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**FOCUS, NUCLEAR, MISSILES & OTHER
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मनोहर पर्रिकर रक्षा अध्ययन एवं विश्लेषण संस्थान

Armenia

Armenia, United States conclude "Eagle Partner 2025" joint exercise

Armenpress, August 20, 2025

On August 20, the closing ceremony of the Armenia-U.S. joint exercise "EAGLE PARTNER 2025", held in Armenia as part of the preparations for participation in international peacekeeping missions, took place, the Armenian Defence Ministry has said in a statement. During the ceremony, the leadership of the exercise expressed gratitude to the personnel for their effective cooperation, the successful implementation of the joint training activities, and the exchange of experience.

<https://armenpress.am/en/article/1227692>

Armenia-founded 'Space' startup DeepSat secures US Air Force contract

ARKA Telecom, August 26, 2025

DeepSat, a startup founded in Armenia and based in Los Angeles (USA) that specializes in creating systems for operational Earth observation from orbit, has been chosen to take part in the Direct to Phase II program under the Small Business Innovation Research (SBIR) Initiative (AFWERX) contract from the US Air Force Research Laboratory (AFRL). "This opportunity enables DeepSat to swiftly develop and prototype its dual-use satellite constellation for ongoing, operational monitoring to fill national security and environmental voids, especially in the maritime sector of the Indo-Pacific region and beyond," the company stated in a press release. The Direct to Phase II contract skips the conventional Phase I stage, showcasing DeepSat's advanced level of

technological readiness, operational capability, and critical mission potential. "AFRL's choice of DeepSat highlights the increasing need for tactical Earth reconnaissance that is adaptable and scalable. We are thrilled to play a role in addressing one of the most urgent global security issues," remarked DeepSat CEO Nerses Ohanian.

<https://arkatelecom.am/en/news/telecom/armenian-founded-space-startup-deepsat-secures-us-air-force-contract/>

Memorandums of Understanding signed between the Republic of Armenia and the United States

The Prime Minister of the Republic of Armenia, August 29, 2025

The three memorandums of understanding signed on August 8 between the Republic of Armenia and the United States of America have been published. Memorandum of Understanding between the Government of the United States of America and the Government of the Republic of Armenia regarding the Crossroads of Peace Capacity Building Partnership. Memorandum of Understanding between the Government of the United States of America and the Government of the Republic of Armenia regarding an AI and Semiconductor Innovation Partnership. Memorandum of Understanding between the Government of the United States of America and the Government of the Republic of Armenia regarding an Energy Security Partnership.

<https://www.primeminister.am/en/press-release/item/2025/08/29/Nikol-Pashinyan-memorandum-08-08-2025/>

Maria Zakharova: West attempting to discredit Russia-Armenia cooperation in nuclear sphere

News.am, August 29, 2025

We see the interest of the Armenian side in continuing bilateral effective cooperation in the field of peaceful atomic energy. Maria Zakharova, Director of the Information and Press Department of the Russian Ministry of Foreign Affairs (MFA), stated this during a press briefing. “Our nuclear scientists have exchanged experience on a regular basis ever since the installation of the nuclear power plant [(NPP)] in Armenia. Currently, Rosatom [State Atomic Energy Corporation of Russia] is working with Armenian specialists to extend its operating life until 2026. New generation issues are also being discussed, we understand that partners want to approach this issue thoroughly, to assess all possible options,” added Zakharova. “The Rosatom leadership is in regular contact with the Armenian government. Russia is ready for different scenarios, and we have the whole range—from modular reactors to a new large modern plant. Russia, unlike, for example, what is advertised in the United States, relies on tried and tested developments,” Zakharova noted.

<https://news.am/eng/news/901639.html>

Concerns about Metsamor NPP safety unfounded, says Zakharova

Armenpress, August 29, 2025

The official representative of the Russian Foreign Ministry Maria Zakharova stated that media concerns regarding the safety of Armenia's Metsamor Nuclear Power Plant

“do not correspond to reality.” Speaking at the weekly briefing on August 29, Zakharova stressed that the plant was built specifically for Armenia, taking into account the republic's seismological and climatic features. She noted that the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA) has repeatedly confirmed its safety. Zakharova underlined that Russian nuclear experts have been cooperating with Armenian counterparts since the plant's installation. At present, Rosatom, Russia's State Atomic Energy Corporation, is working with Armenian specialists to extend the plant's operation until 2026. Discussions on future projects, including the possibility of new-generation facilities, are also underway.

<https://armenpress.am/en/article/1228405>

Pashinyan, Xi Jinping announce Armenia-China Strategic Partnership

Armenpress, August 31, 2025

Armenian Prime Minister Nikol Pashinyan met with Chinese President Xi Jinping in Tianjin, China. The President of the People's Republic of China welcomed the visit of the Armenian Prime Minister and his participation in the SCO+ format meeting of the SCO Summit, the Prime Minister's Office said in a press release. Xi Jinping valued the centuries-old friendly relations between the two countries and added that bilateral cooperation is experiencing steady development. He stressed that the PRC unconditionally supports the political independence, sovereignty and territorial integrity of the Republic of Armenia. The President of the People's Republic of China stressed that

China supports the Armenian Government's "Crossroads of Peace" project and the unblocking of regional communication routes. Xi Jinping welcomed the peace process between Armenia and Azerbaijan. Touching upon the prospects for the development of bilateral relations, he highlighted the activities of the Intergovernmental Commission for Economic Cooperation with Armenia, emphasizing that it must fully reveal the potential of bilateral economic cooperation and take consistent steps to realize it.

<https://armenpress.am/en/article/1228476>

Establishment of diplomatic relations between Armenia and Pakistan

Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Republic of Armenia, August 31, 2025

On August 31, Minister of Foreign Affairs of the Republic of Armenia Ararat Mirzoyan and Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of Foreign Affairs of the Islamic Republic of Pakistan Mohammad Ishaq Dar signed a Joint Communiqué on the Establishment of Diplomatic relations between Armenia and Pakistan. The signing ceremony took place in Tianjin, China on the sidelines of the CSO summit. By signing of the Communiqué, Armenia and Pakistan establish diplomatic relations. The two Governments are desirous to enhance friendly relations in accordance with the UN Charter, including the principles of mutual respect for sovereignty and territorial integrity, non-aggression, non-interference in each other's internal affairs, equality, mutual benefit and

peaceful co-existence. The Governments of Armenia and Pakistan have agreed to exchange Representatives and to provide each other all the necessary assistance for the performance of diplomatic relations on reciprocal basis in accordance with the Vienna Convention on Diplomatic Relations of 1961 and international customary practices.

https://www.mfa.am/en/press-releases/2025/08/31/Armenia_Pakistan_Dip_Rels/13416

Azerbaijan

Baku hosts a meeting with NATO delegation

Ministry of Defence of the Republic of Azerbaijan, August 21, 2025

In accordance with the Individual Partnership Cooperation Program between Azerbaijan and NATO approved for 2025, an expert meeting with the participation of representatives of the Ministry of Defence and NATO took place in one of the military units of the Land Forces. At the meeting, various briefings were presented by representatives of the Ministry of Defence and foreign specialists and questions of mutual interest were answered. The parties also analyzed the current state of Azerbaijan's relations with NATO, established within the Operational Capabilities Concept (OCC) program, and had a broad exchange of views on perspective issues.

<https://mod.gov.az/en/news/baku-hosts-a-meeting-with-nato-delegation-55415.html>

Italian RAI TV Channel highlights Azerbaijan's achievements in space and innovation ecosystem

AZERTAC, August 23, 2025

The Italian RAI TV channel has broadcast a report highlighting Azerbaijan's achievements in the space and innovation ecosystem. Barbara Carfagna, RAI's correspondent, who travelled to Azerbaijan, described the country as a technologically advancing one. She noted that Azerbaijan, which is rich in natural resources, has established its independent digital future and technological sovereignty. She also emphasized that Azerbaijan plays an important role in the development of the space industry, adding that the satellites it has launched into orbit for various purposes have contributed to ensuring the country's information security and, at the same time, it has eliminated its dependence on foreign partners in the field of telecommunications. Barbara Carfagna further noted that Azerbaijan has its own orbital position in space and has acquired unique space resources. The report also includes interviews with Sameddin Asadov, Deputy Minister of Digital Development and Transport of Azerbaijan; Dunay Badirkhanov, Acting Chairman of the Board of Azercosmos; Rashad Khaligov, Deputy Chairman of the Agency for Innovation and Digital Development; and Yevgeniya Bikmurzina, Head of the Agency's Innovation Ecosystem Department.

<https://azertag.az/en/xeber/italian-rai-tv-channel-highlights-azerbaijan-039s-achievements-in-space-and-innovation-ecosystem-3712303>

Russian missile strike damages Azerbaijani Embassy in Kyiv, again

Nate Ostiller

OC Media, August 29, 2025

The Azerbaijani Embassy in Kyiv has been damaged during a massive Russian drone and missile attack on the Ukrainian capital. The incident was at least the third time that the embassy has been damaged by Russian attacks on the city. A missile exploded near the building early on 28th August — reportedly at a distance of within 100 meters — shattering windows and creating cracks in the roof of the consular section, Foreign Ministry spokesperson Aykhan Hajizada told the Azerbaijani pro-government media outlet *APA*. Hajizada added that no staff members were injured and that the 'embassy continues its operations.' The massive Russian strike on the city killed at least 23 people, including four children, and caused widespread damage to civilian infrastructure, including the offices of the Ukrainian *RFE/RL* branch, the headquarters of the prominent Ukrainian media outlet *Ukrainska Pravda*, a building belonging to a Turkish company (rumoured to be a factory of the Turkish arms manufacturer Bayraktar), a British Council building, and the main offices of the EU delegation to Ukraine.

<https://oc-media.org/russian-missile-strike-damages-azerbaijani-embassy-in-kyiv-again/>

Azerbaijan Defence Minister attends graduation ceremonies of Turkish military academies

Ministry of Defence of the Republic of Azerbaijan, August 30, 2025

On August 30, the Minister of Defence of the Republic of Azerbaijan, Colonel General Zakir Hasanov left for a working visit to fraternal Türkiye at the invitation of the Minister of National Defence of the Republic of Türkiye, Mr. Yaşar Güler. Within the visit, the Minister of Defence attended the graduation ceremonies of the Military Academy, Naval Academy and Air Force Academy of the National Defence University of the Republic of Türkiye. The President of the Republic of Türkiye Mr. Recep Tayyip Erdoğan delivered a speech at the ceremonies and congratulated the graduates. The diplomas were presented to the Azerbaijani graduates who successfully completed their studies at the higher military academies by the Minister of Defence of the Republic of Azerbaijan. In the end, graduates solemnly passed in front of the grandstand under the accompaniment of a military march.

<https://mod.gov.az/en/news/azerbaijan-defence-minister-attends-graduation-ceremonies-of-turkish-military-academies-55455.html>

Bahrain

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>

BSA participates in space sustainability panel discussion

Bahrain News Agency, August 25, 2025

Dr. Mohammed Ibrahim Al Aseeri, CEO of the Bahrain Space Agency (BSA), participated in an open panel discussion on the overview effect, the change in perspective experienced by astronauts when seeing Earth from space. The session featured astronaut Eiman Jahangir and international experts in space philosophy and explored how the human perspective of Earth from space shapes future approaches to space sustainability and supports efforts to ensure a safe environment on Earth. Dr. Al Aseeri noted that the dialogue, organised in collaboration with the Frank White Institute and the Space Debris Foundation, addressed three key themes. The first centred on existential transformation, considering how viewing Earth from space reshapes human awareness of global responsibility, beyond political boundaries, and highlights the fragility of the ecosystem. The second focused on space sustainability, stressing the need to shift from a "space colonisation" mindset to one of "responsible stewardship", particularly as the number of satellites is expected to exceed 60,000 by 2030. The third theme highlighted the unity of human destiny and the close interconnection between

humanity and Earth in the face of global challenges.

