



MANOHAR PARRIKAR INSTITUTE FOR
DEFENCE STUDIES AND ANALYSES

मनोहर पर्रिकर रक्षा अध्ययन एवं विश्लेषण संस्थान

WEST ASIA DIGEST

Monthly Compilation of News Items from West Asia

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Israel's expanded military operation in Gaza

Israel's security cabinet on 8 August 2025 approved a five-point plan focusing on a military takeover of Gaza City. The objectives include disarming Hamas, rescuing hostages, demilitarising Gaza, asserting Israeli security control and setting up a new civil administration excluding Hamas and the Palestinian Authority. The Israel Defence Forces (IDF) will prepare to seize Gaza City while relocating civilians south and extending operations to refugee camps. A second offensive is expected alongside increased humanitarian aid, though critics warn of mass displacement and violations of international law. The plan faces opposition from hostage families, Israeli opposition leaders and the international community. Egypt has reinforced 40,000 troops, tanks and air defences along the Gaza border, viewing it as a national security threat amid Israel's expansion plans.

Israel signs record US\$ 35 billion Gas export deal with Egypt

Israel's Leviathan natural gas field secured the country's largest-ever export agreement on 7 August 2025, with a deal of US\$ 35 billion to supply gas to Egypt. The long-term contract, running through 2040 or until quantities are fulfilled, covers about 130 billion cubic metres of gas and is expected to ease Egypt's energy crisis, which deepened after its production began falling in 2022. Exports had been briefly halted during a 12-day war with Iran in June 2025 but later resumed. Pipeline gas from Israel, priced significantly lower than imported LNG, could save Egypt billions of dollars and reduce its dependence on costly

imports. The Leviathan expansion, requiring an estimated US\$ 2.4 billion investment, is set to boost output from 2026 and extend supplies to Egypt and other regional partners.

Türkiye-Syria sign military cooperation MoU

A MoU was signed on 13 August 2025 between Türkiye and Syria to further expand the military cooperation between them. The MoU, concluded after meetings between the two countries' foreign and defence ministers and intelligence chiefs, includes provisions for military training, consultancy, weapons systems, logistical support and information sharing. Ankara pledged to assist in restructuring Syria's armed forces, rebuilding institutions and safeguarding territorial integrity following the ouster of President Bashar Al Assad last year. Türkiye also voiced frustration over what it described as the Syrian Democratic Forces' 'provocative and separatist' activities, insisting that Damascus address its security concerns. While Ankara reaffirmed its commitment to the MoU, it warned that it reserved the right to take military action against the SDF if necessary, underscoring its determination to counter threats along the shared border.

Houthis launch cluster bombs towards Israel, faced retaliation

The Houthis on 22 August 2025 launched a ballistic missile with cluster munitions at Israel, the first known use of such a weapon by the group. Israel, confirming the strike, retaliated with extensive airstrikes on Sanaa, hitting military sites, power stations, and missile facilities, killing four and injuring 67 people. On 28 August, Israel

launched a major strike on Sanaa targeting the senior Houthi leadership. In a statement, the Houthis have disclosed that their Prime Minister Ahmed Al Rahawi and several members of his cabinet were killed in the Israeli attack.

Jordan reintroduces conscription

Jordan reintroduced compulsory military service, after ending conscription in 1991, amid regional instability in West Asia. Government spokesman Mohammad Momani announced the National Service Programme, beginning in February with 6,000 18-year-old males, later expanding to 10,000. Recruits will be selected electronically across governorates, with higher quotas for Amman, Zarqa and Irbid. The programme combines military training and theoretical courses on history, economics and culture to instill discipline, teamwork and national identity. Officials emphasise security and economic benefits, linking the programme to employment, national unity and addressing domestic discontent.

Egypt protests Embassy attack in the Netherlands

On 18 August 2025, Egypt's Foreign Minister Badr Abdelatty conveyed strong dissatisfaction to his Dutch counterpart Caspar Veldkamp over a recent attack on the Egyptian embassy in The Hague, demanding enhanced security measures. In a phone call, Abdelatty stressed the Netherlands' obligations under international law to protect diplomatic missions and warned that failure to act could prompt reciprocal measures from Egypt. He described the incident as

“unfortunate” and urged the Dutch side to prevent its recurrence. Veldkamp expressed regret, called the event an “isolated incident,” and confirmed that security authorities would intensify protection of the embassy. He also underlined the strength of bilateral ties, emphasising mutual respect and shared interests between Egypt and the Netherlands.

US-backed disarmament proposal in Lebanon

Lebanon's cabinet on 7 August 2025 endorsed the objectives of a US-backed proposal to disarm Hezbollah by this year end and restrict weapons to state forces, while also demanding Israel halt operations and withdraw from positions in south Lebanon. Prime Minister Nawaf Salam confirmed the move, though no timeline was set. Hezbollah denounced the decision as ‘humiliation,’ insisting on its right to resist under the UN Charter. Hezbollah ministers and allies walked out of the meeting in protest, warning of possible withdrawal from government or a no-confidence motion. The plan, pressed by US envoy Tom Barrack, includes phased Lebanese army deployment and expanded United Nations Interim Force in Lebanon (UNIFIL) presence, replacing Hezbollah fighters north of the Litani River. Iran voiced support for Hezbollah's autonomy in decision-making. Meanwhile, the UNSC has extended the mandate of the UNIFIL for a final time until 31 December 2026 and to start an orderly and safe drawdown and withdrawal from 31 December 2026.