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मनोहर पर्रिकर रक्षा अध्ययन एवं विश्लेषण संस्थान

## Iran

### Envoy terms Iran's safeguards cooperation with IAEA as "exemplary"

Islamic Republic News Agency, August 1, 2023

Iran's Ambassador and Permanent Representative to the United Nations Office and International Organizations in Vienna Mohsen Naziri-Asl described Iran's safeguards cooperation with the IAEA as exemplary, noting that the country is committed to a safeguards agreement with the UN nuclear watchdog. Naziri-Asl made the remarks addressing the Preparatory Committee for the 2026 Review Conference of the Parties to the Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons (NPT) in Vienna on Tuesday. The ambassador regretted that nuclear disarmament as a main principle of the Treaty on the Prohibition of Nuclear Weapons has not been fulfilled yet.

<https://en.irna.ir/news/85187000/Envoy-terms-Iran-s-safeguards-cooperation-with-IAEA-as-exemplary>

### IRGC Kicks Off Naval Drill in Persian Gulf, Deploying AI-Powered Missile Shields, Sea Drones

Fars News Agency, August 2, 2023

The Islamic Revolution Guards Corps (IRGC) Navy staged military exercises in the Persian Gulf on Wednesday in order to bolster the country's combat and defensive power, and showcased naval vessels armed with 600-km range missiles. The naval wargame, dubbed "Martyr Eshaq Dara", launched in Abu Musa Island on

Wednesday at the presence of IRGC Commander Major General Hossein Salami, IRGC Navy Commander Rear Admiral Alireza Tangsiri, as well as other senior commanders and military officials.

The maneuver is being held on Naze'at, Abu Musa, the Greater Tunb and the Lesser Tunb islands of Iran.

The aim of the exercise is to "display the IRGC Navy's might as well as combat and defense preparedness in protecting the Persian Gulf security and the Iranian islands".

<https://www.farsnews.ir/en/news/14020511000263/IRGC-Kicks-Off-Naval-Drill-in-Persian-Glf-Deploying-AI-Pwered-Missile>

### 'Missile defense systems, drones delivered to IRGC Navy'

Islamic Republic News Agency, August 5, 2023

The homegrown military systems were supplied to the IRGC Navy during a Saturday ceremony attended by IRGC Chief Commander Major General Hossein Salami, IRGC Navy Chief Rear Admiral Alireza Tangsiri, and other top commanders. Describing the features of the hardware, Tangsiri said the new cruise and ballistic missiles are furnished with artificial intelligence and have longer ranges and reduced preparation time.

They are also well-capable of dealing with the enemy's electronic warfare, he said.

<https://en.irna.ir/news/85189837/Missile-defense-systems-drones-delivered-to-IRGC-Navy>

### **Indigenous Anti-Ship Cruise Missiles Handed Over to IRGC Navy**

Fars News Agency, August 6, 2023

The Islamic Revolution Guards Corps (IRGC) delivered domestically-developed cruise missiles, dubbed "Qadir" and "Nasir", to the navy fleet on Sunday after the IRGC held large-scale military exercises in the Persian Gulf. With a range of up to 300 kilometers, Qadir (CM-300) missile is widely used in coastal launchers and naval combat vessels. It weighs 700 kilograms and is comprised of a 165-kilogram warhead. It employs an inertial guidance system for its initial phase and an active radar guidance for its final phase. The missile receives the position of sea targets from radars and moves toward them using an internal guidance system or inertia based on the accelerometer and gyroscope.

