



Volume 5 | Issue 7

SYLLOGE ON WEST ASIA

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

01 April - 15 April 2025



MANOHAR PARRIKAR INSTITUTE FOR
DEFENCE STUDIES AND ANALYSES

मनोहर पर्रिकर रक्षा अध्ययन एवं विश्लेषण संस्थान

Armenia

Armenia, France discuss development of defence industry ties

Armenpress, April 5, 2025

Armenian Minister of High-Tech Industry Mkhitar Hayrapetyan, during his visit to France, met with Emmanuel Chiva, the Chief executive of the French Defence Procurement Agency (DGA). The DGA (Direction générale de l'armement) is the French government's defence procurement and technology agency, responsible within the Ministry of Armed Forces for project management, development, and purchase of weapon systems for the French military. The Armenian minister and the French official discussed "prospects for developing military-industrial cooperation between Armenia and France, opportunities for initiating technological exchange programs, matters pertaining to the development of defence technologies in Armenia and other topics," the Ministry of High-Tech industry said in a readout. Hayrapetyan's first deputy Gevorg Mantashyan, the Chairman of the Military-Industrial Committee Aram Jivanyan and Armenian Ambassador to France Arman Khachatryan also participated in the meeting.

<https://armenpress.am/en/article/1216369>

Iran, Armenia to conduct joint military exercise

Mehr News, April 9, 2025

Iran and the Republic of Armenia will carry out joint military exercise on April 9-10, 2025. Special forces units of the Armed Forces of the Republic of Armenia and the

Armed Forces of the Islamic Republic of Iran will conduct joint military exercise, the Armenian Defence Ministry has said in a statement. The unit of the Armed Forces of the Republic of Armenia will conduct its portion of the exercise on the territory of Armenia, while the unit of the Armed Forces of the Islamic Republic of Iran will conduct its portion on the territory of Iran. The exercise involves operations to neutralise attacks by simulated terrorist groups on border checkpoints located along the Armenia–Iran state border.

<https://en.mehrnews.com/news/230402/Iran-Armenia-to-conduct-joint-military-exercise>

Azerbaijan

Azerbaijani Su-25 tests turkish SOM SAHIN missile, procurement likely

Defense Mirror, April 7, 2025

Azerbaijan has test-fired the Turkish-made SOM ŞAHİN cruise missile from a modernised Su-25 fighter jet, a move that marks a critical step toward finalising the missile's procurement. According to a statement by Scientific and Technological Research Institution of Turkey (TÜBİTAK), the firing test of the SOM-B1 variant—specifically tailored for Azerbaijan—was conducted using the Pod and Aircraft Independent Firing System (UBAS) developed by TUBITAK Defence Industries Research and Development Institute (SAGE). The launch was carried out from an Azerbaijani Su-25 aircraft named LAÇIN at a test range in Turkey. The test marks the first full-scale demonstration of the SOM ŞAHİN by Azerbaijan, years after the country first

expressed interest in the system in 2018. Previous export efforts were stalled due to foreign embargoes on missile engines. However, Turkey's domestically developed Kale KTJ-3200 turbojet engine—used in this test—has removed a key barrier to exports. The SOM ŞAHİN is the Azerbaijani-specific version of the SOM-B1, Turkey's first domestically developed air-launched cruise missile. Weighing around 600 kilograms and carrying a 230-kg warhead, the missile can strike targets over 250 kilometers away. It is designed by TÜBİTAK SAGE and mass-produced by Roketsan.

https://www.defensemirror.com/news/39234/Azerbaijani_Su_25_Tests_Turkish_SO_M_SAHIN_Missile_Procurement_Likely

Military cooperation with China: Azerbaijan sees great prospects

Today.Az, April 11, 2025

"We are starting a dialogue on cooperation in the defence industry (with China - ed.) and we think that this can be a very promising process, because, as we have already discussed, Azerbaijan continues to modernise its armed forces. Of course, we will be interested in diversifying the geography of supplies, as well as joint production." These words of President Ilham Aliyev, spoken at the international forum held on April 9 at ADA University, sparked discussions in social networks, the media and various classrooms. They could not go unnoticed, especially by those who dislike Azerbaijan or are afraid of China. Both countries are leaders in their regions, and cooperation between them, which was upgraded to the level of strategic

partnership last year, is important from the point of view of Eurasian geopolitics and geo-economics. If we talk about military cooperation, it is still at the stage of promotion, it is only gaining momentum. The parties are eyeing each other and the partner's capabilities. China makes no secret of its interest in new markets for its military-industrial complex. Azerbaijan is interested in diversifying arms supplies and establishing joint projects in the military-industrial complex with such a global manufacturer as China.

<https://www.today.az/news/politics/258279.html>

Azerbaijan's Baku hosts 2nd meeting of TURKPA defence and security committees' chairs

Alyona Pavlenko

Trend News Agency, April 15, 2025

The second meeting of the chairpersons of defence and security committees of the parliaments of the member states of the Parliamentary Assembly of Turkic States (TurkPA) is currently being held at the Parliament of Azerbaijan, Trend reports. The session is focused on the theme "Strengthening Cooperation in the Field of Security and Defence Among Turkic States: The Role of Parliaments." The event participants include Hulusi Akar, former Minister of Defence of Türkiye and current Chairman of the National Defence Committee of the Turkish Parliament; Amangeldy Nugmanov, member of the Committee on International Relations, Defence, and Security of the Senate of the Parliament of Kazakhstan; Eldar

Sulaymanov, Deputy Chairman of the Committee on International Affairs, Defense, Security, and Migration of the Jogorku Kenesh (Parliament) of Kyrgyzstan; Kutbiddin Burkhanov, Chairman of the Senate Committee on Defense and Security of the Oliy Majlis of Uzbekistan; Yasemi Öztürk, Chair of the Committee on Legal, Political Affairs, and Foreign Relations of the Turkish Republic of Northern Cyprus; Mehmet Sureyya Er, Secretary-General of TurkPA; and others. During his speech, Hulusi Akar noted that Azerbaijan's victory in Karabakh is a source of pride for the Turkic world.

