotic lines for MKE, Roketsan, TAI, and ASELSAN, producing penetrating bombs, infantry rifles, and electro-optical systems. Key technologies include digital twins, virtual models of products and processes, and sensor fusion for real-time quality control. New welding robots utilise adaptive intelligence to detect defects in high-strength armor steels before assembly. Beyond defence, Intecro supplies production lines for EV battery maker Siro (serving Turkiye's Togg), Renault, Tofaş, and rail firms like TURASAŞ. Heavy industry clients include Isuzu, MAN, Otokar, Bozankaya, and Hyundai Rotem. The latest intelligence programme enables self-programming robots that learn and optimise tasks, attracting strong domestic and international interest.

<https://anewz.tv/region/middle-east/12039/Turkiye-robotics-defence-industry/news>

United Arab Emirates (UAE)

UAE launches space mission, satellite engineering training programme

ARN News Centre, August 7, 2025

The UAE's National Space Academy has launched a programme to train the next generation of Emiratis through hands-on space mission systems experience, as the country aims to accelerate the development of its space capabilities. The Space Mission and Satellite Engineering Programme (SMSE), in partnership with EDGE, looks to train satellite engineers, system architects, and mission leaders through hands-on space mission systems training. The programme equips Emirati professionals, researchers, and graduates with specialised expertise in satellite mission design, space systems engineering, and mission operations, positioning them to support and accelerate the development of the UAE's space capabilities. The ten-week programme, taking place from September 16 to November 20 at the UAE Space Agency's headquarters in Abu Dhabi, combines in-person technical training with online modules led by a "distinguished" roster of local and international industry experts.

<https://www.arnnewscentre.ae/en/news/uae/uae-launches-space-mission-satellite-engineering-training-programme/>

UAE Defence Ministry official visits South Korea, aims to enhance mutual expertise

ARN News Centre, August 8, 2025

The UAE Undersecretary of the Ministry of Defence, Lieutenant General Ibrahim

Nasser Al Alawi, met with the South Korean Minister of defence, Ahn Joo Bak, as the two countries look to enhance defence cooperation. On the sidelines of the meeting, Lieutenant General Al Alawi visited Sacheon Air Base, where he toured the prototype of the KF-21 aircraft. He also participated in a joint flight alongside Lieutenant General Lee Young Soo, Chief of Staff of the Korean Air Force, aboard an FA-50 fighter jet, as part of a demonstration of the national capabilities of locally manufactured Korean aircraft. This official participation by the Undersecretary of the Ministry of Defence is part of a visit by a high-level Emirati delegation to the Republic of Korea. The visit includes several meetings and events aimed at enhancing defence cooperation and exchanging expertise in areas of mutual interest.

<https://www.arnnewscentre.ae/en/news/uae/uae-defence-ministry-official-visits-south-korea/>

UAE welcomes announcement of peace agreement between Azerbaijan and Armenia

United Arab Emirates Ministry of Foreign Affairs, August 9, 2025

The United Arab Emirates has welcomed the announcement of the historic peace agreement between the Republic of Azerbaijan and the Republic of Armenia, commending this step as a significant diplomatic milestone representing the success of dialogue and reinforcing the

principles of good neighborliness and peaceful coexistence. His Excellency Ahmed Al Sayegh, Minister of State, praised the wisdom of His Excellency Ilham Aliyev, President of the Republic of Azerbaijan, and His Excellency Nikol Pashinyan, Prime Minister of the Republic of Armenia, and their aspirations to achieve peace. His Excellency considers the agreement a reflection of the strong determination and unwavering commitment of both parties to peaceful solutions and dialogue, underscoring the importance of collective action in addressing regional issues and resolving disputes through diplomatic means. H.E. Al Sayegh commended the unwavering endeavors of U.S. President Donald Trump in facilitating this positive and constructive achievement. His Excellency reiterated the UAE's commitment to strengthening bridges of partnership and dialogue, and its support for any efforts that contribute to enhancing security and peace in the Caucasus region. H.E. Al Sayegh underscored the UAE's deep-rooted relations with the Republic of Armenia and the Republic of Azerbaijan, emphasizing the UAE's belief in the importance of initiating a new period of constructive cooperation between the two nations to achieve growth and prosperity for both peoples, and to advance development in the region.

<https://www.mofa.gov.ae/MediaHub/News/2025/8/9/9-8-2025-uae-uae>

Yemen

Masam Project eliminates 1,140 explosive devices across Yemen

Arab News, August 10, 2025

Saudi Arabia's Project for Landmine Clearance, known as Masam and launched by the nation's aid agency KSrelief, eliminated 1,140 explosive devices this month across Yemen. Engineers cleared 1,090 items of unexploded ordnance, 49 anti-tank mines, and one anti-personnel mine, the Saudi Press Agency reported. The Masam Project has now cleared 509,612 explosive devices from the conflict-ravaged nation since its inception in July 2018. The mines were scattered randomly across Yemeni territory, creating a significant threat to innocent civilians, it said in a statement. Project Masam provides training and equipment for local demining engineers. Teams are tasked with clearing villages, roads and schools to facilitate the safe movement of civilians and the delivery of humanitarian aid. The project's demining efforts have significantly reduced casualties and allowed displaced individuals and farmers to return to their land and resume cultivation. The work has earned widespread praise from the UN and international organizations.

<https://www.arabnews.com/node/2611385/saudi-arabia>

Houthi drones target Israel amid Gaza tensions, attack fails

Arab News, August 13, 2025

The Iran-backed Houthis in Yemen claimed responsibility for launching six drones

toward Israel, targeting Haifa, the Negev Desert, Eilat, and Beersheba. The Israeli military said at least one drone was intercepted off the coast of Eilat, while the others likely fell short. No damage or casualties were reported. Though the attack failed, it highlights the Houthis' continued efforts to project force beyond Yemen amid regional tensions linked to the Gaza conflict.

<https://www.arabnews.com/node/2611683/middle-east>

Israel says it intercepted missile launched from Yemen

Betul Yilmaz

Anadolu Ajansi, August 14, 2025

Israel claimed that it intercepted a missile launched from Yemen. A military statement said that the missile was intercepted by air defence systems without the activation of air-raid sirens. For its part, the Yemeni Houthi group said that it targeted Israel's Ben Gurion Airport near Tel Aviv with a hypersonic ballistic missile, causing the halt of the air traffic at the airport. The Houthis have intensified missile and drone strikes on Israel since Israeli forces resumed attacks on the Gaza Strip in March after two months of a shaky ceasefire. Since November 2023, the group has targeted commercial shipping in the Red Sea, the Gulf of Aden, and the Arabian Sea in support of Palestinians in Gaza, where more than 61,700 victims have been killed in an Israeli genocide.

<https://www.aa.com.tr/en/middle-east/israel-says-it-intercepted-missile-launched-from-yemen/3659040>

NUCLEAR AND ARMS CONTROL CENTRE

Sylloge on West Asia is compiled by Ms. Aayushi Sharma

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