<https://www.farsnews.ir/en/news/14020515000462/Indigens-Ani-Ship-Crise-Missiles-Handed-Over-IRGC-Navy>

### **Iran has obtained technology to build supersonic cruise missile: Iranian media**

Tehran Times, August 9, 2023

Iranian scientists have managed to develop homegrown supersonic cruise missiles and are currently testing them, according to Tasnim News Agency. Military analysts believe the new generation of Iranian cruise missiles would be using ramjets to enable them to travel faster than the speed of sound. Most Iranian cruise missiles use a rocket takeoff engine and a homegrown turbojet engine to carry out a two-stage launch. The latest cruise missiles employed

in Iran's navy use ramjet engines which means they use significantly less time to prepare. Supersonic missiles use the least amount of time for preparation which would enable Iran to show a more timely reaction to aggression. Ramjets work best at supersonic speeds around Mach 3 and have the capacity to reach the speed of Mach 6.

<https://www.tehrantimes.com/news/487754/Iran-has-obtained-technology-to-build-supersonic-cruise-missile#:~:text=TEHRAN%20-%20Iranian%20scientists%20have%20managed,than%20the%20speed%20of%20sound.>

### **N. Chief Announces Iran's Readiness to Export Heavy Water Products**

Fars News Agency, August 9, 2023

Head of the Atomic Energy Organization of Iran (AEOI) Mohammad Eslami praised the country's remarkable achievements in the nuclear industry, and said that Tehran is ready to export products derived from heavy water. In an interview with IRIB News on Tuesday, Eslami stated Iran is successfully producing heavy water derivatives, a groundbreaking achievement in nuclear technology and medical research.

"Heavy water derivatives are among the most up-to-date achievements made only by two or three developed countries and we are among them. We are ready to export the byproducts to other countries," the nuclear official stressed.

<https://www.farsnews.ir/en/news/14020518000127/N-Chief-Annnces-Iran's-Readiness-Expr-Heavy-Waer-Prdcs>

### **Iran reportedly slowing some nuclear enrichment, diluting high-grade stockpile**

The Times of Israel, August 11, 2023

Officials believe that Iran has slowed its enrichment of nearly weapons-grade uranium and reduced a small amount of its stockpile, according to a report Friday.

The claimed slowdown, detailed by The Wall Street Journal, came a day after Tehran said it had reached a tentative agreement with Washington that will eventually see five detained Americans in Iran and an unknown number of Iranians imprisoned in the US released from custody. The deal also includes billions of dollars in frozen Iranian assets being transferred from banks in South Korea to Qatar. According to the report, relying on "people briefed on the matter," Iran recently diluted a small part of its stockpile of 60 percent enriched uranium, and can choose to dilute more as the stockpile grows, but may also choose not to.

<https://www.timesofisrael.com/iran-said-to-be-slowing-some-nuclear-enrichment-diluting-high-grade-stockpile/>

### **Informed Source Rejects WSJ Report on Iran's Slowing Down Nuclear Activities**

Fars News Agency, August 12, 2023

An informed source denied a report by an American publication claiming Tehran has significantly slowed down the accumulation of highly-enriched uranium, underlining that Iran's nuclear activities are moving ahead without any interruption.

Citing sources familiar with the matter, The Wall Street Journal reported on Friday Iran

has decreased the level of enrichment of part of its enriched uranium stockpiles, which can be seen as a step toward the resumption of negotiations with the United States. Dismissing the story, the source told FNA on Saturday that Tehran is pressing ahead with its nuclear activities on all fronts. "Iran's nuclear activities are continuing non-stop in all areas in accordance with the previous plans of the Atomic Energy Organization of Iran (AEOI) and the Strategic Action Plan," the source underscored.

<https://www.farsnews.ir/en/news/14020521000246/Infrmed-Srce-Rejecs-WSJ-Repr-n-Iran's-Slwing-Dwn-Nclear-Aciviies>

### **N. Chief: Iran Producing 300 Types of Heavy Nuclear Derivatives**

Fars News Agency, August 13, 2023

Head of the Atomic Energy Organization of Iran (AEOI) Mohammad Eslami said Tehran has managed to manufacture at least 300 types of heavy nuclear derivatives, marking its latest achievement in the nuclear industry. The AEOI director stated Iran produces more than 300 types of heavy nuclear derivatives, each gram of which is worth tens of thousands of dollars. "These strategic capabilities once meant no entry areas for Iran but the country managed to make inroads in those fields," he added. Iran is at an unequal battle and it has scored victories in the fight but it needs to work more to protect the achievements, the official continued.