<https://en.trend.az/azerbaijan/politics/4031002.html>

Cyprus

Cyprus deploys first H145M multi-role helicopters to replace Russian-made Mi-35Ps

Global Defense News, April 7, 2025

On March 26, 2025, Airbus announced that Cyprus has received the first two of six H145M multi-role helicopters under a contract signed with Airbus Helicopters in June 2022. The delivery was confirmed during a handover ceremony held at the Andreas Papandreu Air Base in Paphos. The remaining four helicopters are scheduled to be delivered by the end of 2025. The new aircraft will replace the 11 Russian-made Mi-35P helicopters previously operated by the Cypriot National Guard and transferred to Serbia in November 2023. The contract includes an initial batch of six helicopters and an option

for six additional units. While the option remains unconfirmed, the possible acquisition of the second batch would restore the National Guard's helicopter fleet to a comparable size to that maintained with the Mi-35Ps, reduced to 11 after the loss of one aircraft in 2006. The €53 million contract approved by the Cypriot Parliamentary Defence Committee includes technical support and spare parts. Open sources indicate that the full value of the agreement, including ammunition, may total €140 million, with payments extending until 2026.

<https://www.armyrecognition.com/news/aerospace-news/2025/cyprus-deploys-first-h145m-multi-role-helicopters-to-replace-russian-made-mi-35ps>

Iran

How US policy could push Iran towards nuclear weapons

Reza Asadian

Middle East Monitor, April 1, 2025

The United States has once again escalated its threats of military action against Iran and its nuclear programme. Recent reports indicate an increased concentration of US fighter jets and refuelling aircraft in the region, signalling a policy of brinkmanship aimed at forcing Iran into submission. However, this strategy carries a serious risk: instead of coercing Iran into abandoning its nuclear ambitions, it could push Tehran towards developing nuclear weapons as a viable deterrent against US threats. For years, the Islamic Republic has insisted that it does not seek nuclear weapons, with Supreme Leader Ayatollah

Khamenei even issuing a religious decree (fatwa) against their use. Yet, as external pressure has intensified, Iranian officials have hinted increasingly at reconsidering this stance. The latest — and perhaps most striking — statement came from Ali Larijani, the former Speaker of Iran's Parliament and special envoy to the Supreme Leader, who warned that if the US or Israel attacks Iran's nuclear facilities, Tehran would have no choice but to pursue nuclear arms. More significantly, he framed it as a demand of the Iranian people, arguing that national security concerns would force the government's hand. While Iranian leaders have long dismissed nuclear weapons as being incompatible with their strategic doctrine, there has been a gradual but clear rhetorical shift in recent years.

<https://www.middleeastmonitor.com/20250401-how-us-policy-could-push-iran-towards-nuclear-weapons/>

Iran faces internal debate over building nuclear weapons

Maryam Sinaiee

Iran International, April 3, 2025

Remarks by a senior adviser to Iran's Supreme Leader warning of Iran being pushed to produce nuclear weapons by US threats have sparked intense debate in Iran. In a televised interview on Monday, Ali Larijani suggested that if Iran were attacked and public demand for nuclear weapons emerged, even the Supreme Leader's religious decree (fatwa) against weapons of mass destruction could be reconsidered. Nonetheless, he insisted that Iran is not pursuing nuclear arms and remains committed to cooperating with the

International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA). Khamenei's ruling was presented by Iranian officials at the International Conference on Nuclear Disarmament in April 2010. But such religious decrees could be altered or overturned given the 'requirement of time and place' as many historical instances prove. Many hardliners and ultra-hardliners in Tehran—typically staunch critics of the moderate conservative Larijani—have embraced his remarks on social media. "Had any other political figure raised the possibility of the Islamic Republic moving toward nuclear weapons, they would have been accused of warmongering or bluffing. Dr. Larijani's decision to bring it up was a wise move and a timely act of sacrifice," wrote Vahid Yaminpour, a prominent ultra-hardliner and former state television executive, on X.

<https://www.iranintl.com/en/202504026247>

Iran deploys Electronic Warfare Systems in Persian Gulf and Strait of Hormuz to disrupt U.S. stealth Aircraft

Global Defence News, April 6, 2025

Tensions in the Middle East are intensifying as Iran has launched a concerted electronic warfare campaign across the Persian Gulf and the Strait of Hormuz, targeting U.S. military aircraft and maritime operations with aggressive GPS and communications jamming. The move signals a growing willingness by Tehran to confront American forces not only through proxy engagements but also via direct technological confrontation in one of the most strategically vital regions of the world. According to U.S. defence and intelligence officials, Iran has activated

ground-based jamming systems capable of interfering with satellite navigation and disrupting communication links between airborne platforms and command centers. This activity is already impacting U.S. Air Force surveillance aircraft, including RC-135 Rivet Joint signals intelligence planes, E-8C Joint STARS ground surveillance platforms, and MQ-9 Reaper drones, all of which rely heavily on uninterrupted GPS signals and secure datalinks to operate effectively in contested airspace.

<https://armyrecognition.com/news/army-news/2025/breaking-news-iran-deploys-electronic-warfare-systems-in-persian-gulf-and-strait-of-hormuz-to-disrupt-u-s-stealth-aircraft>

Is a nuclear weapon a serious option for Iran?

Hassan AL-Mustafa

Arab News, April 6, 2025

The deadline set last week by US President Donald Trump for the Iranian government to engage in negotiations with Washington regarding its nuclear program, as well as related issues such as its ballistic missile program and Tehran's influence and alliances in the Middle East, seems to have exerted pressure on the Iranian political leadership and even on the elites surrounding Supreme Leader Ali Khamenei. Iran submitted its response to Trump's message through Omani mediators, who conveyed it to the White House. The Iranian foreign minister stated that responding through the sultanate is a natural course of action, given the trust that Iranians place in Omani leadership and the

experience Muscat has gained as a mediator over many years. Furthermore, the Iranian leadership believes that any future discussions between the two countries will prominently involve Oman, especially since Iran continues to reject direct negotiations and prefers discussions to be conducted through intermediaries. In parallel with this development, it is worth noting the remarks made by former Iranian parliament speaker Ali Larijani, who was appointed as an adviser by Khamenei.

<https://www.arabnews.com/node/2596113>

Iran has no nuclear weapons: IAEA chief

Mehr News, April 6, 2025

Iran has no nuclear arms, said the Head of International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA) while claiming that Iran has the necessary pieces of a puzzle to achieve the weapon. Rafael Grossi claimed in an interview with an Argentinian TV that the IAEA's estimate suggests Iran currently possesses enough enriched uranium to potentially produce six or seven weapons, but he stressed that Iran has no nukes, IranPress reported. The equivocal words uttered by the IAEA head may just intensify the tensions in the political sphere of the world and the US's warmongering rhetorics against Iran. Iran has, time and again, given the IAEA inspectors full access to its nuclear facilities to ensure that no nuclear bomb is produced in the country. The IAEA's claims are repeated as its West-led reports fuel the US pretext to destabilise the West Asian region.

