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मनोहर पर्रिकर रक्षा अध्ययन एवं विश्लेषण संस्थान

## Iran

### Iran's Damavand-2 Destroyer to be armed with hypersonic missiles

Tehran Times, July 3, 2023

The Damavand-2 destroyer will soon be armed with a hypersonic missile, Iranian Navy Commander Shahram Irani announced on Monday, a step that he said will greatly bolster Iran's naval power. The advanced Moudge-class warship, the Damavand destroyer, which is entirely Iranian, is an improved version of the Jamaran destroyer. The destroyer was built thanks to the collaboration between Defense Ministry experts, armed forces including the Navy, and knowledge-based industries. It has been effectively incorporated into the active combat unit of the Navy using cutting-edge technology. Notable features of the Damavand destroyer include new radar and missile systems, thrust systems, and advanced weaponry.

<https://www.tehrantimes.com/news/48644/6/Iran-s-Damavand-2-Destroyer-to-be-armed-with-hypersonic-missiles>

### Deputy Commander Underscores Iran's All-Out Defense Progress Amid Sanctions

Fars News Agency, July 4, 2023

Deputy Chief of the Iranian Army for Coordination Rear Admiral Habibollah Sayyari underlined that Tehran has made significant headway in various sectors of its defense program despite Western sanctions, and further said that Iran's Armed Forces, based on potential threats, prepare several scenarios to defend the country against any act of aggression.

“Despite sanctions, Iran has experienced growth in all fields and achieved significant accomplishments through the efforts of Iranian elites and youth,” Rear Admiral Sayyari said on Monday.

“Highly qualified human resources can contribute to the growth and excellence of the organization,” he added.

<https://www.farsnews.ir/en/news/14020413000263/Depy-Cmmander-Underscores-Iran-s-All-O-Defense-Progress-Amid-Sancins>

### Iran Emerging as Hub of Radiopharmaceuticals: Nuclear Chief

Tasnim News Agency, July 4, 2023

In comments at a cultural event on Monday, Eslami highlighted Iran's progress in the development of radiopharmaceuticals for the diagnosis and treatment of diseases, saying the production capacity in this scientific sector could be increased by five to seven times. “Considering the capacities that have been created, Iran will soon emerge as a hub of production and export of radiopharmaceuticals,” he stated. Lauding the AEIOI's strides during the past 16 months in plasma science and technologies, Eslami said local experts have also made great progress in developing radiation technologies used in the medical and agricultural sectors. He also pointed to the production of high-quality heavy water in the country, noting that Iran has gained a strong position in this industry in the world and can export the glut of its heavy water to other countries.

<https://www.tasnimnews.com/en/news/2023/07/04/2920496/iran-emerging-as-hub-of-radiopharmaceuticals-nuclear-chief>

### **Iran produces its 1st nuclear reactor simulator, AEOI chief says**

Islamic Republic News Agency, July 4, 2023

Referring to the production of the first nuclear reactor simulator in the country, Eslami said on Tuesday that the simulator is an effective part of the process and assemblies of a power plant or a nuclear power reactor with a scale of 100 MW of heat that is capable of managing the control room. Iran succeed to manufacture the first nuclear reactor simulator in the country, he said, adding that the simulator is one of the most effective achievements of the experts in the country that is most influential in the field of advanced science and technologies.

From now on AEOI has big projects and power plants in hand, he said, noting that the older generation of the simulators have already handed over to eight universities in the country so they can use them.

<https://en.irna.ir/news/85160054/Iran-produces-its-1st-nuclear-reactor-simulator-AEOI-chief-says>

### **Iran enjoys self-sufficiency in radar system, missile weapons**

Mehr News Agency, July 4, 2023

Commander of the Iranian Army's Air Defense Force has said that Iran's Army enjoys self-sufficiency and optimization of radar systems and missile weapons. Visiting the operational sections of the Khandab air defense group on Tuesday, Brigadier General Alireza Sabahi-Fard evaluated the combat capability and

defense readiness of this group and its subsidiary sites. During his visit, Brigadier General Sabahi-Fard said that today, the defense complex has achieved a level of knowledge, ability, and authority that modern defense systems are domestically designed, produced, and placed in the operational cycle.

<https://en.mehrnews.com/news/202781/Iran-enjoys-self-sufficiency-in-radar-system-missile-weapons>

### **N. Chief: Iran-IAEA Cooperation Merely Limited to NPT, Safeguards**

Fars News Agency, July 5, 2023

Head of the Atomic Energy Organization of Iran (AEOI) Mohammad Eslami once again ruled out rumors about installation of surveillance cameras at a power plant in Central Iran, and underscored that Tehran's coordination with the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA) is in accordance with the Non-Proliferation Treaty (NPT) and the Safeguards Agreement. Speaking to reporters on the sidelines of a weekly cabinet meeting in Tehran on Wednesday, Eslami rejected a claim made by an Iranian lawmaker that the government has violated the Iranian Parliament Strategic Law, underlining that his country is not offering collaboration with the IAEA beyond customary boundaries. Further, the AEOI chief refuted activation of more IAEA monitoring cameras at a site in the Central Iranian province of Isfahan.