<https://www.farsnews.ir/en/news/14020522000258/N-Chief-Iran-Prdcng-300-Types-f-Heavy-Nclear-Derivaives>

### **Iran Puts Indigenous Drone, Missile on Display at Russian Military Expo**

Fars News Agency, August 15, 2023

Iran's domestically-developed drones, electronic warfare systems as well as a ballistic missile went on display at Russia's Army-2023 International Military-Technical Forum. Ababil ballistic missile has for the first time been put on display at a military exhibition in Russia, alongside a range of other cutting-edge Iranian military equipment, including drones and electronic warfare systems. The missile, which is akin to Zahir missile of the Aerospace Force of Iran's Islamic Revolution Guards Corps (IRGC), was showcased at Russia's Army-2023 International Military-Technical Forum in Patriot Park near the capital Moscow on Monday. Iran also presented a series of its unmanned aerial vehicles (UAVs), along with electronic warfare (EW) and radio reconnaissance systems at the military expo in Russia.

<https://www.farsnews.ir/en/news/14020524000155/Iran-Ps-Indigens-Drne-Missile-n-Display-a-Rssian-Miliary-Exp>

## **Iraq**

### **New security operation launched in Nineveh: PMF**

Iraqi News Agency, August 5, 2023

A force from Nineveh Operations Command of the Popular Mobilization Forces-PMF launched on Saturday, a major security operation in the province. PMF said in a statement, received by the Iraqi News Agency (INA), that "the

operation was carried out by the 44th, 25th, 21st, 60th, 58th, and 33rd brigades, in addition to the participation of a force from the Army and the Nineveh Emergency Regiment". "The operation aims to eliminate the terrorist remnants of ISIS and fully secure the areas south of Mosul," the statement added.

<https://ina.iq/eng/27919-new-security-operation-launched-in-nineveh-pmf.html>

### **Iraq, US Discuss Long-Term Defense Cooperation**

Iraqi News Agency, August 8, 2023

Defense Minister Thabit Muhammad al-Abbasi met on Tuesday, with U.S. Defense Secretary Lloyd Austin, as Austin lauded praised the tremendous progress made by the Iraqi Security Forces in the campaign to achieve the enduring defeat of ISIS. "Defense Minister Thabit M. Al-Abbasi held a meeting on Tuesday with his American counterpart at the Pentagon HQ in Washington during the inaugural U.S.-Iraq Joint Security Cooperation Dialogue (JSCD)," said the reporter of the Iraqi News Agency-INA. Secretary Austin lauded the JSCD for its importance in advancing an enduring U.S.-Iraq security partnership.

<https://ina.iq/eng/27965-iraq-us-discuss-long-term-defense-cooperation.html>

### **Iraq - US Issue a statement on the Joint Security Cooperation Dialogue**

Iraqi News Agency, August 9, 2023

Iraqi Ministry of Defense and The U.S. Department of Defense (DOD) issued a joint statement on the joint security



dialogue. "The Iraqi Ministry of Defense and The U.S. Department of Defense (DoD) led the inaugural U.S.-Iraq Joint Security Cooperation Dialogue in Washington, D.C. from August 7-8, 2023, reaffirming their commitment to security cooperation and shared interest in regional stability," according to the statement, received by The Iraqi News Agency-INA. The statement added, "A delegation from the Republic of Iraq, led by Minister of Defense Thabit al-Abbasi, and a U.S. delegation, led by Assistant Secretary of Defense Celeste Wallander, discussed a range of bilateral defense issues in accordance with the 2008 U.S.-Iraq Strategic Framework Agreement and as part of a comprehensive, 360-degree partnership.