<https://en.mehrnews.com/news/230206/Iran-has-no-nuclear-weapons-IAEA-chief>

Tehran sceptical ahead of upcoming US-Iran nuclear talks

Al-Jazeera, April 8, 2025

Iran is approaching talks in Oman with the United States over its nuclear programme with deep suspicions regarding Washington's motives, following the latter's repeated threats of military action in the lead-up to the meeting. US President Donald Trump announced this week that his administration would have "direct" talks with Tehran on Saturday. But his warning that Iran would be in "great danger" if talks failed comes after recent threats to bomb the country. While Iranian Foreign Minister Abbas Araghchi demonstrated Tehran's willingness to engage, insisting amid the threats that the talks would nevertheless be "indirect", he issued a note of warning, saying "Iran prefers diplomacy, but it knows how to defend itself". In an opinion piece published in the Washington Post, Araghchi alluded to "a significant wall of mistrust" and "doubts about the sincerity of intentions" exacerbated by the US's revival of its "maximum pressure" campaign in the run-up to talks. Behind the scenes, three Iranian officials told news agency Reuters that Trump's warnings were seen as a tactic "to box the Islamic Republic into accepting concessions in the talks Trump demands or face air strikes".

<https://www.aljazeera.com/news/2025/4/8/tehran-sceptical-ahead-of-upcoming-us-iran-nuclear-talks-in-oman>

Iran highlights six key achievements in National Nuclear Technology

News.Az, April 9, 2025

Iran celebrated National Nuclear Technology Day by unveiling six new advancements in the field of nuclear technology. In a ceremony attended by Iranian President Masoud Pezeshkian and Head of the Atomic Energy Organisation of Iran Mohammad Eslami, six major homegrown achievements in the nuclear industry were unveiled on April 9, News.Az reports citing Iranian media. After touring an exhibition of the nuclear industry, President Pezeshkian was briefed by the experts and specialists on the latest developments and measures in the nuclear sectors. The exhibition, divided into three sections, displayed the latest achievements of the Iranian scientists, including those in the nuclear fuel cycle, energy and electricity, heavy water production and its derivatives, radiopharmaceuticals, and plasma technology. The first section was dedicated to the fuel cycle and its different parts, including airborne geophysics, exploration projects at uranium mines, yellow cake production, uranium processing, as well as enrichment processes, the president's official website reported. The second section introduced projects related to nuclear power plants. The projects include those on the construction of the second and third units of the Bushehr Nuclear Facility, the construction of Karoun Nuclear Power Plant, localisation of the production of

research and power reactors, as well as designing and production of the spare parts for Bushehr Nuclear Plant.

<https://news.az/news/iran-highlights-six-key-achievements-in-national-nuclear-technology>

Iran unveils new nuclear achievements

Mehr News Agency, April 9, 2025

Iran showcased its new nuclear achievements by holding an exhibition at the Atomic Energy Organisation of Iran (AEOI) headquarters on National Nuclear Technology Day. The exhibition is structured into three main sections: Nuclear fuel cycle overview: This section includes booths focused on different sectors, including airborne geophysics, uranium mining exploration and operations, yellowcake production, uranium processing, and uranium enrichment processes. Energy sector: Dedicated to nuclear power plant projects, this area covers the progress of Units 2 and 3 at the Bushehr Nuclear Power Plant, updates on the construction of the Karun Nuclear Power Plant, the indigenisation of power and research reactors, and the design and production of spare parts for the Bushehr plant. Applications of nuclear technology: This section presents a wide collection of technologies and products, including heavy water and deuterium compound production, radiopharmaceuticals, nuclear measurement equipment, plasma technology, radiation applications in medicine and agriculture, etc.

<https://en.mehrnews.com/news/230370/Iran-unveils-new-nuclear-achievements>

Iran is at an unprecedented crossroads over its nuclear program

Alex Plitsas

Atlantic Council, April 10, 2025

The Middle East is experiencing a rare realignment that puts Iran in an unprecedentedly vulnerable position. The convergence of US military and advanced weapons systems deployments, public sentiment in the United States and Israel, the weakening of Iran's regional proxies, the dismantling of its S-300 air defence network, and US President Donald Trump's explicit time-bound ultimatum on a nuclear deal. With these cards in the deck, Iranian defiance in US negotiations could prove to be a catastrophic gamble for the regime in Tehran. Trump's demand for a negotiated settlement comes with a fast-approaching deadline reportedly set for mid-May 2025, with a secondary time limit set for mid-August, tied to the expiration of the 2015 nuclear deal's provisions. This ticking clock is no bluff. It aligns with a political and military strategy that maximises US leverage. The Trump administration has synchronised its "maximum pressure" campaign—reimposing sanctions and targeting Iran's oil exports—with a military posture that leaves no room for misinterpretation. Unlike his first term, where maximum pressure failed to bring Iran to the table, the current context is different: Iran's economy is reeling, its proxies are broken, and its defences are compromised. The stars have aligned in a way they haven't before, giving Trump and Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu

both the will and the means to act decisively if Iran refuses.

<https://www.atlanticcouncil.org/blogs/menasource/unprecedented-crossroads-irans-nuclear-program-and-trumps-deal/>

What are Iran's Nuclear and Missile capabilities?

Jonathan Masters, Will Merrow, and Mariel Ferragamo

Council on Foreign Relations, April 11, 2025

International scrutiny of Iran's nuclear and missile programs intensified in late 2024 following a historic exchange of direct military strikes between Iran and Israel, as well as the election of Donald Trump as U.S. president. The prior Trump administration notably pulled the United States from the 2015 Iran nuclear agreement and imposed a severe sanctions regime. Now, a second Trump administration has agreed to resume talks with Tehran for the first time since it withdrew from the accord seven years ago. Iran does not yet have a nuclear weapon, but it has a long history of engaging in secret nuclear weapons research in violation of its international commitments. Western analysts say the country has the knowledge and infrastructure to produce a nuclear weapon in fairly short order should its leaders decide to do so. The United States, Israel, and other Middle Eastern partners regard Iran as a primary threat to their interests in the region, and view its potential acquisition of nuclear weapons as

a game-changing scenario to be steadfastly prevented—by force if necessary.