<https://www.bna.bh/en/news?cms=q8FmFJgiscL2fwIzON1%2BDjFCUoz9JJPI9bd4Hxa9LYg%3D>

560 participants join Bahrain's largest cybersecurity drill yet

Ashen Taraka

News of Bahrain, August 26, 2025

Under the generous patronage of His Highness Shaikh Nasser bin Hamad Al Khalifa, Advisor for National Security, Commander of the Royal Guard, and Secretary-General of the Supreme Defence Council, Bahrain launched the National Cyber Exercise Cyber Shield 2025, focusing on "Supply Chain Attacks." The exercise, which runs from 26 to 31 August 2025, brings together a wide range of government agencies, vital sectors, and private entities. It aims to strengthen national cybersecurity capabilities, enhance readiness, and improve coordination among stakeholders in addressing cyber threats. Organized by the National Cyber Security Center (NCSC), the exercise simulates a realistic advanced cyberattack scenario. It measures the preparedness and response of participating organizations, evaluates coordination between them, and strengthens technical and defensive procedures. His Highness Shaikh Salman bin Mohammed Al Khalifa, CEO of the NCSC, emphasized that the exercise is a cornerstone in supporting Bahrain's cybersecurity framework. "It helps develop specialized

national capabilities, raises cybersecurity awareness across government and vital sectors, and underscores the importance of adopting global best practices in digital protection and cyber crisis management," he said.

<https://www.newsofbahrain.com/bahrain/117843.html>

Egypt, UAE, and Bahrain sign \$220 million solar energy project with China

Ilknur Seydamirova

AnewZ, August 28, 2025

Egypt, the United Arab Emirates (UAE), and Bahrain have signed an agreement with China to jointly develop a \$220 million solar energy project. According to a written statement from the Egyptian Cabinet, Prime Minister Mostafa Madbouly attended the signing ceremony in El-Alamein, northern Egypt, for the project titled 'Atom Solar Egypt.' The project will be implemented on a 200,000-square-metre site in the Suhna Industrial Zone, part of the Suez Canal Economic Zone along the Red Sea coast. Construction and testing are expected to be completed within three years. Once operational, the facility will produce 2 gigawatts of solar panels and a 1-gigawatt energy storage system. The project is expected to create 841 direct jobs. Chinese company JA Solar will collaborate on the project with Egypt's AHG, UAE's Global South Utilities, and Bahrain's Infinity Capital.

<https://anewz.tv/green/green-news/12459/egypt-uae-and-bahrain-sign-220-million-energy-project/news>

Iran

Tehran confirms 2025 launch of Zafar and Paya satellites aboard Russian Soyuz

Tehran Times, August 18, 2025

Hassan Salarieh, head of the Iranian Space Agency, said that the satellites—designed to provide color and black-and-white imaging services—were originally set for launch in 2024, but the schedule was pushed back after the foreign launcher was not ready. He noted that the final launch date will depend on the provider's timetable, as other international payloads are set to be deployed on the same mission. Salarieh confirmed that Iran is also keeping the option of a domestic launch under review, depending on technical assessments and the final timeline announced by the launch provider. On infrastructure, Salarieh reported that the first phase of the Chabahar Space Center is nearing completion. The facility, designed for solid-fuel launch vehicles, includes administrative offices, telemetry and command centers, hangars, a launch pad, and supporting infrastructure such as power and roads. Construction began in 2023 and is expected to finish in 2025, with the base scheduled to become operational the same year. "The timing of the first test launch depends on the readiness of both the launch vehicle and the satellite," he said. "Once all necessary tests are completed, the exact date will be announced." He added that groundbreaking for the second phase of the project—dedicated to medium-class liquid-fuel launch vehicles—will take place this

year. Salarieh also said that another Nahid-2, a communications satellite, is slated for launch this year using Iran's domestically developed Simorgh rocket.

<https://www.tehrantimes.com/news/516937/Tehran-confirms-2025-launch-of-Zafar-and-Paya-satellites-aboard>

Iran to Launch First 'Martyr Soleimani' Satellites by March

Tasnim News Agency, August 19, 2025

Iran's Space Agency announced plans to carry out the first test launches of satellites from the "Martyr Soleimani" narrowband constellation before the end of the year, marking the initial step in a 20-satellite project scheduled to be completed by 2026. Hassan Salarieh, head of the Iranian Space Agency, said the Martyr Soleimani project is the country's first narrowband satellite constellation, designed to expand Internet of Things (IoT) services using fully indigenous expertise. He explained that nearly 20 satellites will be built and deployed in orbits with different inclinations to provide narrowband communications across the nation. "The design phase of the constellation began in the second half of 2023, and most of the subsystems are now under construction," Salarieh said, adding that the project is being carried out by a consortium of private and state entities. According to him, trial launches of prototype satellites are set for this year to carry out initial testing. The main batch of satellites will be developed in 2025, with full-scale launches expected to begin in late 2025 and continue into 2026. Salarieh noted that delays are possible due

to the technical challenges of space projects, which he described as “natural in this industry.” Still, he emphasized that overall progress is satisfactory and that Iran’s first domestically developed satellite constellation will soon be in orbit, laying the groundwork for the country’s broader telecommunications network.

<https://www.tasnimnews.com/en/news/2025/08/19/3379288/iran-to-launch-first-martyr-soleimani-satellites-by-march>

Iran to employ new missiles in response to any new attack

Mehr News Agency, August 20, 2025

Iran’s defence minister has announced that the country now possesses advanced missiles with greater capabilities than previous generations, warning that they will be deployed if Israel undertakes any new aggression. According to Mehr News Agency, a group of foreign military attachés residing in Tehran met with Brigadier General Aziz Nasirzadeh, Minister of Defence and Armed Forces Logistics, on the occasion of “August 22 – National Defence Industry Day.” In this meeting, Brigadier General Nasirzadeh commemorated the memory of the martyrs of the 12-day Israeli imposed war on Iran, especially commanders, scientists, women, men, and children, and said, that August 22, in the official calendar of the Islamic Republic of Iran, has been designated as National Defence Industry Day; an indigenous industry that today, relying on self-sufficiency, perseverance, and Islamic-Iranian teachings, and under the wise guidance of the Leader of the Islamic

Revolution, has become one of the main pillars of national security and power.

<https://en.mehrnews.com/news/235583/Iran-s-response-to-possible-new-aggression-to-be-more-painful>

Iran to launch missile drill as Araghchi signals conditional IAEA cooperation

Rosaleen Carroll

Al-Monitor, August 20, 2025

Iran is set to conduct a missile drill on 21st August, 2025 as Iranian Foreign Minister Abbas Araghchi warns that the reimposition of UN sanctions on Iran would mean the end of European involvement in nuclear negotiations. Abbas Hassani, the spokesperson for Iran’s naval forces, said the operational phase of the Sustainable Power 1404 missile exercise will run for two days in the northern Indian Ocean and the Sea of Oman, according to Iranian state news agency IRNA. The drill will include surface and subsurface units, flight units, shore-to-sea and sea-based missile sites as well as electronic warfare forces. According to Hassani, Iran will test a wide range of precision cruise missiles with short, medium and long ranges, attacking and destroying floating targets. Hassani framed the exercise as part of Iran’s broader strategy of deterrence, citing military readiness, boosting morale and demonstrating Iran’s domestic defence expertise. Separately, speaking to reporters in Tehran, Iranian Defence Minister Aziz Nasirzadeh said that Iran has “much stronger” missile capabilities than have yet been used. He added, “The missiles used in the 12-day war were manufactured by the

Ministry of Defence a few years ago,” saying that today, Iran possesses missiles “that have much better capabilities.”

<https://www.al-monitor.com/originals/2025/08/iran-launch-missile-drill-araghchi-signals-conditional-iaea-cooperation>

Iran stages missile drills, warns of stronger response in any new war with Israel

Iran International, August 21, 2025

Iran’s navy test-fired a range of cruise missiles during large-scale drills, striking surface targets in the Gulf of Oman and northern Indian Ocean, state media reported. The exercises, dubbed Sustainable Power 1404, featured the simultaneous use of Nasir, Qadir, and Ghader anti-ship cruise missiles launched from coastal batteries and warships, including the Genaveh missile boat and the Sabalan destroyer. “These missiles, with different ranges, successfully hit their designated targets at sea,” the semi-official Tasnim news agency said. Officials described the systems as radar-evading, high-precision, and designed to counter both naval and coastal targets. The drills took place around a month after the Iran-Russia drill under the name Casarex 2025, which took place in Iran’s northern waters - the Caspian Sea. Marking National Defence Industry Day, Iran’s Defence Ministry said the country had advanced “from the peak of dependence on foreigners to the heights of self-sufficiency and power” in the missile, weapons, and space sectors.

<https://www.iranintl.com/en/202508216002>

Iranian Russian foreign ministers hold phone conversation on JCPOA

Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Islamic Republic of Iran, August 22, 2025

The Foreign Minister of the Islamic Republic of Iran, Seyed Abbas Araghchi, and his Russian counterpart, Sergey Lavrov, held a phone conversation to exchange views on developments related to Iran’s nuclear issue. They particularly discussed the moves by three European countries ahead of the legal expiration of UN Security Council Resolution 2231, as well as Iran’s cooperation with the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA). During the conversation, they emphasized that the three European countries have committed a serious violation of Resolution 2231 due to their failure to fulfill their commitments under the Joint Comprehensive Plan of Action (JCPOA) and their alignment with the US in attacking Iran’s peaceful nuclear facilities. “Therefore, they lack the legal and moral authority to invoke the JCPOA dispute resolution mechanism with the aim of reinstating previously annulled UN Security Council resolutions,” they stressed. The Iranian and Russian foreign ministers assessed the path forward for nuclear negotiations and underlined the importance of ending Resolution 2231 on schedule. Iran’s foreign minister outlined the country’s principled stance regarding the European trio’s proposal to extend Resolution 2231, stating that in Iran’s view, any decision on its extension lies with the UN Security Council and its members. Both sides emphasized the need to continue engagement and consultations at various

levels to better advance their shared positions.

<https://en.mfa.gov.ir/portal/newsview/773747>

Iran, EU3 to hold nuclear talks in Switzerland

Tasnim News Agency, August 25, 2025

A new round of nuclear negotiations between Iran and the European troika will be held in Geneva on August 26, a source said. The informed source told Tasnim that the upcoming round of talks between Iran and the UK, France and Germany will focus on nuclear issues and the removal of anti-Iran sanctions. The Iranian delegation will be headed by Deputy Foreign Minister Majid Takht Ravanchi. Iranian Foreign Minister Abbas Araqchi spoke by phone with his counterparts from the UK, France, Germany, and the EU's High Representative for Foreign Affairs and Security Policy. He warned the European parties that any attempt to trigger the so-called snapback mechanism under the 2015 nuclear deal would be legally baseless, morally unjustified, and carry serious consequences. Araqchi further cautioned that the three European states lack the authority to invoke the mechanism. Addressing European suggestions to extend UN Security Council Resolution 2231 to allow more time for diplomacy, he stressed that such a decision falls solely under the jurisdiction of the Security Council. While reaffirming Iran's principled stance, he said Tehran would not involve itself in that process. For their part, the EU3 and the EU foreign policy chief reiterated their

commitment to pursuing a diplomatic solution.