<https://www.farsnews.ir/en/news/14020414000536/N-Chief-Iran-IAEA-Cperain-Merely-Limied-NPT-Safegards>

### **Report: Nuclear Reactor Simulator Being Built in Iran**

Israel Defense, July 6, 2023

A nuclear reactor simulator is being built in Iran for the first time, representing a significant technological achievement. This, according to the head of Iran's Atomic Energy Committee, Mohammad Eslami.

Eslami explained that the simulator's role is to monitor and supervise the temperatures within the reactor facility, and it has a thermal power of 100 megawatts. According to Eslami, the simulator is a domestically-produced product in terms of hardware and software and was built without external assistance. The simulator is located at the Nuclear Science Institute.

Global Security reports that the simulator is primarily intended for training, education, and the study of operational teams and scientists, as well as for research purposes for students. In the past, the Atomic Energy Committee had eight older simulators, but they were handed over to universities.

<https://www.israeldefense.co.il/en/node/58797>

### **Comdr: Iran makes MiG-29 electronic warfare simulator operational**

Islamic Republic News Agency, July 9, 2023

Mousavi made the remarks on the sidelines of visiting Shahid Sattari Aeronautical University, southwestern Tehran. The simulator has been successfully tested and finalized by the skilled Iranian pilots and will soon be delivered to the units that have

MiG-29 aircraft, he stated. The electronic warfare system improves the operational capacity of the units and is one of the valuable achievements at Shahid Sattari Aeronautical University, he noted. He went on to say that the electronic warfare simulators of all aircraft, including F-4 and Sukhoi Su-24, were made by researchers and commanders of Shahid Sattari Aeronautical University.

<https://en.irna.ir/news/85164471/Comdr-Iran-makes-MiG-29-electronic-warfare-simulator-operational>

### **Official Underlines Iran's Unique Place in Manufacturing Diagnostic, Therapeutic Radiopharmaceuticals in West Asia**

Fars News Agency, July 12, 2023

Ghannadi said in an interview that Iran ranks first in the region in terms of production of diagnostic and therapeutic radiopharmaceuticals. He added that his country also has a high place in exporting diagnostic and therapeutic radiopharmaceuticals. Diagnostic radiopharmaceuticals are useful in diagnosing a great range of diseases such as brain hemorrhage, various types of cancer, osteoporosis, and cardiac conditions, the official continued. "Each year, at least one million Iranian patients use [these] diagnostic radiopharmaceuticals such as Technetium-99m [which is being produced by the country]...and helps diagnose 85 percent of the [above] diseases," he stated.

<https://www.farsnews.ir/en/news/14020421000268/Official-Underlines-Iran's-Unique-Place-in-Manufacturing-Diagnostic>

## **Iran Not Undertaking Nuclear Weapons Development Activities, Says US Intel**

Israel Defense, July 12, 2023

Iran is not currently undertaking the key nuclear weapons-development activities that would be necessary to produce a testable nuclear device, says the Office of the US Director of National Intelligence in its latest report, titled “Iran’s Nuclear Weapons Capability and Terrorism Monitoring Act 2022.” “Since the assassination of nuclear scientist Mohsen Fakhrizadeh in November 2020, Iran has accelerated the expansion of its nuclear program, stated that it is no longer constrained by any Joint Comprehensive Plan of Action (JCPOA) limits, and undertaken research and development activities that would bring it closer to producing the fissile material needed for completing a nuclear device following a decision to do so,” says the report’s summary.

<https://www.israeldefense.co.il/en/node/58864>

## **Iraq**

### **Saudi Arabia, UAE invest \$6 billion in Iraq operations**

Al-Monitor, July 3, 2023

Saudi Arabia and the United Arab Emirates (UAE) reached an agreement on Sunday to allocate \$6 billion to support investments in Iraq and form business councils. The purpose of the agreement is to improve trade between the countries and invest in projects within Iraq, reported the state-owned Iraq News Agency (INA). What happened: The UAE and Saudi Arabia each

invested \$3 billion for investment and commercial projects in Iraq in an agreement announced Sunday. Abdul al-Razzaq al-Zuhairi, head of the Federation of Iraqi Chambers of Commerce (FICC), stressed the importance of the agreement to get Iraq’s economy back on track.

<https://www.al-monitor.com/originals/2023/07/saudi-arabia-uae-invest-6-billion-iraq-operations>

### **Turkey extends flight ban on Iraqi Kurds’ Sulaimaniyah airport over alleged PKK support**

Al-Monitor, Jul3 3, 2023

Turkey on Monday extended a flight ban to Iraqi Kurdistan’s Sulaimaniyah International Airport for six months, Kurdistan Regional Government (KRG) officials confirmed, in a move that will further squeeze the region’s economy and physically isolate it from the West. The extension was first reported by the Iraqi Kurdish news outlet Rudaw, citing officials from Turkey’s national carrier, Turkish Airlines. The initial ban was announced in April and imposed for three months on the grounds that the airport had become a hub for activities of the outlawed Kurdistan Workers Party (PKK). The Turkish Kurdish group, whose top commanders are based in Iraqi Kurdistan, has been orchestrating its armed campaign against the Turkish military from the Iraq-Iran border since the early 1990s.