<https://www.cfr.org/article/what-are-irans-nuclear-and-missile-capabilities>

Iran produces 900 defence systems: Ministry

Mehr News Agency, April 12, 2025

Iran's defence industry has developed over 900 defence and weapons systems, marking a significant leap from pre-revolution capabilities, according to the Ministry of Defence. Iran's armed forces are equipped with the most advanced defence and drone technologies, the spokesperson for the defence ministry said. "Our defence industry has reached a point where over 900 types of defence and weapon systems are now produced domestically," he added. Before the Islamic Revolution, Iran possessed only 31 basic defence tools, he continued, adding that today, thanks to the support of Iranian youth and universities, the country have achieved this level of defensive power, and its scientific rank has risen 40 places globally, now standing at 16.

<https://en.mehrnews.com/news/230452/Iran-produces-900-defense-systems-Ministry>

Iran says talks with US to focus solely on nuclear issue, lifting sanctions

The Economic Times, April 13, 2025

Iran's foreign ministry said Sunday that talks with the United States slated for next weekend will remain "indirect" with Omani mediation, and focused solely on the

nuclear issue and lifting of sanctions. The day Pakistan got the power to poke India. Iranian Foreign Minister Abbas Araghchi and US Middle East envoy Steve Witkoff held talks in Muscat, marking the highest-level Iran-US nuclear negotiations since the collapse of a 2015 accord.

<https://economictimes.indiatimes.com/news/defence/iran-says-talks-with-us-to-focus-solely-on-nuclear-issue-lifting-sanctions/articleshow/120254456.cms?from=mdr>

Trump warns Iran to abandon nuclear ambitions or face consequences

Daily Sabah, April 14, 2025

President Donald Trump warned that Iran must give up its pursuit of nuclear weapons or face severe consequences, potentially including a military strike on its nuclear facilities. "Of course it does," Trump said when asked if a potential response could include strikes on Iranian nuclear facilities. "I think they're tapping us along," Trump told reporters after U.S. special envoy Steve Witkoff met in Oman with a senior Iranian official. Both Iran and the United States said on Saturday that they held "positive" and "constructive" talks in Oman. A second round is scheduled, and a source briefed on the planning said the meeting was likely to be held in Rome. The source, speaking to Reuters on the condition of anonymity, said the discussions are aimed at exploring what is possible, including a broad framework of what a potential deal would look like. "Iran has to get rid of the concept of a nuclear weapon. They cannot have a nuclear weapon," Trump said. Asked if U.S.

options for a response include a military strike on Tehran's nuclear facilities, Trump said: "Of course it does." Trump said the Iranians need to move fast to avoid a harsh response because "they're fairly close" to developing a nuclear weapon.

<https://www.dailysabah.com/world/mid-east/trump-warns-iran-to-abandon-nuclear-ambitions-or-face-consequences>

US takes constructive position on Iran's nuclear program, Tehran also optimistic – Expert

Manvel Margaryan

Armenpress, April 15, 2025

Expert on Iran affairs, Nver Davtyan believes that the recent meeting between the United States and Iran in Oman, despite the harsh rhetoric preceding the negotiations, reflects a mutual readiness to adopt constructive approaches and seek solutions to contentious issues. In an interview with Armenpress, Davtyan discussed the Iranian-American talks held in Oman and the potential for an agreement on Iran's nuclear program. "Initially, the United States appeared to take an ultimatum-like stance, as demonstrated by a letter it sent to the Iranian side. However, Iran's response indicated that there is, in fact, a common understanding between the parties and a willingness to initiate and advance the negotiation process," he said. He noted that while early statements suggested direct talks, the Omani meeting was held with mediation. "The nature of the negotiations and the use of written communication through the mediation of the Omani Foreign Minister show that,

contrary to earlier statements, the United States is now demonstrating a more constructive approach on the issue of Iran's nuclear program," Davtyan added. He also pointed to several factors contributing to the more constructive atmosphere.

<https://armenpress.am/en/article/1217074>

Iraq

Iraq's high-stakes dilemma hinges on US-Iran talks

Shafaq, April 15, 2025

Iraqis are anxiously watching indirect talks between the US and Iran, hoping a breakthrough will unlock critical Iranian gas supplies to power the nation's struggling grid and jumpstart broader economic and trade momentum across the region. Focus now shifts to the second round of US–Iran talks which is set to unfold after negotiators wrapped up a reportedly positive first round in Muscat, Oman. The talks sparked optimism from Dakhil Radi, a member of Iraq's Parliamentary Committee on Electricity and Energy, who told Shafaq News Agency that a deal could boost security, strengthen the economy, and pave the way for lasting regional peace. Radi stressed that Iraq's gas and electricity deal with Iran is still active, dismissing sanctions as “media talk.” But if penalties tighten, he said Iraq is ready—moving to diversify energy sources, ramp up solar investments, and tap into Qatar's floating gas platform. Financial expert Mustafa Hantoush echoed the sentiment, saying that easing tensions between Tehran and Washington would give Iraq a lift—boosting trade and securing vital gas

imports as the country races to finish its own energy infrastructure.

<https://shafaq.com/en/Report/Iraq-s-high-stakes-dilemma-hinges-on-US-Iran-talks>

Israel

THAAD arrives in Israel: US bolsters defence against ballistic missile threats

Dr. Itay Gal

The Jerusalem Post, April 6, 2025

A US Air Force Galaxy cargo plane has landed at an Israel Air Force base, delivering THAAD (Terminal High Altitude Area Defence) air defence batteries, Israeli and Arab. The latest deployment of the system, likely coordinated with Israel's security forces, comes amid rising tensions along Israel's borders and the possibility of a large-scale conflict, including ballistic missile attacks on Israel. THAAD is designed to intercept short and medium-range ballistic missiles during their final flight stages. Unlike Israel's Arrow system, which relies on a warhead to detonate near the incoming missile to destroy it, THAAD uses "Hit to Kill" technology. This means interception occurs through direct impact, without the use of a warhead. The collision happens at extremely high speeds, generating immense kinetic energy that completely destroys the missile's warhead. The system features a powerful radar, the AN/TPY-2, operating on X-band technology, capable of detecting missile launches at early stages.