<https://www.tasnimnews.com/en/news/2025/08/25/3384106/iran-eu3-to-hold-nuclear-talks-in-switzerland>

IAEA chief says inspectors back in Iran as E3 weighs reimposing sanctions

Rosaleen Carroll

Al-Monitor, August 26, 2025

On August 26, the head of the UN's nuclear watchdog said that some nuclear inspectors previously expelled from Iran had returned to the country following talks between Iran and European signatories to the 2015 nuclear deal. Rafael Grossi, head of the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA), told Fox News that a team of inspectors had returned to Iran — the first such confirmation since the country expelled inspectors in July after its parliament passed a law halting cooperation with the oversight body. "We are holding discussions with [Iranian officials]. Now, the first group of IAEA inspectors has returned to Iran, and we are preparing to resume [inspections]," Grossi said. Grossi's remarks seemed to confirm a report by Amwaj media, which stated that inspectors are back in the country but added that the inspectors are still awaiting approval from Iran's Supreme National Security Council (SNSC) to resume their activities. It is unclear how many inspectors departed or have returned.

<https://www.al-monitor.com/originals/2025/08/iaea-chief-says-inspectors-back-iran-e3-weighs-reimposing-sanctions>

Iran dismisses Trump's baseless nuclear allegations

Tasnim News Agency, August 26, 2025

Iran's Foreign Ministry spokesman rebuked US President Donald Trump for repeating discredited claims about Tehran's nuclear program, stressing that Washington's own intelligence community has confirmed that Iran is not pursuing nuclear weapons. Esmail Baqaei, in a post on his X account, rejected Trump's latest remarks, which relied on an outdated interview with a former Iranian lawmaker to allege that Iran has sought a nuclear weapon. "When, in his persistent effort to justify America's unlawful attack on Iran's peaceful nuclear facilities, the President of the United States of America, Donald John Trump, chooses to ignore the March 2025 testimony of his own DNI before Congress—affirming that 'THE IC CONTINUES TO ASSESS THAT IRAN IS NOT BUILDING A NUCLEAR WEAPON'—and instead leans on the personal analysis of an Iranian citizen from 2022, he exposes the political, not factual, nature of his claims," the spokesperson said. Iran has consistently rejected Western allegations of pursuing nukes, pointing out that such claims have been used as a pretext for sanctions, sabotage, and unlawful military attacks on its nuclear facilities.

<https://www.tasnimnews.com/en/news/2025/08/26/3385045/iran-dismisses-trump-s-baseless-nuclear-allegations>

Iran says sanctions move by Europe would halt UN nuclear inspector access

Iran International, August 27, 2025

Iran's deputy foreign minister warned that if three European countries move to trigger

international sanctions at the United Nations, progress toward resuming the work of nuclear inspectors would be thwarted. Kazem Gharibabadi added that France, Germany and the United Kingdom are not authorized to invoke provisions of the Joint Comprehensive Plan of Action (JCPOA), a 2015 nuclear deal, since they are no longer active participants in the agreement. "If the snapback mechanism is activated, the current path with the IAEA will be affected and halted," Gharibabadi told official Iranian media. Iran said this week that inspectors from the International Atomic Energy Agency had re-entered the country after being barred amid a 12-day war with Israel in June. No agreement has yet been reached on the resumption of their work, however.

<https://www.iranintl.com/en/202508277031>

President Pezeshkian praises Iranian Foreign Ministry's efforts in nuclear negotiations

Government of the Islamic Republic of Iran, August 27, 2025

Iranian President Masoud Pezeshkian has appreciated efforts by the country's Foreign Ministry in ongoing talks with the European troika. During 20th August's cabinet session, Foreign Minister Seyed Abbas Araghchi presented a detailed report on the negotiations. Then Pezeshkian hailed the ministry's commitment and follow-up. The cabinet meeting also included reports from the defence minister on measures taken during and after the recent 12-day Israeli war on Iran, as well as a presentation on public satisfaction surveys by the president's executive deputy.

<https://irangov.ir/detail/468119>

IAEA Inspectors in Iran to oversee Bushehr Nuclear Plant refueling: FM

Tasnim News Agency, August 27, 2025

Iranian Foreign Minister Abbas Araqchi reassured the MPs that the return of IAEA inspectors to Iran is solely to oversee the scheduled refueling of the Bushehr nuclear power plant, stressing that cooperation with the UN nuclear agency will fully comply with Iranian law. In comments after a meeting with the members of the Iranian Parliament's National Security and Foreign Policy Commission, Araqchi explained that, according to a law passed by the legislature, all requests for cooperation with the IAEA must first be submitted to the Supreme National Security Council for approval. "Thus, in accordance with the law, all interactions with the agency (IAEA) are carried out within a framework that safeguards the interests of the Iranian nation," he said. Regarding the Bushehr nuclear reactor, Araqchi confirmed that decisions have been made to allow the replacement of nuclear fuel under the supervision of the IAEA inspectors, and any cooperation will strictly follow the legal framework set by the Parliament. Reacting to comments by a lawmaker about the finalization of a cooperation agreement with the IAEA concerning a new modality, Araqchi said, "No text has been formally approved yet. Some viewpoints have been exchanged between the two sides, and the IAEA has submitted its opinions in writing multiple times. It is natural in any negotiation that the parties exchange views until a final conclusion is reached." Araqchi also pointed to the main topics discussed

with the parliamentary commission, including the Armenia-Azerbaijan corridor, nuclear negotiations with the European parties, discussions with the IAEA, and issues related to the snapback mechanism and its extension.

<https://www.tasnimnews.com/en/news/2025/08/27/3386225/iaea-inspectors-in-iran-to-oversee-bushehr-nuclear-plant-refueling-fm>

Iran-Russia alliance rattled as official accuses Moscow of aiding Israel

Maryam Sinaiee

Iran International, August 27, 2025

Allegations by an Iranian official suggesting Russian complicity with Israel in attacks on Iran have sparked debate over the value of Iran's long-touted strategic partnership with Russia. Mohammad Sadr, a member of Iran's Expediency Council appointed by Supreme Leader Ali Khamenei, suggested that Russia may have provided Israel with Iranian air-defence intelligence from prior conflicts, including a limited Israeli strike in November 2024. According to Sadr, this could have enabled Israel to precisely target Iranian defence sites during a 12-day war in June. He was speaking in an interview published by online outlet Seenergy — a lesser-known podcast channel dedicated to foreign policy and energy issues. "I'm telling you, analytically, that the Russians had given the specifications to Israel," Sadr said, but suggesting he was also in possession of information on the matter.

<https://www.iranintl.com/en/202508270225>

Iran urges E3, UNSC to ‘give diplomacy time and space’

Islamic Republic News Agency, August 27, 2025

Deputy Foreign Minister of Legal and International Affairs Kazem Gharibabadi says Iran calls on the United Nations Security Council (UNSC) and Britain, France, and Germany, also known as the E3, to give diplomacy time and space. “Mr. @TakhtRavanchi and I held another meeting with the political directors of the three European countries and EU in Geneva. Both sides outlined their respective views on resolution 2231,” wrote Gharibabadi on his X account. Iran remains committed to diplomacy and a mutually beneficial diplomatic solution, he said. “High time for the E3 and UNSC to make the right choice, and give diplomacy time and space,” he added. Gharibabadi’s remarks come just hours after Iranian and Iranian and European diplomats held talks since Israel struck Iran in a 12-day war of aggression in mid-June.

<https://en.irna.ir/news/85923542/Iran-urges-E3-UNSC-to-give-diplomacy-time-and-space>

UN nuclear watchdog chief says inspectors ‘back in Iran’

Arab News, August 27, 2025

The head of the UN’s nuclear watchdog has said a team of its inspectors are “back in Iran,” the first to enter since Israeli and US strikes on Iranian nuclear facilities this year. Iran suspended cooperation with the United Nations’ International Atomic Energy Agency following a 12-day war

with Israel in June, with Tehran pointing to the IAEA’s failure to condemn Israeli and US strikes on its nuclear facilities. “Now the first team of IAEA inspectors is back in Iran, and we are about to restart,” Director General Rafael Grossi told Fox News’ “The Story” in an interview aired. “When it comes to Iran, as you know, there are many facilities. Some were attacked, some were not,” Grossi said. “So we are discussing what kind of... practical modalities can be implemented in order to facilitate the restart of our work there.” The announcement came as Iran held talks with Britain, France and Germany in Geneva, with Tehran seeking to avert a sanctions snapback which the European powers have threatened to impose under a moribund 2015 nuclear deal.

<https://www.arabnews.com/node/2613156/middle-east>

Clean-up of Iran site likely to erase any evidence of nuclear work, research group says

Jonathan Landay

Reuters, August 27, 2025

Iran has launched a speedy clean-up operation at a nuclear-related site in northern Tehran hit by Israeli airstrikes that will likely remove evidence of any nuclear weapons development work, a research group said. Satellite imagery "shows a significant effort by Iran to rapidly demolish damaged or destroyed buildings, likely to sanitize any incriminating nuclear weapons research and development activities," the Institute for Science and International Security said. The institute is

an independent research group that focuses on stopping the spread of nuclear weapons and is headed by David Albright, a former U.N. nuclear inspector. Iran's embassy to the United Nations did not immediately respond to a request for comment. Tehran denies seeking nuclear weapons and repeatedly has said its program is for peaceful purposes.

<https://www.reuters.com/world/middle-east/clean-up-iran-site-likely-erase-any-evidence-nuclear-work-research-group-says-2025-08-27/>

IAEA chief says Iran's cooperation with inspectors is a 'work in progress' as sanctions loom

Matthew Lee, Farnoush Amiri and Stephanie Liechtenstein

Associated Press, August 28, 2025

The head of the U.N.'s nuclear watchdog warned that the agency is not yet satisfied with Iran's cooperation with international inspectors, just as European leaders appeared poised to reimpose sanctions on Tehran after a series of last-minute meetings failed to reach a diplomatic resolution on its nuclear program. Despite Iran allowing inspectors back in for the first time since the 12-day Iran-Israel war in June, regaining access to crucial nuclear facilities is still "a work in progress," Rafael Grossi, director general of the International Atomic Energy Agency, told The Associated Press. "I can say that it is important that the inspectors are back," Grossi said in an interview. "At the same time, we still need to clarify a number of things, and we still need to address all the

issues that are important in terms of the inspections that we have to carry out in Iran."

<https://apnews.com/article/iran-iaea-grossi-threats-security-9cd31df753f4c1f10e42521c5141ad8d>

Germany, France, UK trigger process to reimpose sanctions on Iran

Al Jazeera, August 28, 2025

France, Germany, and the United Kingdom have triggered a mechanism to reimpose sanctions on Iran after a series of meetings failed to reach an agreement on the Iranian nuclear programme. The three European countries, known as the E3, have been warning Tehran for weeks that United Nations sanctions could be reimposed by October when a 2015 nuclear agreement between Tehran and major powers expires. The decision opens a 30-day window before the sanctions are reimposed. It comes after a spokesman for Iran's Ministry of Foreign Affairs warned this week that renewing the sanctions would have consequences. The E3 has accused Tehran of violating provisions of the 2015 nuclear pact, formally known as the Joint Comprehensive Plan of Action (JCPOA), which saw Iran agree to curb its nuclear programme in exchange for a lifting of international sanctions on its economy. A component of the nuclear deal, the "snapback" mechanism, allows sanctions to be reimposed quickly if Iran is found to be in violation of the accord. "Since 2019 and as of today, Iran has increasingly and deliberately ceased performing its JCPOA commitments," the French, German and British foreign ministers wrote in a letter to

the UN Security Council. “This includes the accumulation of a high enriched uranium stockpile which lacks any credible civilian justification and is unprecedented for a state without a nuclear weapons programme,” they said, adding that they remain committed to reaching a diplomatic solution.