<https://ina.iq/eng/27978-iraq-us-issue-a-statement-on-the-joint-security-cooperation-dialogue.html>

### **Iraqi Air Force destroys a tunnel of Daesh terrorist gangs in Hamrin Mountains: JOC**

Iraqi News Agency, August 9, 2023

Iraqi Air Force destroys a tunnel of Daesh terrorist gangs in Hamrin Mountains: JOC

Iraqi News Agency, August 9, 2023. The Joint Operations Command JOC announced on Wednesday the destruction of a tunnel in the Hamrin Mountains by an air strike in Salah al-Din district. A statement by JOC, received by the Iraqi News Agency (INA), stated that "a tunnel in the Hamrin Mountains was destroyed by an air strike by the Air Force in Salah al-

Din district last night." "The strike was carried out according to accurate information from the Directorate of Military Intelligence," it said.

<https://ina.iq/eng/27982-iraqi-air-force-destroys-a-tunnel-of-daesh-terrorist-gangs-in-hamrin-mountains-joc.html>

### **US, Iraq defense chiefs discuss post-Islamic State strategy**

Al-Monitor, August 10, 2023

More than four years after the Islamic State surrendered its final bastion along the Iraq-Syria border, top Pentagon officials sat down with their Iraqi counterparts this week to lay the groundwork for the next decade of US military support to Baghdad.

The meetings, led by Iraqi Defense Minister Thabit Muhammad al-Abbasi and Celeste Wallander, the Pentagon's assistant secretary for international security affairs, included Defense Secretary Lloyd Austin, members of the US Joint Staff, as well as representatives from US Central Command, the National Security Council and the State Department.

<https://www.al-monitor.com/originals/2023/08/us-iraq-defense-chiefs-discuss-post-islamic-state-strategy>

### **The Ministerial Council for National Security approves the Iraqi delegation's agreement with the United States**

Iraqi News Agency, August 15, 2023

The Commander-in-Chief of the Armed Forces Mohammed S. Al-Sudani chaired a

meeting of the Ministerial Council for National Security. “Prime Minister and Commander-in-Chief of the Armed Forces, Mohammed S. Al-Sudani, led a Ministerial Council for National Security meeting. The session focused on current security developments, key challenges, and strategies for addressing them”, stated the Spokesperson for the Commander-in-Chief of the Armed Forces Yehia Rasool in a statement, received by The Iraq News Agency-INA. “Additionally, the session covered approving Iraq's accession to the international database for lost and stolen weapons, aiming to enhance control over these arms,” he added.

<https://ina.iq/eng/28087-the-ministerial-council-for-national-security-approves-the-iraqi-delegations-agreement-with-the-united-states.html>

## Israel

### Elbit Announces Successful Completion of Sea Trial for New EW Counter-Measure Dispensing System

Israel Defense, August 2, 2023

The Israeli Navy and Elbit Systems have successfully completed a series of sea trials for the DESEAVAR MK-4 Counter Measure Dispensing System (CMDS) onboard Israeli Navy vessels.

According to the official announcement, the trials tested the capability of the new maritime Electronic Warfare (EW) system to effectively respond to complex missile attack scenarios, including launching decoy rounds from several launchers against multiple concurrent threats.

The DESEAVAR MK 4 is the fourth generation of EW dispensing systems to bring to full effect the soft kill anti-missile defense capabilities as part of Elbit Systems' Integrated Electronic Warfare Suite (IEWS).

<https://www.israeldefense.co.il/en/node/59121>

### US & Israel's “Intrinsic Defender” Sets Sail

Israel Defense, August 2, 2023

Maritime security drill “Intrinsic Defender,” held by the US 5th Fleet and the Israeli Navy, kicked off this week in Haifa. The two-week bilateral exercise seeks to enhance navy-to-navy cooperation and international readiness.

Over 50 US service members will participate in this year's exercise and conduct engagements with Israeli counterparts on explosive ordnance disposal, mine countermeasures, maritime and global health management, underwater construction, maritime surveillance, and vessel boarding procedures.