<https://www.jpost.com/israel-news/article-849110>

IAI successfully tests Barak missile system in India

The Jerusalem Post, April 7, 2025

Israel Aerospace Industries (IAI) announced the successful completion of a series of tests on the Barak medium-range surface-to-air missile (MRSAM) system in India. IAI reported that four operational interceptions were successfully carried out against aerial targets traveling at various speeds at challenging altitudes and ranges. The missiles successfully intercepted their targets, achieving direct hits and neutralising the threats, demonstrating the system's operational capability. The tests, conducted by the Indian Army's ground forces, mark a significant step in the system's development, IAI stated. Their success paves the way for all three branches of India's armed forces to declare the system operationally ready. The MRSAM system has already completed several proof-of-concept trials. It is being gradually integrated into the Indian Navy and Air Force and has now passed acceptance trials with the Indian Army. IAI President and CEO Boaz Levy commented: "The Barak System provides advanced and innovative defence against a wide range of air and missile threats. The success of these tests strengthens the technological cooperation between our countries and reflects our partnership with the Indian Ministry of Defence, as well as with industries in both Israel and India." In March 2024, IAI announced the establishment of Aerospace Service India (ASI), a new aerospace defence company in India, as previously

reported by the Jerusalem Post. ASI serves as the original equipment manufacturer's technical representative for India's MRSAM system.

<https://www.jpost.com/israel-news/article-849220>

Netanyahu: Iran can agree to US nuclear deal, but under one condition

The Jerusalem Post, April 8, 2025

Following his meeting with US President Donald Trump, Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu that Iran "must not have nuclear weapons," adding that this could be achieved by two routes: diplomatically or militarily. He added that the deal would only be acceptable if it were similar to the one with Libya: "We go in, blow up the facilities, and dismantle all the equipment, under American supervision and execution. That's the ideal scenario." "The second option, which we don't want, is that they'll simply drag out the negotiations, and in that case, the military option becomes the only choice." However, Iran would be allowed to maintain a civilian nuclear program for electricity generation, such as the Bushehr reactor, even if it must completely dismantle its current nuclear program, including the facilities housing centrifuges and enabling uranium enrichment. A source familiar with the details of the discussions told The Jerusalem Post: "Trump said Iran will not have nuclear weapons. Military nuclear facilities, no; civilian nuclear, yes."

<https://www.jpost.com/breaking-news/article-849375>

Netanyahu discusses preventing nuclear Iran, Gaza displacement plan with Trump: Report

Zein Khali and Mohammad Sio

Anadolu Agency, April 9, 2025

Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu said that he and US President Donald Trump agreed to prevent Iran from acquiring nuclear weapons and also discussed a US plan to move Palestinians from Gaza. The statement came in a televised address from Washington, DC wrapping up a visit where Netanyahu met with Trump, whose administration has fully backed Israel's genocide in Gaza since Oct. 7, 2023. Netanyahu said their talks focused on Iran's nuclear program as a top priority. The US, Israel and other nations accuse Tehran of pursuing nuclear weapons, though Iran insists that its program is peaceful and aimed at generating electricity. Israel, the region's sole nuclear-armed state, maintains an arsenal outside international oversight and has occupied Arab lands in Palestine, Syria and Lebanon for decades. "We agree that Iran will not have nuclear weapons," Netanyahu said, according to Israel's Yedioth Ahronoth newspaper. He advocated a Libyan-style deal where US-led forces would "enter Iran, demolish facilities and dismantle all equipment" under supervision—echoing Libya's 2003 disarmament under leader Muammar Gaddafi verified by international inspectors.

<https://www.aa.com.tr/en/middle-east/netanyahu-discusses-preventing-nuclear-iran-gaza-displacement-plan-with-trump-report/3532193>

Israeli-Indian missile ready for Indian military use after completing tests

The Defense Post, April 10, 2025

The Indian Army has successfully conducted a series of acceptance tests for the Barak-8 missile, marking its operational readiness for deployment across the Indian armed forces. The medium-range surface-to-air missile (MRSAM) had already been integrated into the Indian Navy and Air Force following earlier proof-of-concept trials. During the tests, the Barak-8 system achieved direct hits and intercepted four aerial threats moving at various speeds, altitudes, and ranges. Co-developed by Israel Aerospace Industries (IAI) and India's Defence Research and Development Organisation (DRDO), the Barak-8 system is manufactured by Bharat Dynamics Limited along with other domestic defence firms in India. "The Barak System provides advanced and innovative defence against a wide range of air and missile threats. The success of these tests strengthens the technological cooperation between our countries and reflects our partnership with the Indian Ministry of Defence, as well as with industries in both Israel and India," said IAI President and CEO Boaz Levy. India's Ministry of Defence procured the Barak-8 MRSAM under a \$1.6-billion deal in 2017, followed by a \$777-million order for its long-range variant in 2018.

<https://thedefensepost.com/2025/04/10/barak8-missile-indian-armed-forces/>

Israeli military tested Australian-designed weapon system ahead of potential purchase: Report

Anadolu Agency, April 11, 2025

The Israeli military has tested an Australian-designed weapon system ahead of a potential purchase despite Canberra's repeated denial that it is sending weapons to Israel. Israel has completed trials of a remote weapon system designed by Canberra-based defence supplier Electro Optic Systems (EOS), according to ABC News. Australia-made components were first sent to an EOS entity in the US for assembly and then sent to Israel without an Australian export approval, it said. The remote weapon system was one of dozens of counter-drone technologies tested by the Israeli army earlier this year, according to the report. However, Prime Minister Anthony Albanese said that his country would not sell arms to Israel. "I am aware of this report that you refer to. We looked into this matter, and the company has confirmed with the Department of Defence that the particular system was not exported from Australia," he told ABC. Last year, Albanese also said his government does not provide weapons to Israel after intense pressure from local communities over Australia's role in Israel's war on Gaza.

<https://www.aa.com.tr/en/middle-east/israeli-military-tested-australian-designed-weapon-system-ahead-of-potential-purchase-report/3534642#:~:text=Israel%20has%20completed%20trials%20of,Australian%20export%20approval%2C%20it%20said.>

US briefs 'concerned' Israel over direct nuclear talks with Iran

The New Arab, April 14, 2025

The US has informed Israel of its negotiations with Iran over the country's nuclear programme that took place in Oman, while another round is set to take place in the Italian capital, Rome, amid Tel Aviv's concern. According to the Hebrew-language Walla news site, a senior Israeli official and a source familiar with the details - both unnamed - reported that White House envoy to the Middle East, Steve Witkoff, spoke by phone on Sunday with Israeli Minister of Strategic Affairs Ron Dermer and briefed him on the talks with Iran. American officials expressed the White House's satisfaction with the outcome of the first round of talks with Iran, indicating that the discussions proceeded according to plan and achieved the desired result: transitioning from indirect talks to direct dialogue with the Iranians. The Trump administration's negotiators stated that the US wants to see whether the Iranians will soon agree to take steps that demonstrate a move away from nuclear weapons. A knowledgeable source said one such step might be reducing Iran's stockpile of enriched uranium to 60 percent, which could be sufficient to make six nuclear bombs.