<https://www.aljazeera.com/news/2025/8/28/e3-announces-plans-to-reimpose-snapback-sanctions-on-iran>

FM Araghchi holds talks with EU/E3 amid triggering of snapback mechanism

Government of the Islamic Republic of Iran, August 28, 2025

Earlier on 28th August, the Foreign Ministers of the three European States together with the High Representative of the European Union, in a telephone conversation with Seyed Abbas Araghchi, Minister of Foreign Affairs of the Islamic Republic of Iran, conveyed their intention to officially notify the Security Council of the initiation of the process referred to as the dispute resolution mechanism under the Joint Comprehensive Plan of Action (JCPOA). At the same time, they emphasized their readiness to seek a diplomatic solution within the next thirty days with a view to resolving the issues and averting the re-imposition of the Security Council’s sanctions resolutions. The Minister of Foreign Affairs of the Islamic Republic of Iran deemed this course of action by the three European States to be unfounded, unlawful, and devoid of any legal basis. Recalling Iran’s responsible and good-faith performance in adhering to diplomacy for the settlement of issues

related to the nuclear matter, the Minister stressed that the Islamic Republic of Iran shall, in an appropriate manner, respond to this unlawful and unjustified action of the three European States in order to preserve and secure its national rights and interests. Emphasizing Iran’s determination to defend its interests and lawful rights pursuant to international law and the Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons (NPT), Araghchi expressed hope that the three European States, by adopting a responsible approach and by duly appreciating the realities at hand, shall rectify this erroneous course within the coming days in an appropriate manner.

<https://irangov.ir/detail/468295>

Iranian FM slams European troika’s illegal move to reinstate terminated UNSC resolutions against Iran

Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Islamic Republic of Iran, August 29, 2025

In an official letter to EU Foreign Policy Chief and Coordinator of the JCPOA Joint Commission Kaya Kallas, Iranian Foreign Minister Seyed Abbas Araqchi outlined Iran’s position regarding the dispute settlement mechanism laid out in the JCPOA. Araghchi voiced regret over the selective and incomplete narrative presented by the EU and the three European countries in their letter dated August 8, 2025. The foreign minister said the European sides ignored essential facts and procedural precedents related to the JCPOA and UN Security Council Resolution 2231 and overlooked their long-standing non-compliance with their obligations under the JCPOA. Araghchi reaffirmed Iran’s

previous positions, extensively detailed in correspondence dated July 22, saying the three European countries have no legal authority to resort to the dispute resolution mechanism or to trigger the automatic re-imposition of sanctions. He also noted that this stance has been supported by the Russian Federation and the People's Republic of China, citing their official explanatory notes submitted to the Security Council.

<https://en.mfa.ir/portal/NewsView/774050>

Iran showcases technological leap with next Kowsar satellite

Tasnim News Agency, August 30, 2025

Iran will launch the upgraded Kowsar satellite this year, a milestone in advancing its independent space program and showcasing resilience despite sanctions. On 30th August, with Deputy Minister and head of the Iranian Space Agency Hassan Salarieh in attendance, the enhanced Kowsar satellite was unveiled. Salarieh confirmed that the second model of the domestically built satellite will be launched into orbit in the coming months. Last year, Kowsar-1 and Hodhod satellites were successfully placed in orbit using a Soyuz launcher. In less than a year, Iran has now completed final testing of the upgraded Kowsar, which weighs 50 kilograms and will be positioned in a 500-kilometer sun-synchronous orbit.

<https://www.tasnimnews.com/en/news/2025/08/30/3388435/iran-showcases-technological-leap-with-next-kowsar-satellite>

Eight arrested as IRGC dismantles Mossad-linked terror cell in eastern Iran

Tehran Times, August 30, 2025

Eight individuals were arrested during a precisely targeted operation, which the IRGC'S intelligence wing in Khorasan Razavi carried out in concert with the Iranian judiciary. The individuals were part of a Mossad network that also collaborates with separatists. The IRGC's statement said evidence uncovered reveals the terrorists underwent specialized online training orchestrated by Mossad, which transformed them into tools for espionage and sabotage. They stand accused of transmitting sensitive coordinates of vital Iranian infrastructure and intelligence on high-ranking military figures directly to their handlers within the Israeli spy apparatus. They, however, were arrested before they could carry out their planned sabotage attacks. "The terror cells intended to sabotage important centers within the sacred city of Mashhad, the heart of Khorasan Razavi. Thanks to the IRGC's vigilance, these operations were thwarted before they could be unleashed," the IRGC statement revealed. Security forces uncovered bomb-making materials, launchers, and explosives.

<https://www.tehrantimes.com/news/517372/Eight-arrested-as-IRGC-dismantles-Mossad-linked-terror-cell-in>

Iran's defence readiness has increased since June war: Defence Ministry

Islamic Republic News Agency, August 30, 2025

Defence Ministry spokesperson Brigadier General Reza Talaei-Nik has emphasized that the defensive, operational, and logistical readiness of Iran's armed forces has improved significantly compared to the period before the recent 12-day war. Speaking at a ceremony in Sanandaj, the provincial capital of Kordestan, Brigadier General Talaei-Nik said, "During the 12-day war, our country's military sectors suffered certain damages. However, today, the operational, combat, and defensive readiness of Iran's Armed Forces has increased significantly as a direct result of the lessons learned from that war." He also added, "Sixty percent of the weaponry, equipment, and munitions used by the armed forces are now produced by the private sector and knowledge-based companies." Furthermore, the Defence Ministry spokesperson said, "Today, Iran ranks among the top 10 countries in the world in terms of missile capability, which demonstrates our country's independence from foreign sources for its weaponry."

<https://en.irna.ir/news/85926832/Iran-s-defence-readiness-has-increased-since-June-war-Defence>

Iran strongly condemns terrorist crime by Zionist regime against Yemen

Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Islamic Republic of Iran, August 31, 2025

The Islamic Republic of Iran's Foreign Ministry strongly condemns the aggressive

and terrorist act by the vile Zionist regime against Yemen which led to the martyrdom of Prime Minister of Yemen's Change and Development Government Ahmed Ghalib Nasser al-Rahwi along with several accompanying ministers. The Foreign Ministry underlines the urgent need for serious action by the international community and Muslim countries to curb the rogue actions of this regime. The brutal crime of the Zionist regime, including military attacks on infrastructure and residential areas in Yemen and the assassination of senior officials and innocent citizens, constitutes a clear war crime and a crime against humanity. It is also a malicious revenge against a nation determined to fulfill its moral and humanitarian duty in support of the oppressed Palestinian people, making each and every sacrifices in this path.

<https://en.mfa.gov.ir/portal/newsview/774125>

Iran president departs for China to attend SCO summit, Victory Day Parade

Government of the Islamic Republic of Iran, August 31, 2025

Pezeshkian left Tehran for Tianjin, China, accompanied by a formal farewell from First Vice President Mohammad Reza Aref, and Deputy for International Affairs of the Office of the Supreme Leader Hojjatoleslam Mohsen Qomi. Several government officials were also present to bid farewell. During his visit, the Iranian president is scheduled to attend the SCO summit and the SCO Plus meeting, where he will deliver speeches and hold

discussions with top officials from China, Russia, and other participating nations at the 25th SCO summit. Additionally, Pezeshkian will attend a ceremony in Beijing commemorating the 80th anniversary of the end of World War II, where he will observe a military parade featuring the armed forces of China.

<https://irangov.ir/detail/468365>

Iraq

Tehran-Baghdad security agreement prevents foreign interference: Iran's top security official

Tehran Times, August 17, 2025

Speaking in an interview with a televised program on IRIB Channel 2, Larijani discussed his first official trip to Iraq and Lebanon in his new role, and outlined Iran's broader security outlook. He said regional issues remain at the core of Iran's national interests and security strategy. "Without doubt, regional matters have always been central to our national security. The Islamic Republic's strategy is built on attention to these regional dynamics," he said. Larijani explained that two opposing approaches dominate the security landscape. "One theory, openly voiced by the United States and Israel, claims peace can only come through power. This essentially means either submission or war, and the result of such thinking is chaos in the region—as we clearly see in Syria," he noted. "The second theory," he continued, "is achieving lasting security through the participation of regional states, where all countries are empowered. This is the approach Iran pursues. Instead of fueling instability, we

seek to build stability. A clear example is the security agreement we signed with Iraq during this trip, aimed at creating a stable security environment together." Larijani said the central point of the Iran-Iraq pact is that both sides pledge to prevent any group, actor, or foreign state from disturbing their mutual security or using one country's territory against the other. "We must not allow third parties to infiltrate or disrupt the security of our two nations," he stressed. He added that his trip also included discussions on strengthening cultural and economic cooperation.

<https://www.tehrantimes.com/news/516885/Tehran-Baghdad-security-agreement-prevents-foreign-interference>

US Forces accelerate departure from key Iraqi bases

Iraqi News, August 25, 2025

US military presence in Iraq is undergoing a sudden and expedited drawdown, with American troops withdrawing from two major bases ahead of schedule, according to multiple reports. Reports indicate that forces are leaving the Ain al Asad base in western Iraq and the Victoria base near Baghdad. The withdrawal, described as unexpected, was directed by the US Embassy and is being carried out in stages. Some troops are being moved to Erbil in the Iraqi Kurdistan Region, while others are being transferred to a neighbouring Arab country. The accelerated pullout appears to bypass parts of the previously agreed transition roadmap between Baghdad and Washington. The Baghdad government has been briefed on the latest developments,

and officials have said they are monitoring the process closely. Lawmakers have expressed a mix of concern and relief, with some insisting that Iraq's security forces are ready to handle the situation independently, while others worry about potential instability once the foreign presence is reduced. Earlier plans had called for a gradual exit of coalition forces by September 2025 with the possibility of leaving behind a smaller advisory mission. The swift action now taking place suggests new urgency in completing the departure and has altered the timeline originally negotiated with Iraqi officials. Officials from the Iraqi government and the US Department of Defence have not yet provided public comment.

<https://www.iraqinews.com/iraq/us-forces-accelerate-departure-from-key-iraqi-bases/>

Iraq signs deal with Bahraini firm to lay submarine cable

Amr Salem

Iraqi News, August 28, 2025

The Iraqi Ministry of Communications signed an agreement with Bahraini telecoms company Batelco by Beyon to lay an undersea cable. The Minister of Communications, Hiyam Al-Yasiri, told the Iraqi News Agency (INA) that Iraq has signed contracts for undersea and transit cables with all countries of the Gulf Cooperation Council (GCC). The deal marks Iraq's sixth submarine cable at the al-Faw station, according to Al-Yasiri. The process will be completed in late 2026 or early 2027. The cable begins in Singapore

and travels through Bahrain and other Arab countries before reaching Iraq. Last year, Iraq signed a contract to lay a submarine cable in cooperation with Saudi Arabia's Telecom Company (STC) to increase internet capacity in Iraq. In June 2023, the Iraqi Ministry of Communications announced plans to launch internet service via satellite, aiming to provide the fastest internet access for Iraqis. Projects to supply internet via fiber-optic cables take a long time to accomplish because of the challenges involved in the excavation work and the high expenses. To diversify sources of internet service, enhance competition, and reduce prices, the Iraqi Ministry of Communications has begun the process of establishing satellite internet service in Iraq for the first time.