<https://www.al-monitor.com/originals/2023/07/turkey-extends-flight-ban-iraqi-kurds-sulaimaniyah-airport-over-alleged-pkk>

### **Iraqi Air Force destroys a den of Daesh terrorist gangs in Diyala: SMC**

Iraqi News Agency, July 6, 2023

The Security Media Cell SMC announced, on Thursday, the destruction of a den of Daesh terrorist gangs in Diyala. SMC said in a statement received by the Iraqi News Agency (INA), "thanks to the great efforts exerted by the security sectors and the accurate intelligence effort and immediate handling of information, the national security service, with the planning and supervision of the targeting cell of the Joint Operations Command, was able to provide the Air Force with accurate information about an important target. It added that " F-16 aircraft carried out an air strike in Al-Abara area in Diyala to target this place, and at 500 O'clock a force from the 21st Federal Police Brigade and national security detachments came out to inspect the place of the strike and found two bodies, two M16 rifles, a pistol, and a hand grenade.

<https://ina.iq/eng/27431-iraqi-air-force-destroys-a-den-of-daesh-terrorist-gangs-in-diyala-smc.html>

### **CTS kills 5 terrorists in Kirkuk**

Iraqi News Agency, July 7, 2023

The Counter -Terrorism Service CTS announced on Friday that 5 terrorists were killed in Kirkuk. CTS said in a statement received by the Iraqi News Agency (INA), that "based on the directives of the commander-in-chief of the Armed Forces, Mohammed Shia al-Sudani, to carry out

preemptive operations and under the supervision of the head of the Counter-Terrorism Service, Lieutenant General Abdul Wahab Al-Saadi, CTS carried out a night AirDrop operation in Kirkuk province, dibs district, towards Al-Tun Bridge, and after sniper ambushes followed by violent clashes that resulted in the death of (5) terrorists from Daesh terrorist gangs.

<https://ina.iq/eng/27450-cts-kills-5-terrorists-in-kirkuk.html>

### **ISIS terrorist leader "Abu Osama al-Muhajir" killed in an air strike in eastern Syria**

Iraqi News Agency, July 9, 2023

US Central Command announced on Sunday, the killing of the leader of ISIS gangs, Abu Osama Al-Muhajir, in eastern Syria. The command said in a statement, followed by the Iraqi News Agency (INA), that "the raid did not result in any civilian deaths," noting that "the raid was carried out two days ago." The statement quoted the commander of the US Central Command, Michael Corella, as saying that "the leadership is still determined to defeat ISIS," adding that "these gangs still pose a threat to the region and the world." "The strike was carried out by the same MQ-9s that, earlier in the day, were harassed by Russian aircraft in a standoff that lasted nearly two hours," the statement said.

<https://ina.iq/eng/27488-isis-terrorist-leader-abu-osama-al-muhajir-killed-in-an-air-strike-in-eastern-syria.html>

### **Fighter aircraft from Pakistan: Iraq fifth country to initiate deal for JF-17**

The News, July 9, 2023

Iraq has become the fifth country that initiated deal for purchasing JF-17 Thunder fighter aircraft from Pakistan and concluded it successfully. Pakistan has been jointly manufacturing the aircraft with China as Islamabad is also set to export its JF-17 Block III aircraft to Malaysia, Nigeria, Azerbaijan, and Myanmar. Sensing the Thunder's might, several countries have shown interest in Pakistan's pride. Earlier, Argentina had also studied the combat aircraft. The sources said the Iraqi government has approved an outlay of \$664 million for the purchase of 12 JF-17 Thunder Block III fighter jets from Pakistan.

<https://www.thenews.com.pk/print/108864-2-fighter-aircraft-from-pakistan-iraq-fifth-country-to-initiate-deal-for-jf-17>

### **Iraq deploys border guards on its borders with Iran**

Iraqi News Agency, July 14, 2023

The Ministry of Interior confirmed the reopening of the 21st Brigade of the Border Guard forces in Sulaymaniyah Governorate on the Iraqi-Iranian zero line, while it revealed the installation of dozens of towers and cameras and a plan to establish border posts there. The Director of Relations and Media in the Ministry, Major General Saad Maan, told the Iraqi News Agency (INA):

"With the guidance of the Commander-in-Chief of the Armed Forces and with the efforts and follow-up of the Minister of Interior, there has been coordination with the Kurdistan Region to reopen the 21st Border Guard Brigade in Sulaymaniyah Governorate on the border with Iran."