<https://www.newarab.com/news/us-briefs-concerned-israel-over-direct-nuclear-talks-iran>

Jordan

South Korea and Jordan unite for uranium resource development

Jung Suk-yeon

Business Korea, April 9, 2025

Last month, Korea Hydro & Nuclear Power (KHNP) took a significant step in advancing international cooperation on uranium resource utilisation by signing a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) with the Royal Scientific Society (RSS), Jordan's largest applied research institution. This agreement, signed on April 8 (local time), aims to strengthen collaboration between South Korea and Jordan in exploring and utilising uranium resources, particularly focusing on securing basic data for quality management of Jordan's drinking water and uranium resource utilisation. The joint investigation under this MOU will delve into the concentration and distribution of radioactive nuclides, such as uranium, in Jordan's seawater and groundwater. With an estimated 62 thousand tons of uranium deposits in Jordan, this collaboration holds promise for both countries to enhance their capabilities in efficiently extracting uranium dissolved in water resources. KHNP is already pursuing overseas cooperation for the joint discovery of high-concentration uranium water resources, having recently agreed to cooperate with Kazakhstan, the world's largest uranium producer. Shin Ho-chul, President of KHNP Central Research Institute, expressed optimism about the partnership with RSS. He stated, "Based on this cooperation with RSS, we expect to expand into national-level technical

cooperation and joint research with Jordan in the future."

<https://www.businesskorea.co.kr/news/articleView.html?idxno=239456>

Kuwait

Saudi, UAE, Qatar, Kuwait ban US warplanes for strikes

Press TV, April 2, 2025

Saudi Arabia and other Persian Gulf states have imposed a ban on US warplanes using their air fields or skies for strikes which have seen a significant rise targeting Yemen in recent weeks, a report says. The US has been moving warplanes and cargo to Jordan and Persian Gulf states at the highest level since the October 7, 2023 operation inside southern Israeli settlements by Hamas. The number of US military cargo flights to the region has reportedly surged by 50 percent compared to previous highs. In response to the Persian Gulf states' ban, the US has amassed B-2 bombers used in recent bombings of Yemen at Diego Garcia base in the Indian Ocean. Last week, the Ansarullah movement warned of attacks on Abu Dhabi and Dubai if the UAE's "reckless actions" through collaboration with the US in attacks on Yemen persisted. Saudi Arabia, the UAE, Qatar and Kuwait are especially worried by US President Donald Trump's belligerent rhetoric against Iran recently, threatening "bombing the likes of which they (Iranians) have never seen before".

<https://www.presstv.ir/Detail/2025/04/02/745444/US-military-warplanes-Diego-Garcia-Persian-Gulf-countries-launchpad->

GCC launches digital platform to tackle nuclear risks

Joydeep

Zawya, April 8, 2025

The Gulf Cooperation Council (GCC), in collaboration with the European Union, formally launched a regional platform designed to detect and respond to radiological and nuclear threats at an early stage. The Radiological Data Exchange Platform (RDEP) was unveiled at a high-level meeting at the GCC General Secretariat headquarters in Riyadh, attended by Jasem Mohamed al Budaiwi, Secretary General of the GCC, and Christophe Farnaud, Ambassador of the European Union to Saudi Arabia, Bahrain and Oman. In his address, Budaiwi described the project as a major step towards strengthening the region's capacity to address nuclear and radiological emergencies. "We are reaping the fruits of continuous and unique work through the RDEP project, which aims to mitigate the impacts of radiological and nuclear disasters in the GCC region," he said. The Secretary General explained that RDEP facilitates the exchange of radiological data from monitoring devices in the GCC countries and the European Union's Joint Research Centre. This allows for real-time monitoring of incidents, advanced simulation analysis and the timely provision of technical recommendations to decision-makers.

<https://www.zawya.com/en/economy/gcc/gcc-launches-digital-platform-to-tackle-nuclear-risks-q7un0pfl>

Lebanon

Lebanon's tightrope walk: The future of Hezbollah's weapons

Malek Jadah

The New Arab, April 14, 2025

Since the formation of a new Lebanese government in February, more than two months after the beginning of the ceasefire with Israel, the international community, and especially the United States, has been increasingly calling on the new cabinet to focus on disarming Hezbollah. However, even though most of Hezbollah's military sites south of the Litani River in Southern Lebanon have been placed under the control of the Lebanese army, Hezbollah still possesses arms, especially north of the river. Although the group has recently been showing some openness in discussing its arms, this does not necessarily mean that it is willing to hand over its entire arsenal anytime soon. Meanwhile, the Lebanese authorities have insisted on disarming Hezbollah. Elected in January, Lebanese President Joseph Aoun said in his inaugural speech that he would work to ensure the state's right to hold a monopoly on weapons. Moreover, the Lebanese government, led by Prime Minister Nawaf Salam, omitted the term "armed resistance" from its ministerial statement for the first time in two decades. Last month, Salam even said that the "page has been turned regarding Hezbollah's arms after the ministerial declaration".

<https://www.newarab.com/analysis/lebanon-tightrope-walk-future-hezbollahs-weapons>

Nuclear Deal or Not, Hezbollah Must Disarm

Hussain Abdul-Hussain

Foundation for Defense of Democracies,
April 15, 2025

The Shia of Lebanon who pledge allegiance to Iranian Supreme Leader Ali Khamenei should ask themselves these questions: Why do they boycott American products when Khamenei invites Americans to invest in Iran and promises Washington \$4 billion in contracts? Why do these Shia have to live in tents, erected atop their razed homes, and not surrender Hezbollah's arms in return for reconstruction money? Why does Khamenei concede on his nuclear program while Hezbollah fights for a worthless sliver of border territory disputed with Israel? The answer to all these questions is one: Since 1979, Islamist Iran has been using the Shia in Arab countries as fuel for the massive bonfire it has lit to blackmail the world. Iran solicits the highest international bidder to extinguish or contain the flames—until it needs to light the fire again. Pro-Iran Shia of Lebanon should wake up and smell the coffee. There will be no global Shia Islamist republic. There will be no liberation of Palestine. There will be no salvation. It is what it is. Every nation is fighting for its own survival and interests. It is high time the Shia realise that cash and arms from Iran are short-term gains that come at a high cost—in blood and treasure. Nothing, absolutely nothing, justifies the death of over 5,000 of the best and brightest Shia men in the war that Hezbollah started with Israel. Jerusalem is not Lebanese, and the road to it should not

be lined with Lebanese Shia blood. Shia voices should rise up and say: enough is enough.