The IDF said that the exercise's missions will include joint diving, using unmanned surface vehicles (USV) for locating and eliminating mines, and search and rescue training using special means. In addition, participants will attend lectures and talks about maritime, underwater, and emergency medicine.

<https://www.israeldefense.co.il/en/node/59123>

### **A €316 Million Message for Moscow: US Approves Finnish Procurement of Israel's "David's Sling" Weapons System**

Israel Defense, August 3, 2023

The US Department of State has agreed to approve Finland's procurement of the Israeli-manufactured David's Sling Weapon System. The deal is valued at approximately €316 million, excluding tax.

"David's Sling" is an advanced missile defense system that is co-developed and co-produced by the Israel Ministry of Defense's IMDO and the US Missile Defense Agency.

The system, whose industrial team is led by Rafael Advanced Systems, intercepts advanced threats including ballistic missiles, cruise missiles, drones, and more.

According to estimates in Israeli media, the cost of a single interceptor is about \$1 million.

<https://www.israeldefense.co.il/en/node/59137>

### **The Nuclear Club: Iran Bolsters Ties with Pakistan**

Israel Defense, August 3, 2023

Iranian Foreign Minister Hossein Amir Abdollahian arrived in Islamabad on Wednesday for a two-day visit, during which he will meet with his Pakistani counterpart, Bilawal Bhutto Zardari, and with Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif.

According to the Iranian Ministry of Foreign Affairs, the visit will be "an

opportunity for the two sides to discuss the entire range of bilateral ties with a particular focus on regional connectivity, energy, and economic and investment ties."

Abdollahian's arrival to the seventh country to join the nuclear club was preceded by the arrival of a high-ranking delegation, including Iran's Deputy Foreign Minister for Economic Affairs and senior officials from the Ministries of Trade, Roads and Urban Development, Investment, Agriculture, and Energy, who participated in preparatory meetings.

<https://www.israeldefense.co.il/en/node/59139>

### **Polish Army Purchase Hundreds of Additional Spike LR Missiles**

Israel Defense, August 7, 2023

Polish Minister of National Defense, Mariusz Blaszczak, announced that his country is purchasing several hundreds of Spike LR anti-tank guided missiles for the Polish Army. The Polish Armament Agency added in a release that the deliveries will be made in the years 2023-2026, and the contract is worth about \$100 million.

On the agenda is another contract for the purchase of additional launchers for LR/LR2 spike missiles. The Spike-LR missiles and launchers are locally manufactured under a license from the Israeli company Rafael by Mesko in Poland.

<https://www.israeldefense.co.il/en/node/59164>



### **Israel's Ministry of Defense Thwarts Drone Smuggling Attempt Into Gaza Strip**

Israel Defense, August 9, 2023

The Israeli Ministry of Defense announced today (Wednesday) that security personnel thwarted an attempt to smuggle 10 reconnaissance drones concealed within a black bag inside a minibus at the Erez Crossing.

The drones are suspected of being intended for reconnaissance by terrorist groups operating within the Gaza Strip.

The vigilant security guards and K9 Unit at the Erez Crossing were responsible for preventing this smuggling attempt. During the inspection of the vehicle, a specially trained canine detected the suspicious package and indicated its presence by sitting on it.

<https://www.israeldefense.co.il/en/node/59207>

### **India's Garuda Aerospace Partners with Top Israeli Drone Players**

Israel Defense, August 10, 2023

Garuda Aerospace, an Indian developer of drone solutions for the commercial and defense sectors, has announced new partnerships with Titan Group, Easy Aerial, Azur Drones, and Aero Sol, for the nationwide distribution of their drones across the defense, security, and civil infrastructure sectors

Fast becoming one of the world's frontrunners in drone-based technology, the Indian drone market has been faced with the

challenge of responding to the country's recent ban on Chinese drone manufacturer DJI, which previously supplied drones for an array of Indian companies servicing the agricultural, construction, security, emergency response, and defense sectors, among others.