<https://ina.iq/eng/27567-iraq-deploys-border-guards-on-its-borders-with-iran.html>

### **Israel**

#### **Israel to Procure Third "Adir" F-35 Squadron**

Israel Defense, July 3, 2023

Israel's Minister of Defense Yoav Gallant has approved the recommendation proposed by the senior defense echelon, to procure a third F-35 squadron for the Israel Defense Forces (IDF). The Ministry of Defense will purchase a total of 25 F-35 aircraft from the American government, which will be manufactured by Lockheed Martin. This acquisition will expand the world's most advanced stealth aircraft fleet operated by the Israeli Air Force to 75 aircraft. Following the Minister of Defense's approval, the IMOD Mission to the USA will issue an official letter of request (LOR) to the F-35 Lightning II Joint Program Office (JPO). This step will facilitate the approval and signing of the transaction in the coming months.

<https://www.israeldefense.co.il/en/node/58747>

### **Ahead of the Arrow-3 Deal: Meeting of High-Ranking Defense Officials from Israel and Germany**

Israel Defense, July 4, 2023

The Director General of the Israel Ministry of Defense, Major General (Res.) Eyal Zamir, met with Mr. Benedikt Zimmer, the State Secretary of the German Federal Ministry of Defense, in Berlin yesterday (Monday). During the meeting, the Director General of the Israel Ministry of Defense updated his colleague on the IDF operation targeting terror hotspots in the city of Jenin. The leaders discussed the strengthening of defense relations between the two countries' defense ministries and advanced the agreement regarding the sale of the Arrow 3 air and missile defense system to Germany. Maj. Gen. (Res.) Zamir stated that according to the directive of the Minister of Defense, Yoav Gallant, the Israel Ministry of Defense is working to finalize the process soon. Once the sale receives approval from the American government, the production phase will commence.

<https://www.israeldefense.co.il/en/node/58768>

### **Dassault Aviation to use 3DEXPERIENCE platform to develop Future Combat Air System**

Israel Defense, July 4, 2023

Dassault Systèmes and Dassault Aviation announced the next step in their long-term collaboration aimed at bringing the highest levels of security, sovereignty and collaboration on the cloud to major defense

programs. The announcement was made at the Paris Air Show last month. Dassault Aviation will use Dassault Systèmes' 3DEXPERIENCE platform on the cloud to develop its next-generation fighter, a key project in the Future Combat Air System industrial collaboration to ensure the future of European autonomy and sovereignty in defense and security. This cloud environment will be localized in Dassault Aviation premises and operated by Dassault Systèmes through its OUTSCALE brand, whose SecNumCloud qualification is the highest security recognition given by the National Cybersecurity Agency of France.

<https://www.israeldefense.co.il/en/node/58769>

### **Six Destroyed Explosives Labs, Hundreds of Bullets Seized: IDF Ends Jenin Operation**

Israel Defense, July 5, 2023

Overnight, Israel has concluded counterterrorism operation "Home and Garden", held in Jenin for the past two days. According to IDF data, 14 apartments and command rooms of persons of interest were located and neutralized by security forces; six explosives labs were located and destroyed; Ten mortar charges, 24 M-16 rifles, eight handguns, and hundreds of bullets for various types of weapons were seized and neutralized; and hundreds of thousands of terror funds were seized. Furthermore, dozens of kilograms of chemical materials for manufacturing bombs were seized, and six underground tunnels and two underground smuggling tunnels associated with a terrorist



organization were discovered, containing numerous combat equipment.

<https://www.israeldefense.co.il/en/node/58781>

### **Elta, BAE to Develop Manned-Unmanned Teaming (MUM-T)**

Israel Defense, July 6, 2023

BAE Systems announced that it has tested manned-unmanned teaming (MUM-T) on the Amphibious Combat Vehicle (ACV) C4UAS as a technology demonstration using IAI/ELTA Systems Rex MK II Unmanned Infantry Combat Support System. The teaming technology enhances mission effectiveness through greater situational awareness and decision-making capabilities. According to BAE, the successful demonstration of MUM-T capabilities shows the versatility of the built-in growth capacity in the ACV C4AUS. The ability to incorporate MUM-T into mission planning expands mission parameters and the tactical sphere while decreasing the risk to human and technological assets in uncertain or hostile environments.

<https://www.israeldefense.co.il/en/node/58794>

### **Another Layer of Protection: David's Sling Successfully Performs Live-Fire Tests**

Israel Defense, July 10, 2023

The Israeli Air Force, Ministry of Defense Israel Missile Defense Organization, and Rafael Advanced Defense Systems have successfully concluded a series of exercises

and tests in southern Israel in which the "David's Sling" air and missile defense system intercepted complex scenarios. The scenarios simulated advanced threats, enhancing the system's capabilities and significantly improving the State of Israel's multi-tiered air and missile defense array. The "David's Sling" successfully performed a series of live-fire tests, specifically designed to counter advanced threats like ballistic missiles, cruise missiles, aircrafts, and UAVs. Israel Aerospace Industries (IAI) and Elbit Systems also participated in the tests.