<https://www.iraqinews.com/iraq/iraq-signs-deal-with-bahraini-firm-to-lay-submarine-cable/>

Israel's SPIKE NLOS goes global as US Army fires advanced munition in Iraq

Anna Ahronheim

The Jerusalem Post, August 31, 2025

The United States Army used Rafael Advanced Defence Systems' Spike NLOS (non-line-of-sight) weapon in its live fire testing in the deserts of Iraq for the first time. Carried out by the 101st Combat Aviation Brigade, the US Army tested the weapon last week. According to a release by America's military, "This milestone event occurred during the unit's deployment to the Middle East in support

of the Combined Joint Task Force – Operation Inherent Resolve (CJTF-OIR).” The military said that an aircrew assigned to the 2nd Squadron and the 17th Cavalry Squadron piloted an Apache helicopter to test the launcher and weapons processor in the US Central Command’s (USCENTCOM) area of operations.

<https://www.jpost.com/defence-and-tech/article-865848>

Israel

Israel MOD to procure thousands of drones from XTEND worth millions of dollars

Ministry of Defence of the Government of Israel, August 20, 2025

The Israel Ministry of Defence (IMOD) Defence Procurement Directorate (DPD) announced that XTEND has won a tender, worth millions of dollars, to supply thousands of FPV (First Person View) drones to the IDF Ground Forces, equipped with advanced technology. The project is being led by the IDF’s Ground Forces and Technological and Logistics Directorate. Led by the DPD’s Deputy for Air and Naval Procurement Unit, this domestic ‘Blue and White’ procurement is part of IMOD Director General Maj. Gen. (Res.) Amir Baram’s comprehensive strategy to strengthen Israel’s defence production capacity and local industries while maintaining full support for IDF operational needs now and in the intense decade ahead. The drones will be delivered to the IDF over the coming months alongside comprehensive training and

instruction programs provided by the company, and are expected to significantly enhance the operational capabilities of the Ground Forces while delivering optimal solutions to modern warfare challenges.

<https://www.mod.gov.il/en/press-releases/press-room/israel-mod-to-procure-thousands-of-drones-from-xtend-worth-millions-of-dollars>

Israeli defence firms barred from major Dutch arms fair amid Gaza war - report

The Times of Israel, August 20, 2025

Israeli defence companies will not be permitted to participate in the Netherlands’ largest military exhibition, Hebrew media reported. The NEDS event, held annually in Rotterdam and focused largely on the naval sector, has in recent years hosted Israel’s biggest defence contractors, including Israel Aerospace Industries, Elbit Systems and Rafael. But the event’s organizers wrote in a recent letter that this year’s event, scheduled for November 20, will bar Israeli firms, a Globes report said, citing Israeli sources. Israeli sources confirmed to Globes that they will not attend. Organizers cited “security and organizational” reasons for the ban and did not respond to Globes’ requests for comment. According to the report, the decision appears to be linked to the Gaza war and is part of a broader Dutch policy shift relating to Israel.

<https://www.timesofisrael.com/israeli-defence-firms-barred-from-major-dutch-arms-fair-amid-gaza-war-report/>

Defence Ministry approves \$1.5 billion procurement of new Israeli-made armored vehicles, tanks

The Times of Israel, August 20, 2025

The Defence Ministry approves a \$1.5 billion plan to step up the production of dozens more locally made armored personnel carriers and tanks over the next five years. The plan “will increase the armored vehicle inventory while boosting production rates of the Merkava Mk. 4 Barak tanks, Namer APCs, and Eitan wheeled APCs, including those equipped with a turreted 30mm cannon,” the ministry says in a statement. The ministry highlights the successful use of these vehicles in the fighting that followed Hamas’s October 7 assault on Israel, noting that “these platforms have accumulated more than one million kilometers in [the] current operation.”

https://www.timesofisrael.com/liveblog_entry/defence-ministry-approves-1-5-billion-procurement-of-new-israeli-made-armored-vehicles-tanks/

Israel to acquire more KC-46A refuelers, invest \$1.5 billion in armored vehicles

Seth J. Frantzman

Breaking Defence, August 22, 2025

The Israeli Ministry of Defence recently announced major defence acquisition plans, including two additional KC-46 refueling tankers, a substantial investment in armored vehicles, as well as a push to acquire thousands of first-person-view unmanned aerial vehicles. The ministry said that Director General Maj. Gen. Amir Baram

had sent instructions to sign the contract for the new refuelers, manufactured by US aerospace giant Boeing, once approval of the Israel Defence Procurement Ministerial Committee is obtained. The ministry said the “new aircraft will be equipped with Israeli systems and adapted to the Israeli Air Force’s (IAF) operational requirements.” The IDF has been relying on aging Boeing 707s for long-range missions as it fights conflicts on several fronts since Hamas’s Oct. 7, 2023 attack, including striking as far away as Yemen to hit Houthi targets and a dramatic 12-day war against Iran. The Iran strikes required roundtrip 2,000-mile flights.

<https://breakingdefence.com/2025/08/israel-1-to-acquire-more-kc-46a-refuelers-invest-1-5-billion-in-armored-vehicles/>

Syria’s Sharaa confirms ‘advanced’ talks with Israel on security deal; US envoy meets Netanyahu

The Times of Israel, August 22, 2025

US envoy Thomas Barrack arrived in Israel and met with Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu to discuss Syria and Lebanon, three Israeli officials said, as Jerusalem reportedly closed in on securing understandings with Damascus. Syria’s President Ahmed al-Sharaa later confirmed to Arab journalists that his government was in “advanced” talks with Israel on a security agreement, according to Sky News Arabic, which quoted him as saying that any deal would be based on the 1974 disengagement lines that Jerusalem and Damascus agreed to after the Yom Kippur War a year earlier. Sharaa also reportedly said that while he did

not believe the time was right for a peace deal with Israel, he “will not hesitate to take” any agreement that benefits Syria and the region.

<https://www.timesofisrael.com/israel-said-to-close-in-on-security-deal-with-syria-as-us-envoy-meets-netanyahu/>

Netanyahu says Israel is ‘ready to support’ Lebanon in disarming Hezbollah

The Times of Israel, August 25, 2025

Israel is “ready to support” Lebanon’s efforts to disarm Hezbollah and will implement a phased reduction of its military presence in Lebanon as a “reciprocal measure,” the Prime Minister’s Office said in a statement. If the Lebanese Armed Forces “take the necessary steps to implement the disarmament of Hezbollah, Israel will engage in reciprocal measures, including a phased reduction of IDF presence in coordination with the US-led security mechanism,” the statement reads. “Israel stands ready to support Lebanon in its efforts to disarm Hezbollah and to work together towards a more secure and stable future for both nations,” it continued.

<https://www.timesofisrael.com/netanyahu-says-israel-is-ready-to-support-lebanon-in-disarming-hezbollah/>

Elbit Systems’ JUPITER Camera Successfully Launched Aboard NAOS Satellite

Israel Defence, August 27, 2025

Elbit Systems Ltd. has announced the successful launch of its state-of-the-art JUPITER space camera aboard the

National Advanced Optical System (NAOS) satellite, marking a significant advancement in Earth observation capabilities. The NAOS satellite, built by OHB Italia S.p.A., was launched on August 26th from Vandenberg Space Force Base in California aboard a SpaceX Falcon 9 rocket. The mission supports a wide range of applications, including military operations, environmental monitoring, and scientific research.

<https://www.israeldefence.co.il/en/node/66117>

Lebanon says 2 troops killed by Israeli drone that exploded after crashing; IDF voices regret

The Times of Israel, August 29, 2025

Lebanon’s army said two personnel were killed on August 28 after an Israeli drone that had crashed in the country’s south exploded, the latest deadly incident for Lebanese troops near the Israeli border. The Israel Defence Forces expressed regret for the incident, which it attributed to a “technical malfunction,” in a statement, adding that it had opened a probe. Under a November ceasefire that sought to end more than a year of hostilities, including two months of open war between Israel and Hezbollah, Lebanon’s army has been deploying in the country’s south and dismantling the Iran-backed terror group’s infrastructure there with the support of UN observers.

<https://www.timesofisrael.com/lebanon-reports-2-soldiers-killed-by-israeli-drone-that-exploded-after-crashing/>

Israel targeted top Iranian leaders by hacking, tracing their bodyguards' phones — report

The Times of Israel, August 30, 2025

Israel was able to track and target senior Iranian political and military leaders and nuclear scientists during the June war between the countries by hacking and tracking the phones of their bodyguards and drivers, the New York Times reported. In its opening strikes on Iran in the early hours of June 13, Israel swiftly killed multiple top generals and nuclear scientists, among them Revolutionary Guards chief Maj. Gen. Hossein Salami, Armed Forces chief Maj. Gen. Mohammad Bagheri, and missile chief Brig. Gen. Amir Ali Hajizadeh, stunning and paralyzing Iran for long hours. The Times report, which quoted several senior Iranian and Israeli military and intelligence officials, said that though top Iranian leaders were aware of the security threat posed by smartphones and avoided using them, this instruction did not extend to their security detail, enabling Israel to track and eliminate them.

<https://www.timesofisrael.com/israel-targeted-top-iranian-leaders-by-hacking-tracing-their-bodyguards-phones-report/>

Air Force mistakenly drops munitions near Israeli military post in Gaza, none injured - report

The Jerusalem Post, August 31, 2025

An Israeli Air Force (IAF) fighter jet mistakenly dropped munitions approximately one hundred meters from a

manned IDF position in northern Gaza due to a technical malfunction, Army Radio reported. The bomb reportedly veered off its intended course because of the malfunction, which led to its explosion near the military post. "The incident is known to us and is being investigated by the relevant authorities," the IDF said, as cited by Army Radio. "The incident ended with no injuries."

<https://www.jpost.com/israel-news/article-865873>

Israel readies for Houthi retaliation after PM, ministers killed in IDF strikes in Yemen

The Jerusalem Post, August 31, 2025

The IDF has said it is preparing for any possible scenario following the death of Houthi Prime Minister Ghalib al-Rahawi and eight additional ministers in an Israeli airstrike. Israel Air Force officials noted that the Houthis possess independent production capabilities for manufacturing missiles and drones, with parts of their production line supported by purchases from countries such as Iran and North Korea. While the group does not have a large or readily available weapons arsenal, and the number of launchers in their possession is unknown, the IDF is taking into account that they may attempt to challenge detection and air defence systems. As a result, the IDF has reinforced certain units in preparation for the oncoming retaliation.

<https://www.jpost.com/israel-news/defence-news/article-865783>

Air force targets underground Hezbollah bunkers in major strikes in southern Lebanon

The Times of Israel, August 31, 2025

Israeli Air Force jets carried out a series of large-scale airstrikes against Hezbollah underground bunkers in southern Lebanon on August 31, the IDF announced. The IDF said it struck the terror group's "military infrastructure, including underground infrastructure" where the military had identified Hezbollah activity in the Beaufort Ridge area of the Nabatiyah Governorate. "The existence of the sites and the activity within them constitute a violation of the understandings between Israel and Lebanon" that were reached in November, ending a period of open conflict, the military added.