<https://www.israeldefense.co.il/en/node/59218>

### **Israeli Navy Receives New Landing Craft**

Israel Defense, August 13, 2023

Israel officially received its new landing craft, the INS (Israeli Navy Ship) Nahshon, at a flag-raising ceremony held last week at the Pascagoula Shipyard in the US. It is the first of two new landing crafts to be integrated into the Navy, set to be declared as an operational vessel in 2024.

A landing craft is a powerful combat vessel, which enables sailing to distant arenas. Its length is approximately 95 meters, its width is approximately 20 meters and its displacement exceeds 2500 tons.

The team of the landing craft consists of dozens of naval combat soldiers, a quarter of them female, according to the Navy. The commanding officer of the vessel is the rank of Lieutenant Commander.

<https://www.israeldefense.co.il/en/node/59237>

### **Italy to Upgrade its Fleet of Ariete C1 Tanks**

Israel Defense, August 14, 2023

The Italian Defense Ministry announced earlier this month that it has granted a

contract worth €848.8 million to the Iveco - Oto Melara consortium (CIO), aims at the mid-life renovation of 90 Ariete C1 main battle tanks with an option to extend this renovation to an additional 35 tanks.

Originating in the 1980s, the Ariete was developed as a modern battle tank by OTO Melara for the Italian Army. It was intended as a successor to the older Leopard 1 tanks. By the end of the 1990s, the Ariete became a significant part of the Italian military's equipment list. Today 200 such tanks serve the Italian Army.

<https://www.israeldefense.co.il/en/node/59244>

## Kuwait

### Secretary of Defense Lloyd J. Austin III's Phone Call With the Kuwait Minister of Defense, His Excellency Sheikh Ahmad Fahad Al-Ahmad Al Sabah

U.S. Department of Defense, August 2, 2023

Pentagon Press Secretary Brig Gen Pat Ryder provided the following readout:

Secretary of Defense Lloyd J. Austin III spoke by phone today with Kuwaiti Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of Defense, His Excellency Sheikh Ahmad Fahad Al-Ahmad Al Sabah. Secretary Austin congratulated the Minister on his recent appointment and reaffirmed the enduring strategic relationship and

defense partnership between the United States and Kuwait. The Secretary also expressed solidarity and condolences for the Kuwaiti people on the 33rd anniversary of the invasion of Kuwait.

<https://www.defense.gov/News/Releases/Release/Article/3480809/secretary-of-defense-lloyd-j-austin-iiis-phone-call-with-the-kuwait-minister-of/>

### Saudi Arabia and Kuwait reaffirm exclusive ownership of natural resources in Al-Durra gas field

Arab News, August 3, 2023

Saudi Arabia and Kuwait on Wednesday reaffirmed that ownership of the natural resources in the divided submerged area in the Arabian Gulf, including the entire Al-Durra field, is joint ownership between the two countries. The Kingdom's Ministry of Foreign Affairs announced that Saudi Arabia and Kuwait "exclusively have full sovereign rights to exploit the wealth in that area." The two countries also renewed "their previous and repeated calls" to Iran to negotiate the eastern border of the submerged area divided between Saudi Arabia and Kuwait as one negotiating party, and the Iranians as another party, in accordance with the provisions of international law and the principles of good neighborliness, the ministry added in a statement.

<https://www.arabnews.com/node/2348681/business-economy>

## Lebanon

### Lebanon warns army may intervene if clashes continue in Palestinian camps

Ya Libnan, August 4, 2023

Lebanese caretaker Prime Minister Najib Mikati has threatened to send in the Lebanese army to the country's largest Palestinian refugee camp, where fighting in recent days has killed more than a dozen people, wounded many more and displaced thousands. In a phone call, Mikati urged the President of the Palestinian Authority (PA) Mahmoud Abbas to ensure hostilities between Palestinian factions at the Ein el-Hilweh camp cease. Mikati called the clashes a "flagrant violation of Lebanese sovereignty" and said that it was unacceptable for the groups to "terrorise the Lebanese, especially the people of the south who have embraced the Palestinians for many years", according to a statement released by his office.