<https://www.israeldefense.co.il/en/node/58834>

### **IAI Acquires India's HELA Systems**

Israel Defense, July 10, 2023

Israel Aerospace Industries (IAI) has signed a deal to acquire HELA Systems Private Limited, an Indian subsidiary of ELTA Systems Ltd. IAI's investment in Aerospace Services India is a strong demonstration of IAI's support for the Indian government's Atmanirbhar Bharat (Make in India) vision. The current deal also shows IAI's commitment to its strong partnership with India's DRDO in developing and supporting advanced systems for India's Armed Forces. HELA will provide full Maintenance, Repair and Overhaul product support for ELTA Systems, as well as testing and technical services including annual maintenance contracts and supply of spares to Indian defense customers.

<https://www.israeldefense.co.il/en/node/58835>

### **RAFAEL Demonstrates Tactical Communication Systems for Romanian Special Forces**

Israel Defense, July 12, 2023

Israeli defense giant RAFAEL successfully conducted a comprehensive demonstration of its BNET Advanced Tactical Communication System for Romanian special forces, intelligence units, and other official government services in May 2023.

This event, held in collaboration with local partner STARC4SYS SRL, showcased the capabilities of RAFAEL's BNET in a variety of scenarios, illustrating its effectiveness in complex operational environments. The demonstration encompassed combat simulations in diverse arenas, including urban settings both above and below ground, as well as open terrain.

<https://www.israeldefense.co.il/en/node/58861>

### **Azerbaijan, Israel discuss bilateral ties, military-technical cooperation**

Anadolu Agency, July 13, 2023

Azerbaijan and Israel on Thursday discussed the development of bilateral ties, including military-technical cooperation, an Azerbaijani presidency statement said.

This came during a meeting between Azerbaijani President Ilham Aliyev and Israeli Defense Minister Yoav Gallant in the capital Baku. "During the conversation, the meeting between the head of state and the

defense minister of Israel, which took place in Munich this year, was recalled," the statement said. "The role of Israeli President Ishak Herzog's visit to Azerbaijan in the development of our relations was noted," it added.

<https://www.aa.com.tr/en/asia-pacific/azerbaijan-israel-discuss-bilateral-ties-military-technical-cooperation/2944647>

### **Small and Agile: Raphael's Loitering Munition Can Deceive Rooftop Snipers**

Israel Defense, July 13, 2023

Ukraine is currently a testing ground for advanced weapons systems, produced by many countries. One of the trends resulting from this war is the growing interest in the use of small, agile loitering munition systems. Raphael's contribution to this trend is the Spike Firefly, also known as the "Maoz" – a small, micro-tactical hovering munition that can stay in the air for only 15 minutes and has a combat payload weight of only 350 grams. Despite its small size, it inflicts severe and deadly damage, and it has already undergone operational tests in combat. The IDF has deployed the Spike Firefly during the recent operation in Jenin, and Raphael concludes that "We are satisfied with its capabilities, learning lessons, implementing those lessons, and improving in future models."

<https://www.israeldefense.co.il/en/node/58875>

## Lebanon

### Tensions rise as Israel says Hezbollah sets up illegal outposts along border

Alarabiya News, July 9, 2023

Israel says Hezbollah, an Iranian-backed militia in southern Lebanon, has set up more than two dozen military outposts along the countries' border in violation of international agreements, a development it says risks increasing confrontation.

Under a United Nations Security Council resolution following the 2006 Israel-Lebanon war, armed fighters from Hezbollah are not permitted to enter the border area. Troops from the UN Interim Force in Lebanon — or UNIFIL — are stationed there to make sure both sides keep to the rules.

<https://english.alarabiya.net/News/middle-east/2023/07/09/Tensions-rise-as-Israel-says-Hezbollah-is-setting-up-illegal-outposts-along-border>

### Israel Strikes Lebanon After Mortar Launched: Army

The Defense Post, July 6, 2023

The Israeli army said Thursday it was conducting strikes on southern Lebanon after a mortar launched from its northern neighbor exploded in the border area between the two foes. "In response, the IDF (Israeli military) is currently striking the area from which the launch was carried out in Lebanese territory," an army statement said. Lebanon's official ANI news agency said Israel had fired "more than 15 artillery shells" which hit around the communities of Kfar Chouba and Halta. The two countries

are still technically at war, and peacekeepers from the United Nations Interim Force in Lebanon patrol the border between the two neighbors.

[https://www.thedefensepost.com/2023/07/06/israel-strikes-lebanon-mortar/?expand\\_article=1](https://www.thedefensepost.com/2023/07/06/israel-strikes-lebanon-mortar/?expand_article=1)

### Hezbollah seeks to stoke tensions with Israel over Ghajar - analysis

The Jerusalem Post, July 10, 2023

Hezbollah and other political ideologies in Lebanon are looking to stoke a crisis with Israel over the northern border. They are focusing on several areas, including Mount Dov, where Hezbollah set up tents over the past few months, and the Alawite-Arab village of Ghajar, which straddles the border between Lebanon and the Golan Heights. In each case, the goal is to create tensions over a largely immaterial issue, and then, once the crisis exists, to call it a redline for potential conflict in a bid for concessions. Hezbollah has learned over the years that this strategy works, and for example, it sought to control parts of the maritime deal.