<https://www.timesofisrael.com/air-force-targets-underground-hezbollah-bunkers-in-major-strikes-in-southern-lebanon/>

Jordan

Jordan's crown prince announces reactivation of National Military Service Program

Arab News, August 17, 2025

Jordan's Crown Prince Hussein bin Abdullah II announced the reactivation of the National Military Service Program during a meeting with youngsters in Irbid Governorate, the Jordan News Agency reported. Speaking at King Abdullah II Gardens, the crown prince said young Jordanians must be prepared to serve and defend their country, adding that those who have taken part in military service

understood the importance of the experience. He stressed that the program would strengthen national identity and young people's connection to their homeland, while service with the Jordanian Armed Forces would build character and instill discipline. Prince Hussein said he had previously directed the government to work with its partners to develop the program, which will follow a clear timetable, with further details to be announced. The meeting also addressed issues of concern to young people, including information technology, entrepreneurship, volunteerism, and vocational and technical education and training, the Petra agency added.

<https://www.arabnews.com/node/2612122/middle-east>

Jordan, US forces launch 'Dragon Eye' field drill to counter WMD threats

Arab News, August 17, 2025

The Jordanian army launched its "Dragon Eye" field exercise at the Chemical Support Group of the Royal Engineering Corps, the Jordan News Agency reported. The drill is being held in cooperation with the US Defence Threat Reduction Agency and Oak Ridge National Laboratory of the US Department of Energy, under the Jordan-US program to counter weapons of mass destruction, JNA added. According to a Jordanian army statement, the exercise aims to strengthen national response to nuclear and radiological incidents, identify gaps in security systems, and improve procedures for handling unconventional threats. It also seeks to enhance

coordination and interoperability between Jordanian and US forces. The drill included field scenarios simulating nuclear and radiological threats, designed to build practical skills and facilitate the exchange of technical expertise among participants. The army said the exercise reflects its commitment to boosting operational readiness, keeping pace with scientific and technological developments, and contributing to national, regional, and international security.

<https://www.arabnews.com/node/2612144/middle-east>

Jordanian Army Chief, Egyptian defence leaders discuss military cooperation

Al-Defaiya, August 26, 2025

Chairman of the Jordanian Joint Chiefs of Staff Major General Yousef Hunaiti met with Egyptian Armed Forces Commander-in-Chief and Minister of Defence and Military Production, Lieutenant General Abdul Majeed Saqr, at the Egyptian Ministry of Defence. Also present was the Chief of Staff of the Egyptian Armed Forces, Lieutenant General Ahmed Khalifa. Hunaiti was welcomed with a formal military reception and inspected the honour guard upon his arrival. The meeting focused on enhancing military and security cooperation between Jordan and Egypt, building on the deep-rooted strategic and historical ties between the two nations. Discussions centered on aligning visions and strategies in light of ongoing regional and international developments, Petra news agency

reported. Both sides explored avenues for increased collaboration, including the exchange of expertise, joint training exercises and strengthened coordination across various military sectors all aimed at bolstering regional security and stability. Hunaiti expressed appreciation for Egypt's commitment to fostering joint Arab military cooperation. He underscored the importance of continued collaboration between the Jordanian and Egyptian armed forces to further common interests and regional integration. Saqr, in turn, praised the strong political and military relations between the two countries. He highlighted Jordan's key role in maintaining regional security and commended its humanitarian efforts, affirming the deep ties between Egyptians and Jordanians. The meeting was attended by Senior Commanders and Officers from both Armed Forces, as well as the Jordanian Military Attaché in Egypt.

<https://www.defaiya.com/news/Regional%20News/Egypt/2025/08/26/jordanian-army-chief-egyptian-defence-leaders-discuss-military-cooperation>

Kazakhstan and Jordan to launch joint uranium venture

Alimat Aliyeva

Azernews, August 28, 2025

By the end of 2026, Kazakhstan and Jordan plan to establish a joint venture to develop uranium deposits in Jordan, signaling a deepening of strategic cooperation in the energy sector. The announcement was made by Nurlan Zhakupov, Chairman of the Samruk-Kazyna National Welfare Fund, during the official visit of King

Abdullah II of Jordan to Kazakhstan. According to Zhakupov, pilot industrial research and feasibility studies on uranium recovery and enrichment in Jordan will be conducted through 2026. If the results prove economically viable, a joint enterprise will be launched—Kazakhstan's Kazatomprom will hold a 70% stake, while the Jordanian National Uranium Company (Jumco) will retain 30%.

<https://www.azernews.az/region/246611.html>

Kuwait

GCC officials meet in Kuwait to plan regional crisis exercise

Kuwait Times, August 25, 2025

Gulf Cooperation Council (GCC) countries are strengthening regional emergency preparedness with a two-day technical meeting in Kuwait this week, as officials plan the next joint crisis exercise. Brigadier General Dr Rashid Al-Marri, Director of the GCC Emergency Management Center, said the 19th meeting of the technical team “comes within the framework of strengthening joint Gulf action and unifying efforts aimed at developing the emergency and crisis response system in the GCC countries.” The team is tasked with finding solutions and mechanisms for dealing with regional risks. The meeting focuses on the joint exercise Isnad 2, described by Al-Marri as “an important practical step to enhance readiness and raise the level of coordination between the relevant authorities in member states.” Officials will define the exercise's

objectives and expected results, select the types of risks to simulate, and review the organizational structure and roles of participating teams, establishing clear operational mechanisms.

<https://kuwaittimes.com/article/32341/kuwait/other-news/gcc-officials-meet-in-kuwait-to-plan-regional-crisis-exercise/>

Lebanese Defence Minister visits Kuwait's MoD logistics authority

Al Defaiya, August 28, 2025

Lebanese Defence Minister Major General Michel Menassa visited the Kuwaiti Ministry of Defence's supply and logistics authority as part of an official trip to the country. He was received by Deputy Chief of Staff for Supply and Logistics of Kuwait Armed Forces Major General Salah Al-Azmi, who said the visit reflects strong bilateral ties and a shared interest in expanding military cooperation and exchanging expertise, especially in supply and logistics, the Ministry said in a press statement. Menassa was briefed on the authority's mandate to support army units and toured its facilities to review capabilities, equipment and infrastructure, the statement noted, Kuwait News Agency (KUNA) reported. The Lebanese Minister was accompanied by Lebanese Chargé d'Affaires Mia Al-Adham, Commander of the Signal Corps Lt General Saud Al-Dhafiri and several Senior Army Officers.

<https://www.defaiya.com/news/Regional/20News/Kuwait/2025/08/28/lebanese-defence-minister-visits-kuwait-s-mod-logistics-authority>

Lebanon

Hezbollah chief rejects disarmament, demands Israel comply with ceasefire

Al Jazeera, August 25, 2025

Hezbollah Secretary-General Naim Qassem has rejected growing pressure to disarm the group, warning that Lebanon's sovereignty could only be achieved by ending Israeli "aggression". Qassem said the Lebanese government must first ensure Israel complies with a November 2024 ceasefire agreement before talks on a national defence strategy can take place. "The resistance will remain as a strong barrier preventing Israel from achieving its goals, and Israel will not be able to remain in Lebanon or achieve its expansionist project through Lebanon," the Hezbollah chief said. He dismissed Lebanese government and foreign proposals to integrate Hezbollah's arsenal into a national defence strategy, insisting that Israel must first withdraw from Lebanese territory, release prisoners, and halt attacks. "If you truly want sovereignty, then stop the aggression. We will not abandon the weapons that honour us, nor the weapons that protect us from our enemy," Qassem said. "If this government continues in its current form, it cannot be trusted to safeguard Lebanon's sovereignty," he added.

<https://www.aljazeera.com/news/2025/8/25/hezbollah-chief-rejects-disarmament-demands-israel-comply-with-ceasefire>

Lebanon to present Hezbollah disarmament plan in coming days: US envoy

Al Jazeera, August 26, 2025

Lebanon has agreed to present a plan aimed at persuading Hezbollah to disarm, and Israel will submit a corresponding framework for its military withdrawal, United States envoy Tom Barrack says, as the Lebanese armed group has repeatedly made clear it has no intention of doing so while Israel continues its attacks on the country and occupies parts of the south. Barrack said the plan would not involve military coercion but would focus on efforts to encourage Hezbollah to surrender its weapons. "The Lebanese army and government are not talking about going to war. They are talking about how to convince Hezbollah to give up those arms," Barrack said. While no formal proposals have been exchanged, Barrack said verbal commitments from both sides suggested a narrowing path towards implementation.

<https://www.aljazeera.com/news/2025/8/26/lebanon-to-present-hezbollah-disarmament-plan-in-coming-days-us-envoy>

Lebanese army completes disarmament of 6 Palestinian refugee camps

Arab News, August 29, 2025

The Lebanese army received a new batch of heavy weapons from Palestinian Liberation Organization factions in refugee camps in Lebanon. These included the Shatila camp and Mar Elias camp in Beirut, as well as the

Burj Al-Barajneh camp in Beirut's southern suburb, in line with a Lebanese-Palestinian disarmament deal as part of the Cabinet's decision to restrict weapons to the state. While Lebanese army vehicles did not enter the Burj Al-Barajneh camp, the handover took place in the courtyard where the first batch was delivered last week. Twenty-four hours earlier, the Lebanese army had received a batch of light and medium weapons, B7 rockets, and medium-range surface-to-surface missiles from the camps of Tyre, Rashidieh, Burj Al-Shemali and Al-Bass, all located south of the Litani River. The confiscated weapons were transported in eight trucks: six from Rashidieh, one from Al-Bass and another from Burj Al-Shemali. The weapons handover did not include Hamas and Islamic Jihad weapons, as these two organizations are not subject to the authority of the PLO. It included six of the 12 camps, the largest of which is Ain Al-Hilweh, the most densely populated, with the largest number of armed Palestinian factions.

<https://www.arabnews.com/node/2613471/middle-east>

UN Security Council renews Lebanon peacekeeping mission 'for a final time'

Arab News, August 29, 2025

The United Nations Security Council unanimously extended "for a final time" a long-running peacekeeping mission in Lebanon until the end of 2026, when the operation will then begin a year-long "orderly and safe drawdown and withdrawal." The UN Interim Force in Lebanon (UNIFIL), established in 1978, patrols Lebanon's southern border with

Israel. The 15-member council unanimously adopted a French-drafted resolution after a compromise was reached with the United States, a veto-wielding council member. The Security Council decided "to extend for a final time the mandate of UNIFIL." The resolution "requests UNIFIL to cease its operations on 31 December 2026 and to start from this date and within one year its orderly and safe drawdown and withdrawal of its personnel, in close consultation with the Government of Lebanon with the aim of making Lebanon Government the sole provider of security in southern Lebanon." This will be the last time the United States will support an extension of UNIFIL, said acting US Ambassador to the UN Dorothy Shea.

<https://www.arabnews.com/node/2613335/middle-east>

Israel Army Says Strikes Hezbollah Site in South Lebanon

Asharq Al-Awsat, August 31, 2025

The Israeli army said it carried out a strike on a site run by Hezbollah in southern Lebanon. "A short while ago, the army struck military infrastructure, including underground infrastructure, at a Hezbollah site in which military activity was identified, in the area of the Beaufort Ridge in southern Lebanon," the military said in a statement. "The existence of the site and the activity within it constitute a violation of the understandings between Israel and Lebanon," it added. Lebanon's National News Agency reported intense strikes in the wooded area of Ali al-Taher, where fires were later declared, and in Al-Debsha, where serious damage was recorded. According to NNA, jets fired "a large

number of missiles", with AFP images showing thick columns of smoke rising into the sky. After the outbreak of the war in Gaza, Iran-backed Hezbollah and Israel engaged in more than a year of hostilities that culminated in two months of open war last year.