<https://yalibnan.com/2023/08/04/lebanon-warns-army-may-intervene-if-clashes-continue-in-palestinian-camps/>

### Hezbollah denies any role in the Beirut port blast and Ein El Helweh clashes

Ya Libnan, August 4, 2023

On the third anniversary of the the devastating Beirut Port explosion, Hezbollah chief Hassan Nasrallah pointed out that it is "a painful and sad memory, and we renew our condolences to the families of the martyrs, and we express our sympathy to all those who were injured,

He added: I remind you that we are all still waiting for the truth, but the one who blocked the truth is the one who politicized this incident from day one." He added, "Some malicious media outlets came out from the first moment to accuse Hezbollah of bombing the port, and black rooms, meetings, and statements began, and a battle was launched to hold the party responsible for this explosion.

<https://yalibnan.com/2023/08/04/hezbollah-denies-any-role-in-the-beirut-port-blast-and-ein-el-helweh-clashes/>

### Renewed calls for International investigation 3 years after the port blast

Ya Libnan, August 5, 2023

Three years after Beirut's massive port explosion, attempts to prosecute those responsible are mired in political intrigue, the final death toll remains disputed and many Lebanese have less faith than ever in their disintegrating state institutions.

As the country marks the anniversary Friday, relatives of some of those killed are still struggling to get their loved ones recognized as blast victims, reflecting the ongoing chaos since the Aug. 4, 2020 explosion. The blast killed at least 218 people, according to an Associated Press count, wounded more than 6,000, devastated large swaths of Beirut and caused billions of dollars in damages.

<https://yalibnan.com/2023/08/05/renewed-calls-for-international-investigation-3-years-after-the-port-blast/>

### **Lebanon- Israel border: New tension stirs old fears**

Ya Libnan, August 5, 2023

Every summer, the Lebanese brace for war. Border skirmishes and rocket exchanges with Israel have become almost commonplace throughout the year. But since the 2006 July War, fears of a serious escalation intensify as the months grow hotter.

In Lebanon's deep south, along its disputed border with Israel, this apprehension is especially sharp. Residents feel they are at the mercy of events beyond their control, including provocations by Hezbollah and clashes inside Israel, fearing they could soon lead to violence in their own backyard. They find stability in the instability, they say, comforting themselves with the belief that a full-blown war is too costly for either side.

<https://yalibnan.com/2023/08/05/lebanon-israel-border-new-tension-stirs-old-fears/>

### **Is a pending Saudi peace deal with Israel behind the travel ban to Lebanon?**

Ya Libnan, August 6, 2023

The surprising Saudi ban on travel to Lebanon shocked the entire country. None of the top Lebanese officials, not even caretaker PM Najib Mikati, nor caretaker Foreign Minister Abdallah Bou Habib nor parliament Speaker Nabih Berri were warned about the move.

However it's essential to consider that travel advisories and bans are typically imposed due to specific security concerns

or geopolitical factors. The political landscape in the Middle East can be complex and dynamic, with various factors influencing travel restrictions.

In the past, Saudi Arabia has issued travel advisories or bans to Lebanon during periods of heightened tensions in the region or security threats, such as armed conflicts or political instability.

<https://yalibnan.com/2023/08/06/is-a-pending-saudi-peace-deal-with-israel-behind-the-travel-ban-to-lebanon/>

### **In Lebanon's south, on the Israel border, new tension stirs old fears**

Ya Libnan, August 7, 2023

Every summer, the Lebanese brace for war. Border skirmishes and rocket exchanges with Israel have become almost commonplace throughout the year. But since the 2006 July War, fears of a serious escalation intensify as the months grow hotter.