https://www.fdd.org/analysis/op_ed/2025/04/15/nuclear-deal-or-not-hezbollah-must-disarm/

Oman

Indra signs contract to supply long-range 3D radars to the Royal Air Force of Oman

Defence Industry Europe, April 14, 2025

The Royal Air Force (RAF) is operating Indra's long-range transportable Lanza 3D radar (LTR-25) as an integral part of the surveillance of the United Kingdom's airspace. As part of the RAF's Global Enablement Team, it is as an asset that is prepared to be rapidly deployed anywhere in the world. The Royal Air Force of Oman (RAFO) will be equipped with new long-range Lanza 3D early warning radars under a recently signed contract with Spanish technology company Indra. The agreement was formalised at Indra's headquarters by H.E. Dr. Mohamed Bin Nasser Al-Zaabi, Secretary General of Oman's Ministry of Defence, and Ángel Escribano, Chairman of Indra Group. The contract includes the design, delivery and installation of fixed-site Lanza 3D-LRR radars, along with radio voice communication systems. It also covers integration with the existing command and control infrastructure previously delivered by Indra. As part of the project, the Royal Air Force of Oman will enhance its internal capability to perform third-level radar maintenance. This reinforces the operational independence

and long-term sustainability of its air surveillance network.

<https://defence-industry.eu/indra-signs-contract-to-supply-long-range-3d-radars-to-the-royal-air-force-of-oman/>

Next round of nuclear talks in Oman, says Iran after officials name Rome

Business Standard, April 15, 2025

The talks between Iran and the United States over Tehran's rapidly advancing nuclear program had appeared ready to leave the Middle East, as an Italian source and others said the next round of negotiations would take place in Rome. However, Iran insisted they'd again be held in Oman. It wasn't immediately clear where the negotiations would be held after Tehran's overnight announcement. American officials have not said where the talks would be held. President Donald Trump separately complained about the pace of nuclear talks between the United States and Iran as the two countries start a new round of pivotal negotiations. I think they're tapping us along, he said in the Oval Office during a meeting with El Salvador's president. The next meeting had been expected to take place on Saturday in Rome, according to a source in the Italian government who spoke on condition of anonymity to The Associated Press because they weren't authorised to speak publicly. Italian Foreign Minister Antonio Tajani also signalled the talks would take place there.

<https://www.business-standard.com/world-news/next-round-of-nuclear-talks-in->

[oman-says-iran-after-officials-name-rome-125041500087_1.html](https://www.business-standard.com/world-news/next-round-of-nuclear-talks-in-oman-says-iran-after-officials-name-rome-125041500087_1.html)

Qatar

Cyber First Qatar returns with second edition to advance national cybersecurity strategy and Vision 2030

Zawya, April 15, 2025

Cyber First Qatar is set to return for its second edition on April 16, 2025, at the Grand Hyatt Doha, bringing together over 300 cybersecurity decision-makers, innovators, and policymakers to shape the future of Qatar's digital security landscape in alignment with the country's National Cybersecurity Strategy 2024–2030 and Qatar National Vision 2030. Organised by Events First Group, the summit arrives at a crucial moment as Qatar intensifies efforts to safeguard its digital future amid accelerating technological adoption. Recent figures show that 18% of Qatari businesses experienced cybersecurity breaches in 2023, underscoring the urgent need for robust cyber defences. The country's cybersecurity market, valued at over USD 1 billion in 2022, is projected to grow to USD 1.6 billion by 2026, a clear indicator of the sector's strategic importance. Cyber First Qatar 2025 will feature an action-packed agenda spanning keynote presentations, expert panel discussions, and technology showcases. Topics will address the most pressing challenges and opportunities across AI-driven cyber defence, cloud security, Zero Trust architecture, ICS/OT protection, and workforce development. A special highlight will be the Cybersecurity

Innovation Awards, recognising exceptional leadership and achievements within the sector.

<https://www.zawya.com/en/press-release/companies-news/cyber-first-qatar-returns-with-second-edition-to-advance-national-cybersecurity-strategy-and-vision-2030-k0djyh8>

Saudi Arabia

Saudi Arabia, US on 'pathway' to civil nuclear agreement, US Energy Secretary says

Zawya, April 11, 2025

The United States and Saudi Arabia will sign a preliminary agreement to cooperate over the kingdom's ambitions to develop a civil nuclear industry, U.S. Energy Secretary Chris Wright told reporters in the Saudi capital Riyadh. Wright, who had met with Saudi Energy Minister Prince Abdulaziz bin Salman, said Riyadh and Washington were on a "a pathway" to reaching an agreement to work together to develop a Saudi civil nuclear programme. Wright, on his first visit to the kingdom as secretary as part of tour of energy-producing Gulf states, said further details over a memorandum detailing the energy cooperation between Riyadh and Washington would come later this year. "For a U.S. partnership and involvement in nuclear here, there will definitely be a 123 agreement ... there's lots of ways to structure a deal that will accomplish both the Saudi objectives and the American objectives," he said. A so-called 123 agreement with Riyadh refers to Section

123 of the U.S. Atomic Energy Act of 1954 and is required to permit the U.S. government and American companies to work with entities in the kingdom to develop a civil nuclear industry. Saudi authorities have not agreed to the requirements under the act, Wright said. It specifies nine non-proliferation criteria a state must meet to keep it from using the technology to develop nuclear arms or transfer sensitive materials to others.

<https://www.zawya.com/en/business/energy/saudi-arabia-us-on-pathway-to-civil-nuclear-agreement-us-energy-secretary-says-q0p3qa5c>

Syria

Israeli strikes hit Damascus, central Syria

The New Arab, April 3, 2025

Syrian state media said Israel struck near a defence research centre in Damascus and hit central Syria, as Israel said it struck "military" capabilities and a monitor reported four dead. Israel has launched hundreds of strikes on sites in Syria since Islamist-led forces ousted longtime ruler Bashar al-Assad, saying it wants to prevent weapons from falling into the hands of the new authorities, whom it considers jihadists. "An Israeli occupation aircraft strike targeted the vicinity of the scientific research building" in Damascus's northern Barzeh neighbourhood, Syria's SANA news agency said. It also reported an Israeli raid targeting "the vicinity of the city of Hama" in central Syria, without specifying what was hit. The Israeli military said in a

statement that forces "struck military capabilities that remained at the Syrian bases of Hama and T4, along with additional remaining military infrastructure sites in the area of Damascus". Last month, Israel said it struck the T4 military base in central Homs province twice, targeting military capabilities at the site. The Syrian Observatory for Human Rights monitor said that "four people were killed and others wounded, including Syrian defence ministry personnel, in the strikes on Hama military airport".