<https://www.jpost.com/israel-news/defense-news/article-749501>

## Saudi Arabia

### Thales expands presence in Saudi Arabia through focus on defense and civil aviation sectors

Arab News, July 2, 2023

Multinational defense and civil company Thales is committed to strengthening its

presence in Saudi Arabia and expanding its operations to align with the country's Vision 2030 initiative, one of the firm's leading figures has told Arab News. Speaking on the sidelines of the Paris Air Show, Pascale Sourisse, president of Thales International, said the organization not only wants to bolster the Kingdom's defense sector, it is also branching out into other areas such as security, civil aviation and higher education. Thales specializes in areas such as defence and security, aeronautics and space, digital identity and security. It currently operates in 68 countries with 77,000 employees. The firm has been a trusted partner in Saudi Arabia for over 50 years, steadily increasing its footprint in the region, said Sourisse, adding: "The first sector in which we operate in Saudi Arabia is defense.

<https://www.arabnews.com/node/2331106/business-economy>

### **Saudi Arabia can alleviate US concerns over its civilian nuclear energy program**

Bulletin of the Atomic Scientists, July 3, 2023

Saudi leaders have stepped up their plans for developing peaceful nuclear energy, inviting technical bids to the planned construction of two 1.4 gigawatt-electric nuclear reactors and restating the kingdom's intention to use domestic uranium resources for producing low-enriched uranium as nuclear fuel. Although open to cooperating with any country willing and able to support its atomic

aspirations, Saudi Arabia so far has preferred US nuclear technology. Saudi leaders are now pushing for a joint US-Saudi domestic project on nuclear energy, which would follow the US-Saudi cooperation model of Aramco, the Saudi state oil company. Recent reports suggest that Washington may also consider upgrading military relations if the kingdom normalizes its ties with Israel. In recent weeks and months, President Biden's top diplomat and national security aides travelled to Riyadh to discuss these very issues with Saudi officials.

<https://thebulletin.org/2023/07/saudi-arabia-can-alleviate-us-concerns-over-its-civilian-nuclear-energy-program-heres-how/>

### **Saudi Arabia, France sign MoU on energy cooperation**

Arab News, July 9, 2023

Saudi Energy Minister Prince Abdulaziz bin Salman and his French counterpart, Agnes Pannier-Runacher, on Saturday signed a memorandum of understanding to cooperate in the field of energy, with a focus on clean energy from renewable resources. In a joint statement published by the Saudi Press Agency, France and Saudi Arabia agreed on a roadmap for hydrogen cooperation and electricity produced from renewable resources, focusing on three pillars.

<https://www.arabnews.com/node/2334546/business-economy>

### **Saudi-Israeli normalization a long way off, Biden says**

Alarabiya News, July 9, 2023

Israel and Saudi Arabia are a long way from a normalization agreement that would involve a defense treaty and a civilian nuclear program from the United States, US President Joe Biden said in a CNN interview broadcast on Sunday. US officials have been negotiating in a bid to reach an elusive normalization deal between the two countries. "We're a long way from there. We got a lot to talk about," Biden said in an interview with "Fareed Zakaria's GPS." Israel's energy minister expressed opposition last month to the idea of Saudi Arabia developing a civilian nuclear program as part of any US-mediated forging of relations between the countries.

<https://english.alarabiya.net/News/middle-east/2023/07/09/Saudi-Israeli-normalization-a-long-way-off-Biden-says>

### **Saudi-South Korean ministerial committee for defense cooperation holds meeting in Riyadh**

Arab News, July 11, 2023

The Saudi-South Korean ministerial committee for defense cooperation held a meeting in Riyadh on Monday, Saudi Press Agency reported. The meeting was chaired by Saudi Arabia's chief of staff Lieutenant-General Fayyad bin Hamed Al-Ruwaili and South Korea's Vice Defense Minister Shin Beom-chul. During the meeting, the two sides reviewed relations and cooperation between the Saudi and South Korean ministries of defense and ways to enhance

and develop them to serve common interests, especially in the military and defense fields.

<https://www.arabnews.com/node/2336146/saudi-arabia>

### **Scholz: Germany won't deliver Eurofighters to Saudi Arabia in near future**

Reuters, July 12, 2023

Germany will not deliver Eurofighter combat aircraft to Saudi Arabia in the near future, German Chancellor Olaf Scholz said on Wednesday, after a newspaper quoted a government document as linking any such move to an end of the war in Yemen. Saudi Arabia leads a coalition that has been battling the Iranian-aligned Houthis in Yemen since 2015. The war has killed tens of thousands of people and left millions hungry. "There will be no decision on the delivery of Eurofighter jets to Saudi Arabia any time soon," Scholz told reporters on the second day of a NATO summit in Vilnius, Lithuania.