<https://english.aawsat.com/arab-world/5181060-israel-army-says-strikes-hezbollah-site-south-lebanon>

Oman

Oman affirms support for maritime navigation safety at United Nations Security Council meeting

Al Defaiya, August 17, 2025

The Sultanate of Oman has affirmed its full support for the efforts of the UN Security Council and international initiatives aimed at addressing maritime challenges and threats, calling for enhanced regional and international cooperation and sustained coordination to uphold navigation safety and maritime security. This came during Oman's address delivered by First Secretary HH Sayyid Shihab bin Harib Al Said, member of Oman's Permanent Delegation to the United Nations in New York, at the Security Council's high-level session titled "Maritime Security: Prevention, Innovation, and International Cooperation to Address Emerging Challenges." The session was held as part of discussions on the agenda item "Maintenance of International Peace and Security." Oman emphasized the importance it places on maritime security, given its natural resources, geographical factors, and its strategic location overlooking the Strait of Hormuz - a vital

passage for international trade, maritime navigation, and global seaborne oil exports, Oman News Agency (ONA) reported.

<https://www.defaiya.com/news/Security/Security/2025/08/17/oman-affirms-full-support-for-maritime-navigation-safety-at-un-security-council-s-meeting>

MTCIT launches hands-on workshop to boost space expertise

Muscat Daily, August 25, 2025

Ministry of Transport, Communications and Information Technology (MTCIT) is working towards strengthening the national space programme with the launch of a workshop of the Capacity Building in Space Programme. Organised in partnership with Makeen and Majan Academy, the workshop will be held from September 7 to 11 at Majan Academy in Al Khoud. The programme aims to develop practical skills in satellite data analysis, remote sensing and related technologies, supporting Oman's strategic and economic sectors. Participants will gain hands-on experience in analysing satellite imagery, applying machine learning techniques, and using geographic information systems (GIS) for national planning and resource management. Sessions will cover topics such as oil spill detection, flood and erosion monitoring, water resource management, and tracking illegal poaching. Training will also include operating ground stations, data reception, and development of customised solutions to address challenges in transportation, agriculture, energy, fisheries and tourism. The workshop will conclude with an integration project, giving participants the opportunity to develop

practical solutions aligned with Oman's priorities.

<https://www.muscatdaily.com/2025/08/24/mtcit-launches-hands-on-workshop-to-boost-space-expertise/>

Saudi Arabia

Saudi Arabia's SAMI joins forces with US-based Amentum to maintain, upgrade combat vehicles

Breaking Defence, August 21, 2025

Saudi Arabia's defence conglomerate Saudi Arabian Military Industries, known as SAMI, has joined forces with US-based firm Amentum, which specialized in maintenance, repair, overhaul and upgrade (MROU) to support Riyadh's combat land vehicles. "Working alongside SAMI Land's own teams, Amentum will provide proven expertise for maintaining ground systems operated by Saudi Arabia's armed forces," Andy White, senior vice president of Amentum Energy & Environment International, said in Amentum's announcement. He added that according to the agreement, Amentum "will help SAMI Land establish the technical, commercial and business processes for long-term success." "By establishing comprehensive business processes and implementing best practices, SAMI Land will be better equipped to meet the growing demand from customers across Saudi Arabia," the company said in its statement.

<https://breakingdefence.com/2025/08/saudi-arabias-sami-joins-forces-with-us-based-amentum-to-maintain-upgrade-combat-vehicles/>

Third Royal Saudi Air Defence Forces unit completes THAAD training in US

Arab News, August 25, 2025

The Royal Saudi Air Defence Forces has graduated a third unit capable of operating the Terminal High Altitude Area Defence system following weeks of specialized training at Fort Bliss in El Paso, Texas. The operation and maintenance crews were trained to use the Terminal High Altitude Area Defence system, which is one of the world's most advanced missile defence technologies and a key component of the country's air defences. The graduates completed a range of programs, including technical and operational training, combat simulation and advanced field exercises. These were conducted under the supervision of the manufacturer's experts and in cooperation with the US military as part of a joint defence agreement, the Saudi Press Agency reported. Saudi Arabia's training program aligns with the Ministry of Defence's strategy to enhance military capabilities and improve combat readiness in line with Saudi Vision 2030. The Kingdom introduced its first THAAD battery with a ceremony in Jeddah in July.

<https://www.arabnews.com/node/2612981/saudi-arabia>

Two-state solution is 'only path to peace in the region' says Saudi foreign minister

Arab News, August 28, 2025

Saudi Arabia's Foreign Minister Prince Faisal bin Farhan condemned Israel's continued attacks on the West Bank at a press conference during an official trip to

Rome. And echoing Italy's Prime Minister Giorgia Meloni's recent comments on the subject, Prince Faisal added: "We agree with Italy on the importance of quickly stopping the war in Gaza." Meloni previously condemned the killing of five journalists in Gaza in an Israeli missile attack, and called for a two-state solution. Prince Faisal cited the importance of paving the way for a political process to take place in Gaza. "We condemn the continuation of Israeli attacks in the West Bank. The two-state solution is the only path to peace in the region," he said, referring to the recent raids carried out in the area by Israel's troops. The foreign minister also touched on the crisis in Ukraine, saying the Kingdom would continue to provide all necessary space for dialogue between the warring factions. Prince Faisal's visit to Italy comes eight months after Meloni's visit to the Kingdom when \$10 billion-worth of agreements were signed in an effort to boost economic cooperation between the two countries.

<https://www.arabnews.com/node/2613300/amp>

Syria

Syria says Ghouta chemical massacre 'will never be erased' on 12th anniversary

Anadolu Ajansi, August 21, 2025

The Syrian Foreign Ministry marked the 12th anniversary on August 21, of a chemical attack on Eastern Ghouta, stressing that the massacre "will never be erased from memory" and remains a priority until justice is achieved and

perpetrators held accountable. The ministry said more than 1,400 people, including 200 children and women, were killed in the Aug. 21, 2013, attack, and it described chemical weapons use as a "war crime that cannot be forgotten." The attack in the Damascus suburb was among the deadliest chemical strikes carried out by the Bashar al-Assad regime. The Syrian Network for Human Rights said the regime carried out 217 chemical attacks against opposition-held areas since the outbreak of anti-regime protests in 2011. Assad, Syria's leader for nearly 25 years, fled to Russia last December, ending the Baath Party regime, which had been in power since 1963. A new transitional administration led by President Ahmad al-Sharaa was formed in January.

<https://www.aa.com.tr/en/middle-east/syria-says-ghouta-chemical-massacre-will-never-be-erased-on-12th-anniversary/3665660>

Israel launches new operations in Syria after strike kills soldiers

Al Jazeera, August 27, 2025

Israeli forces have conducted a series of strikes on a former army barracks in Kiswa, southwest of the Syrian capital of Damascus, according to Syria's state-run al-Ekhbariya TV. Video verified by Al Jazeera's Sanad fact-checking agency showed Israeli aircraft attacking sites in the village on August 27. Meanwhile, a Syrian military source told Al Jazeera that the Israeli army carried out a landing operation in the barracks with the use of four helicopters. According to the source, the Israeli army brought in dozens of soldiers

and an unspecified amount of search equipment as it spent more than two hours at the site. No clashes took place between the Israeli forces involved in the landing and the Syrian army forces.

<https://www.aljazeera.com/news/2025/8/27/israel-launches-new-operations-in-syria-after-strike-kills-soldiers>

European Union: Cooperation with Damascus is in the interest of Syrians and international partners

Al Ekhbariya, August 28, 2025

On August 28, the Chargé d'Affaires of the European Union Delegation to Syria, Michael Unmacht, stressed the need to continue constructive dialogue and cooperation with the Syrian government and to strengthen communication channels during this sensitive period, in a way that serves the interests of the Syrian people and regional and international stability efforts. “I was pleased to meet with His Excellency the Minister of Foreign Affairs, Asaad Al-Shaibani. We discussed in depth the most important developments in Syria and the region, and emphasized the importance of continuing cooperation and dialogue to serve the interests of the Syrians and all international partners,” he said in a post on his “X” account, following a meeting with the Minister of Foreign Affairs and Expatriates, Asaad Al-Shaibani, in the presence of a number of heads of missions of European Union countries in Damascus.

<https://alikhbariah.com/%d8%a7%d9%84%d8%a7%d8%aa%d8%ad%d8%a7%d8%af-%d8%a7%d9%84%d8%a3%d9%88%d8%b1%d9%88%d8%a8%d9%8a->

<https://www.al-monitor.com/originals/2025/08/japans-defence-minister-visits-turkey-talks-defence-cooperation-drones>

Turkiye

Japan's defence minister visits Turkiye for talks on defence cooperation, drones

Umit Bektas

Al Monitor, August 19, 2025

Japan's defence minister will hold talks in Turkey on defence industry cooperation, including the possible supply of Turkish-made drones, as Tokyo expands the role of unmanned systems in its armed forces, a diplomatic source said. Gen Nakatani is the first Japanese defence minister to make such an official trip to Turkey, a NATO member country that is keen to expand its economic and other ties beyond Europe and the Middle East. Turkey and Japan are both U.S. allies. Gen and Turkey's Defence Minister Yasar Guler are expected to "discuss ways to expand cooperation on defence equipment and technology and exchange views on regional developments", the diplomatic source in Ankara said. They also aim to increase contacts between the Turkish Armed Forces and Japan's Self-Defence Forces at unit level, the source added. Gem is also scheduled to visit Istanbul. Turkish and Japanese defence ministries did not immediately respond to requests for comment.

<https://www.al-monitor.com/originals/2025/08/japans-defence-minister-visits-turkey-talks-defence-cooperation-drones>

Rosatom maintains 2026 target for Akkuyu nuclear plant despite potential 3-4 month delay

Turkiye Today, August 21, 2025

Russia's state nuclear corporation Rosatom said it maintains its plans to commission Türkiye's Akkuyu Nuclear Power Plant next year despite potential delays of three to four months caused by turbine delivery disruptions. Rosatom CEO Aleksey Likhachev told reporters in Nizhny Novgorod that while the project faces setbacks from German company Siemens' turbine supply disruptions, the corporation remains confident about meeting its 2026 commissioning target. "There may be a 3-4 month delay. However, we are maintaining our plans for commissioning next year," Likhachev said.

<https://www.turkiyetoday.com/business/rosatom-maintains-2026-target-for-akkuyu-nuclear-plant-despite-potential-3-4-month-de-3205718>

Turkiye launches military training for Syria's new army

Ezgi Akin

Al Monitor, August 21, 2025

Turkey has formally launched training, advisory support and technical assistance for Syria under a military cooperation deal Ankara and Damascus signed last week, a senior defence official said. Turkish Defence Minister Yasar Guler and his Syrian counterpart, Murhaf Abu Qasra, inked a memorandum of understanding on August 13. A swift start: "Under the deal, the restructuring of Syria's armed forces has gained momentum," a high-level Defence Ministry source told reporters in

Ankara. "Training, consultancy, technical assistance and reciprocal visits were launched." A delegation from the Syrian Defence Ministry held talks with Turkey's National Defence University earlier this week as part of efforts to coordinate the implementation of the deal, according to the source.