<https://www.newarab.com/news/israeli-strikes-hit-damascus-central-syria>

Türkiye

Can Turkish-American co-op lead to deployment of S-400s in Syria?

Basel Haj Jasem

Daily Sabah, April 2, 2025

The military developments that occurred in Syria late last year with the fall of the Assad regime, turned the situation upside down, not only on the Syrian chessboard but also altered alliances and centers of influence. The changes that took place in Damascus led to significant shifts in the regional and international power map. These changes affected not only the nature of the Syrian scene but also the relationships between key actors such as Türkiye, Russia and the United States. Among the many other outcomes of these changes in the Syrian landscape, Syria was removed from the Iran-backed alliance in the region. As a result, Hezbollah became isolated and further weakened since the land corridor

Tehran used to transport weapons through Iraq and Syria to its proxies, particularly in Lebanon, and its reach to the Mediterranean was severed. This had been a justification used by Israel for continuously targeting Syrian territories, but today, that justification no longer exists. Meanwhile, media reports on Türkiye's return to the F-35 program suggest that the U.S. will return F-35 jets to Türkiye and reintegrate the country into the F-35 program, provided that the issue of the Russian S-400 missile system is resolved first.

<https://www.dailysabah.com/opinion/op-ed/can-turkish-american-co-op-lead-to-deployment-of-s-400s-in-syria>

Iran praises Türkiye's stance on nuclear talks with US

Daily Sabah, April 15, 2025

Iran's top diplomat, Abbas Araghchi, hailed what he called Türkiye's "constructive stance" regarding indirect Oman-mediated nuclear talks between Tehran and Washington. Araghchi and his Turkish counterpart Hakan Fidan exchanged views over the phone on the latest developments in bilateral and regional relations, the Iranian Foreign Ministry said in a statement. The two diplomats also discussed the process of indirect negotiations between Tehran and Washington, the statement noted. Araghchi appreciated Türkiye's "constructive stance" regarding the negotiations and informed the top Turkish diplomat on Iran's "principled positions on the matter." Fidan, for his part, welcomed the negotiation process between the two countries and emphasized Türkiye's

readiness to offer any form of support in this regard, the statement said. Tehran said the first round of the talks was held in "a constructive atmosphere based on mutual respect."

<https://www.dailysabah.com/politics/diplomacy/iran-praises-turkiyes-stance-on-nuclear-talks-with-us>

United Arab Emirates

India-UAE to launch Joint Defence Projects amid deepening military ties

Bharat Shakti, April 8, 2025

The two leaders expressed satisfaction with the current momentum in defence ties, particularly through established institutional mechanisms, regular military exercises, and training exchange programmes. They identified several new avenues for collaboration, including defence industrial partnerships, skills development, joint training, and technology transfer. According to a statement from the Government of Dubai Media Office, both sides also discussed launching joint defence projects aimed at enhancing capabilities in line with their shared strategic vision. Geopolitical developments and global security challenges also featured prominently in the talks. Both Ministers emphasised the importance of diplomacy and dialogue in resolving conflicts and highlighted the role of international cooperation in fostering regional stability and long-term development. The Indian Defence Ministry noted that the two leaders acknowledged the need to elevate defence cooperation to match the rapid progress

seen in trade and economic relations, as envisioned by Prime Minister Narendra Modi and UAE President Sheikh Mohamed bin Zayed Al Nahyan.

<https://bharatshakti.in/india-uae-to-launch-joint-defence-projects-amid-deepening-military-ties/>

Why is India offering its air missile to UAE

The Economic Times, April 9, 2025

India offered the indigenous Akash air defence missile system, which can intercept hostile aircraft, helicopters, drones and subsonic cruise missiles at a range of 25-km, to the UAE. The offer was made at the delegation-level meeting between defence minister Rajnath Singh and the visiting Dubai crown prince and UAE deputy PM Sheikh Hamdan bin Mohammed bin Rashid Al Maktoum. While India has already exported BrahMos coastal batteries to the Philippines, Armenia has become the first foreign customer for the Akash, Pinaka and 155mm artillery guns. India and the UAE at the meeting acknowledged that bilateral defence cooperation needs to be scaled up to match the progress made in other areas such as trade and business, in line with "the vision and determination of the two leaders", PM Narendra Modi and UAE President Sheikh Mohamed bin Zayed Al Nahyan. Defence Minister Rajnath Singh held a meeting with the Crown Prince of Dubai and Deputy Prime Minister & Minister of Defence of UAE Sheikh Hamdan bin Mohammed bin Rashid Al Maktoum at South Block, New Delhi on

Tuesday, as per an official statement from the ministry of Defence.

<https://economictimes.indiatimes.com/news/defence/why-is-india-offering-its-air-missile-to-uae/articleshow/120121604.cms?from=mdr>

Yemen

Yemen's Houthi rebels claim they shot down another MQ-9 Reaper drone as US strikes pound country

The Economic Times, April 1, 2025

Yemen's Houthi rebels claimed that they shot down another American MQ-9 Reaper drone, even as the US kept up its campaign of intense airstrikes targeting the group. The reported shootdown over Yemen's contested Marib governate came as airstrikes hit around Sanaa, the country's rebel-held capital, and Saada, a stronghold for the Houthis. US President Donald Trump issued a new warning to both the Houthis and their main benefactor, Iran, describing the group as having "been decimated" by the campaign of strikes that began March 15. "Many of their Fighters and Leaders are no longer with us," Trump wrote on his social media website Truth Social. "We hit them every day and night - Harder and harder. Their capabilities that threaten Shipping and the Region are rapidly being destroyed. Our attacks will continue until they are no longer a threat to Freedom of Navigation." He added: "The choice for the Houthis is clear: Stop shooting at US ships, and we will stop shooting at you. Otherwise, we have only just begun, and the real pain is yet to come,

for both the Houthis and their sponsors in Iran."

<https://economictimes.indiatimes.com/news/defence/yemens-houthi-rebels-claim-they-shot-down-another-mq-9-reaper-drone-as-us-strikes-pound-country/articleshow/119842657.cms?from=mdr>

NUCLEAR AND ARMS CONTROL CENTRE

Sylloge on West Asia is compiled by Ms. Bhawna

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