<https://www.reuters.com/business/aerospace-defense/scholz-germany-wont-deliver-eurofighters-saudi-arabia-near-future-2023-07-12/>

### **How to help the Saudis achieve their nuclear-powered dreams without giving them the bomb**

The Hill, July 12, 2023

Saudi Crown Prince Mohammed bin Salman is offering the U.S. a deal he believes it cannot refuse. He is prepared to establish full diplomatic relations with

Israel, granting the Jewish state unprecedented legitimacy in the Islamic world and handing Joe Biden a major foreign policy victory. What the crown prince wants in return is nuclear power, including the ability to enrich uranium. This would enable Riyadh to produce fuel for nuclear reactors...or material for a nuclear bomb. Biden should agree to significant U.S. nuclear assistance, but obviously he must reject the enrichment request. Riyadh doesn't need enrichment to achieve its goal of becoming a nuclear electricity-producing powerhouse.

<https://thehill.com/opinion/international/4091021-how-to-help-the-saudis-achieve-their-nuclear-powered-dreams-without-giving-them-the-bomb/>

### **Riyadh receives Duwaiheen nuclear advisory bids**

MEED, July 14, 2023

State offtaker Saudi Power Procurement Company (SPPC) has received bids for the financial, legal and technical consultancy contracts to prepare and review project agreements related to the procurement of electricity from Saudi Arabia's first nuclear power plant. The scope extends to signing a power purchase agreement (PPA) with the project company for the planned Duwaiheen nuclear power plant, provisionally called Duwaiheen Nuclear Energy Company. Saudi Arabia plans to build a large-scale nuclear power plant facility as part of its energy diversification agenda. The current status of the main contract to implement the

kingdom's first nuclear plant project is unclear.

<https://www.meed.com/sppc-receives-duwaiheen-nuclear-advisory-bids>

### **Syrian Arab Republic**

#### **Israeli warplanes target Syrian air defense battery; Damascus says most missiles intercepted**

Arab News, July 2, 2023

Syria said it repelled a missile salvo on Sunday from Israel, where police reported that remnants of a Syrian anti-aircraft missile struck a remote town without causing injuries. Israel has in recent months intensified strikes on Syrian airports and air bases to disrupt Iran's increasing use of aerial supply lines to deliver arms to allies in Syria and Lebanon, including Lebanon's Hezbollah. Syrian state media said air defenses intercepted Israeli missiles across central parts of the country, downing most of them. A Syrian army statement said missiles that flew over parts of Lebanon's capital Beirut hit locations in the vicinity of the city of Homs, resulting only in material damage.

<https://www.arabnews.com/node/2331186/middle-east>

#### **Army air defenses repel an Israeli act of aggression on Homs vicinity**

Syrian Arab News Agency, July 2, 2023

The Syrian army air defenses have repelled an Israeli act of aggression with missiles that targeted some sites in the vicinity of Homs city. "At about 12:20 a.m., the Israeli

enemy launched an aerial act of aggression from the direction of northeastern Beirut, targeting some sites in the vicinity of Homs City,” a military source said in a statement to SANA. The source added “our air defenses repelled the aggression which only caused a material damage.”

<https://sana.sy/en/?p=312091>

### **Four killed in a terrorist attack with rocket shells in Aleppo countryside**

Syrian Arab News Agency, July 4, 2023

Four people, including a mother and two children, were martyred in Urum al-Kubrah town in Aleppo western countryside in an attack launched by terrorist organizations with a rocket shell. SANA reporter stated that the terrorist organizations positioned in Aleppo western countryside attacked on Tuesday, with shells, the safe areas in Aleppo southwestern countryside, one of which fell in Tadil village in Urum al-Kubrah town. According to the reporter, four people were martyred in the terrorist attack, including a mother with her two daughters, and their uncle, and the injury of the husband.

<https://sana.sy/en/?p=312295>

### **Russian intelligence: US forces handed over missiles with poisonous substances to Daesh in al-Tanf**

Syrian Arab News Agency, July 4, 2023

US occupation forces positioned in al-Tanf region on the Syrian-Iraqi border handed missiles with warheads filled with poisonous substances to Daesh “ISIS”

terrorist organization, with the aim of carrying out chemical provocations and accusing the Syrian government of them, said Sergei Naryshkin Head of the Russian Foreign Intelligence Service. Naryshkin’s comments came in a report on Monday quoted by Novosti news agency. “Deputy Commander of the U.S Army Central Command, James Malloy, is leading the activities of Daesh “ISIS” terrorist organization in Syria, as he is delivering missiles with warheads filled with toxic materials in an area near the illegal US military base at al-Tanf,” Naryshkin added.

<https://sana.sy/en/?p=312284>

### **Mikdad during Meeting of Foreign Ministers of Non-Aligned Movement: Syria calls for unifying efforts to address scourge of terrorism**

Syrian Arab News Agency, July 5, 2023

Foreign and Expatriates Minister, Fayssal Mikdad, during his speech at the Ministerial Meeting of the Foreign Ministers of the Non-Aligned Movement (NAM) held in the Azerbaijani capital, Baku, said the wills of our countries have met, since the conferences of Bandung and Belgrade, for a more secure world where peace, justice, solidarity and cooperation prevail based upon respecting the sovereignty, independence, territorial integrity of the countries and equality among them and non-interference in their internal affairs.