<https://www.al-monitor.com/originals/2025/08/turkey-launches-military-training-syrias-new-army-what-know>

Türkiye's Havelsan inks deal with Egypt's AOI for joint UAV production

Daily Sabah, August 27, 2025

One of the leading Turkish defence and technology companies, Havelsan, announced that it has signed an agreement with a top Egyptian industrial organization for the joint production of autonomous unmanned aerial vehicles (UAVs). "We signed a strategic cooperation agreement with the Arab Organization for Industrialization (AOI), one of Egypt's leading industrial institutions, for the joint production of autonomous unmanned aerial vehicles," Havelsan said in a post on its official X account. "Within the scope of this partnership, the assembly and joint production of autonomous unmanned aerial vehicles will be carried out," it added. A report by Anadolu Agency (AA) indicated that the cooperation agreement covers the joint production of the BAHÄ, BULUT and BOZBEY sub-cloud unmanned aerial vehicles, developed within the Turkish defence industry.

<https://www.dailysabah.com/business/defence/turkiyes-havelsan-inks-deal-with-egypts-aoi-for-joint-uav-production>

Türkiye delivers major Steel Dome air defence system, launches \$1.5B defence facility

Türkiye Today, August 28, 2025

Turkish defence officials delivered 47 units of the Steel Dome integrated air defence system to the military while breaking ground on a massive \$1.5 billion defence technology complex, marking what officials called the most significant single defence industry investment in the country's history. President Recep Tayyip Erdogan attended the ceremony at Aselsan's Golbasi campus, where the Presidency of Defence Industry head Haluk Gorgun and Aselsan General Manager Ahmet Akyol outlined the scope of Türkiye's expanding defence capabilities.

<https://www.turkiyetoday.com/nation/turkiye-delivers-major-steel-dome-air-defence-system-launches-15b-defence-facility-3206061>

Türkiye launches maritime-themed TEKNOFEST in Istanbul

Gokhan Ergocun

Anadolu Ajansi, August 28, 2025

Türkiye's flagship technology, aviation and space festival, TEKNOFEST, opened a special maritime edition on August 28 in Istanbul, highlighting the country's naval strength and innovations. The four-day event, known as Blue Homeland, is being held at the Istanbul Shipyard Command. Anadolu is serving as the global communication partner. While the festival began on August 28, the public will be able to attend on August 29–31. President Recep

Tayyip Erdogan is expected to take part in the opening day. Competitions as part of the event feature unmanned underwater systems, underwater rockets, and autonomous maritime vehicles. Competitions are a key feature, including challenges for unmanned underwater systems, underwater rockets and autonomous maritime vehicles. The Turkish Navy is also displaying some of its most advanced vessels, such as the TCG Anadolu amphibious assault ship, the TCG Istanbul frigate, the TCG Burgazada anti-submarine corvette, the TCG Orucreis frigate, the TCG Nusret minelayer, along with the TCG Sakarya and TCG Hızirreis submarines. Beyond military technology, TEKNOFEST Blue Homeland offers exhibitions on maritime history and culture, interactive virtual reality experiences and a series of conferences.

<https://www.aa.com.tr/en/economy/turkiye-launches-maritime-themed-teknofest-in-istanbul/3671427>

Türkiye's \$1.5B Steel Dome hub envisioned as Europe's largest air defence facility

Breaking Defence, August 29, 2025

A newly announced \$1.5 billion facility, dubbed the "single largest defence industry investment" in Turkey's history, is expected to double the production capacity for components of Ankara's envisioned Steel Dome national air defence system, according to officials at Aselsan, the electronics giant leading the project. Reporters toured the in-development facility, a day after President Recep Tayyip

Erdoğan participated in a ceremony here for the announcement of the facility and the delivery of some platforms to the military. "This will also be the largest integrated air defence facility in Europe," Erdoğan said. "As Aselsan serves as the heart of our defence ecosystem, this step represents a critical threshold for the entire sector." The facility, the Ogulbey Technology Base, is expected to become operational in one and a half years, company officials said.

<https://breakingdefence.com/2025/08/turkeys-1-5b-steel-dome-hub-envisioned-as-europes-largest-air-defence-facility/>

Türkiye unveils details of its MUGEM-class national aircraft carrier

Turkiye Today, August 29, 2025

Türkiye's national aircraft carrier will be capable of sailing from Istanbul to New York and back without refueling, covering 10,000 nautical miles, naval engineers revealed at the National Aircraft Carrier Forum during Teknofest Blue Homeland. The forum, held at Istanbul Shipyard Command as part of Teknofest Blue Homeland, featured four personnel of the Turkish Naval Forces Command who provided detailed technical specifications of the ambitious naval project. Engineer Lt. Aykut Demirezen explained the vessel's extraordinary range capabilities during the forum presentation. "Our national aircraft carrier can currently continue its voyage from here to New York and return without any fuel replenishment. It can realize a voyage over such a long distance," Demirezen stated, emphasizing the

strategic importance of the 10,000 nautical mile range requirement.

<https://www.turkiyetoday.com/nation/turkiye-unveils-details-of-its-national-aircraft-carrier-mugem-3206111>

United Arab Emirates

UAE's CE-Ventures signs up for \$100m funding of US nuclear tech firm Aalo

Gulf News, August 20, 2025

The UAE-based venture capital firm CE-Ventures is part of the \$100 million funding raised by US nuclear tech company Aalo Atomics. CE-Ventures is part of the Crescent Enterprises group. Aalo's Series B fundraise was led by Valor Equity Partners, and alongside CE-Ventures, there were Fine Structure Ventures, Hitachi Ventures, Crosscut Ventures and others. Aalo, founded in 2022, has been selected by US Department of Energy (DOE) for 'fast-tracked' testing of its advanced nuclear technology. "The successful completion of its Series B funding will support Aalo in building its first nuclear power plant, for which it is aiming to reach zero-power criticality by July 2026," said a statement. This is seen as the important step to demonstrating how Aalo's mass-manufactured modular reactors can 'provide the most effective solution to powering AI data centres'.

<https://gulfnews.com/business/markets/uae-ce-ventures-signs-up-for-100m-funding-of-us-nuclear-tech-firm-aalo-1.500239050>

ENEC launches Graduate Plant Operator Programme for engineers

Gulf Today, August 24, 2025

The Emirates Nuclear Energy Company (ENEC) has launched the Graduate Plant Operator (GPO) Programme, designed to nurture the next generation of Emirati nuclear operations leaders, strengthening its commitment to investing in the next generation of Emirati nuclear professionals who will drive the nation's nuclear operations forward. The GPO Programme is open to high-achieving Emirati graduates with a bachelor's degree in engineering disciplines (Electrical, Mechanical, Nuclear, etc.). It offers a unique pathway to gain the comprehensive knowledge, hands-on experience, and operational expertise essential for a dynamic career in nuclear energy plant operations and management. Candidates will begin their journey with practical training as Local Operators at the Barakah Nuclear Energy Plant, gaining an in-depth understanding of the plant's operational systems. After three years, successful operators will progress to Senior Reactor Operator (SRO) training, an essential leadership role responsible for the safe operation, maintenance, and testing of plant systems.

<https://www.gulftoday.ae/business/2025/08/24/enec-launches-graduate-plant-operator-programme-for-engineers>

Space42 signs strategic MoU with Angola

Zawya, August 26, 2025

Space42, the UAE-based AI-powered SpaceTech company announced today the

signing of a comprehensive Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) with Angola's Military Intelligence and Security Service (SISM). The five-year strategic partnership covers advanced technology collaboration across multiple domains. The agreement encompasses satellite communications, Earth observation, artificial intelligence, high-altitude platform stations, national security drones, border control solutions, and command and control centre development. Space42 already maintains a strong operational presence in Angola, providing 100% coverage of the country through its YahClick satellite broadband service. This existing infrastructure foundation will be significantly enhanced with upcoming expanded solutions and services from the advanced Thuraya-4 satellite system, demonstrating Space42's long-term commitment to the Angolan market and making this MoU a natural progression of the company's growing relationship.

<https://www.zawya.com/en/business/technology-and-telecom/space42-signs-strategic-mou-with-angola-g0ymj6pi>

Yemen

Israel says missile from Yemen fragmented mid-air

Arab News, August 22, 2025

The Israeli military said on August 22 that a missile launched from Yemen most likely fragmented in mid-air after air raid sirens sounded in several areas across Israel. Yemen's militant Houthi group claimed responsibility for the attack, saying it carried out three operations against Israel

including firing a ballistic missile toward Ben Gurion Airport near Tel Aviv, the group's military spokesperson, Yahya Saree, said in a televised statement. During the incident, the aerial defence systems made several attempts to intercept the missile, the military added in a statement. No injuries were reported, Israeli police said. The Iran-aligned group, which controls the most populous parts of Yemen, has been firing at Israel and attacking shipping lanes.

<https://www.arabnews.com/node/2612709/middle-east>

Prime Minister of Yemen's Houthi-run government killed in Israeli strike

Mohammed Ghobari, Enas Alashray and Ahmed Tolba

Reuters, August 31, 2025

The prime minister of Yemen's Houthi-run government and several other ministers were killed in an Israeli strike on the capital Sanaa, the head of the Houthi Supreme Political Council said on August 30, in the first such attack to kill senior officials. A number of others were wounded in the strike, Mahdi al-Mashat added, without providing details. Israel said that the airstrike had targeted the Iran-aligned group's chief of staff, defence minister and other senior officials and that it was verifying the outcome. Mashat's statement did not make clear whether the Houthi defence minister was among the casualties.

<https://www.reuters.com/world/middle-east/prime-minister-yemens-houthi-run-government-killed-israeli-strike-2025-08-30/>

Yemen's Houthi rebels raid UN premises, detain at least 11 staff, envoy says

The Times of Israel, August 31, 2025

The United Nations said Yemen's Houthis detained at least 11 workers on August 31, in raids on UN premises, which came after rebel authorities had made numerous arrests following Israel's killing of their prime minister. There has been no comment from Houthi authorities on the reported raids, but the Iran-backed group has previously arrested international aid workers. The United Nations envoy to Yemen, Hans Grundberg, said in a statement: "I strongly condemn the new wave of arbitrary detentions of UN personnel in Sanaa and Hodeida... as well as the forced entry into UN premises and seizure of UN property." He said that "at least 11 UN personnel were detained" and demanded that they be "immediately and unconditionally" released. The Houthis were already detaining 23 UN personnel, some since 2021 and 2023, he added. In January, the Houthi rebels detained eight UN workers

<https://www.timesofisrael.com/yemens-houthi-rebels-detain-at-least-11-un-staff-envoy-says/>

Saudi project clears 968 explosive devices in Yemen

Arab News, August 31, 2025

Members of Saudi Arabia's Project Masam removed 968 explosive devices from various regions of Yemen last week. The total included 925 unexploded ordnances, 32 anti-tank mines, four anti-personnel

mines and seven improvised explosive devices, according to a recent report. Ousama Al-Gosaibi, the initiative's managing director, said that 512,323 mines have been cleared since the project began in 2018. The explosives were planted indiscriminately and posed a threat to civilians, including children, women and the elderly. The demining operations took place in Marib, Aden, Juf, Shabwa, Taiz, Hodeidah, Lahij, Sanaa, Al-Bayda, Al-Dhale and Saada. The project trains local demining engineers and provides them with modern equipment. It also offers support to Yemenis injured by the devices. Teams are tasked with clearing villages, roads and schools to facilitate the safe movement of civilians and delivery of humanitarian aid.

<https://www.arabnews.com/node/2613669/saudi-arabia>

NUCLEAR AND ARMS CONTROL CENTRE

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