Dr. Mikdad congratulated the friendly country of Azerbaijan on the successful hosting of the activities of this important

meeting of the Foreign Ministers of the Non-Aligned Movement countries under the motto “United and steadfast in confronting emerging challenges”.

<https://sana.sy/en/?p=312383>

### **Attia: Syria doesn't recognize OPCW (Investigation and Identification Team) that lacks legitimacy**

Syrian Arab News Agency, July 12, 2023

The permanent representative of the Syrian Arab Republic to the Organization for the Prohibition of Chemical Weapons (OPCW), Ambassador Milad Attia, delivered a statement on Wednesday before the 103rd session of the Organization's Executive Council, whose works will last until next Friday, and will have the participation of 41 members of the Council.

“Based on Syria's belief that the CWC is one of the key international agreements to provide for the elimination of an entire category of weapons of mass destruction within a fixed time frame, Syria has joined it and implemented all its obligations in a record time under very difficult circumstances’ Attia said.

<https://sana.sy/en/?p=312864>

### **Russian defense: 13 breaches by the US coalition observed over the past 24 hours**

Syrian Arab News Agency, July 14, 2023

Russian Defense Ministry announced that 13 breaches were recorded in al-Tanf region in Syria by the US-led coalition's fighter jets during the past 24 hours, which posed a direct threat to civil flights. Deputy

commander of the Russian Coordination Center in Hmeimeim, Oleg Gurinov, said in a press statement that the US-led coalition violated the airspace in al-Tanf region (on the Syrian-Jordanian border), through which international airlines pass, as ten violations of the Syrian airspace were recorded by two F-15 fighter jets, three pairs of F-16 fighters, and two pairs of Rafale fighter jets.

<https://sana.sy/en/?p=312968>

## **Türkiye**

### **US reaffirms support for selling F-16 jets to Türkiye**

Daily Sabah, July 11, 2023

Washington reiterated its support for selling F-16 jets to Türkiye Monday. Speaking at a press briefing, State Department Spokesman Matthew Miller said Washington has publicly "supported the provision of F-16s to Türkiye for some time." "We've made that clear publicly that we support it but that there are a number of members of Congress, who as much as we don't believe the issue should be linked with NATO accession, there are members of Congress who believe that it is. And so we always make that clear, privately and publicly," said Miller. He noted Sweden took steps to address Türkiye's concerns, including changing its Constitution and arresting terrorism suspects, and added that the U.S. believes those actions have been sufficient to address the concerns.

<https://www.dailysabah.com/politics/diplomacy/us-reaffirms-support-for-selling-f-16-jets-to-turkiye>



## **US says to move forward with sale of F-16 jets to Türkiye**

Daily Sabah, July 11, 2023

The United States will move forward with Türkiye's request to purchase F-16 fighter jets, a top official said Tuesday, as diplomacy gained pace to resolve a prolonged process that has frustrated Ankara. Türkiye has been seeking to buy 40 new Lockheed Martin F-16s as well as nearly 80 modernization kits for its existing warplanes from the U.S., looking to revamp and refresh its aging fleet. The Biden administration has voiced its backing for the deal potentially worth around \$20 billion.

<https://www.dailysabah.com/business/defense/us-says-to-move-forward-with-sale-of-f-16-jets-to-turkiye>

## **Canada reportedly unfreezes Türkiye talks on defense export controls**

Daily Sabah, July 14, 2023

Canada has decided to resume talks with Türkiye on lifting export controls on drone parts after Ankara agreed to support Sweden's bid to join NATO, a person familiar with the talks said, a move seen as one of several concessions won in exchange for the Turkish blessing. President Recep Tayyip Erdoğan's greenlight ended more than a year of opposition to Sweden's membership bid. Ankara held out on the ratification, accusing Sweden of doing too little against terrorist organizations such as the PKK, its

affiliates, and the Gülenist Terror Group (FETÖ), the group behind the 2016 defeated coup in Türkiye.

<https://www.dailysabah.com/business/defense/canada-reportedly-unfreezes-turkiye-talks-on-defense-export-controls>

## **Turkish, US defense chiefs discuss 'bilateral and multilateral defense goals'**

Anadolu Agency, July 11, 2023

Turkish National Defense Minister Yasar Guler spoke by phone late Monday with his US counterpart Lloyd Austin on "shared bilateral and multilateral defense goals," according to a statement by the US Defense Department. "Secretary Austin and Minister Guler lauded the long history of military cooperation between the United States and Türkiye and applauded our continued close cooperation," said the readout of the phone call. "They also discussed the positive talks between Türkiye, Sweden and NATO Secretary General (Jens) Stoltenberg, as well as the Department of Defense's support for Türkiye's military modernization," it added.

<https://www.aa.com.tr/en/europe/turkish-us-defense-chiefs-discuss-bilateral-and-multilateral-defense-goals/2942110>

# NUCLEAR AND ARMS CONTROL CENTRE

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