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<https://yalibnan.com/2023/08/07/in-lebanons-south-on-the-israel-border-new-tension-stirs-old-fears/>

### **Six killed, several wounded in Israeli strikes near Damascus, Syria**

Ya Libnan, August 7, 2023

Four Syrian soldiers and two Iran-backed fighters were killed Monday in pre-dawn Israeli strikes near Damascus, a war monitor said, in the latest deadly Israeli air raid to hit war-torn Syria's capital.

The air strikes targeted Syrian regime forces, and military positions and weapons depots used by armed groups supported by Tehran, according to the Syrian Observatory for Human Rights.

During more than a decade of war in Syria, neighboring Israel has launched hundreds of air strikes on its territory, primarily targeting Iran-backed forces and Hezbollah fighters as well as Syrian army positions.

<https://yalibnan.com/2023/08/07/six-killed-several-wounded-in-israeli-strikes-near-damascus-syria/>

### **Israel threatens to 'return Lebanon to the stone age' in any war with Hezbollah**

Ya Libnan, August 8, 2023

Israel threatened on Tuesday to "return Lebanon to the stone age" in any war against Hezbollah, following weeks of friction with the armed Iranian-backed group along the countries' border.

"Do not make a mistake. We do not want a war. But we are prepared to protect our civilians, our soldiers, and our sovereignty," Israeli Defence Minister Yoav Gallant said in a statement, his remarks intended for Hezbollah.

Such rhetoric has been heard from both sides since the last Israel-Hezbollah war, in 2006. But it has become more pointed since a roadside bombing in Israel in March, which it blamed on a Hezbollah infiltrator.

The group did not claim responsibility for the bombing.

<https://yalibnan.com/2023/08/08/israel-threatens-to-return-lebanon-to-the-stone-age-in-any-war-with-hezbollah/>

### **Oman**

### **U.S. Forces Arrive to Support Deterrence Efforts at Strait of Hormuz**

U.S. Department of Defense, August 7, 2023

Sailors and Marines with the Navy's Bataan Amphibious Ready Group and the 26th Marine Expeditionary Unit arrived in the Middle East yesterday as part of a pre-announced deployment to support deterrence efforts in the Strait of Hormuz and elsewhere, said Pentagon Press Secretary Air Force Brig. Gen. Pat Ryder.

"As we have been for a very long time, we're coordinating with our partners in the region when it comes to U.S. military presence because, again, it's not just the U.S. military that's out there patrolling commercial shipping lanes. We're working as part of a broader coalition ... on that effort," Ryder said told reporters.

<https://www.defense.gov/News/News-Stories/Article/Article/3485733/us-forces-arrive-to-support-deterrence-efforts-at-strait-of-hormuz/>



## Saudi Arabia

### Saudi, Indonesian ministers discuss enhancing military, defense ties

Arab News, August 1, 2023

Saudi Defense Minister Prince Khalid bin Salman met his Indonesian counterpart Prabowo Subianto in the capital Jakarta on Tuesday, the Saudi Press Agency reported. During the meeting, they reviewed relations between the two countries and discussed aspects of bilateral cooperation in the military and defense field and ways to develop it. They also discussed a number of issues of common interest. After that, several heads of Indonesian defense companies made presentations to the Saudi minister of defense about their capabilities, expertise and latest products in the defense field.

<https://www.arabnews.com/node/2347891/saudi-arabia>

### U.S.-Saudi Deal: Nuclearization of the Middle East Starts Here

Haaretz, August 1, 2023

The apparent willingness of Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu to refrain from opposing the United States building an advanced nuclear program for Saudi Arabia is likely to turn out to be a huge historical mistake. Apparently here too, as in all his moves in recent months, Netanyahu is willing to sacrifice national security and endanger Israel's very survival to improve his personal status at home and abroad.

<https://www.haaretz.com/israel-news/2023-08-01/ty-article/.premium/a->

[sane-leader-should-fear-the-nuclearization-of-the-middle-east/00000189-b15d-ddac-a3cd-b57d442c0000](https://www.gulfnews.com/uae/science/nuclear-cooperation-uaes-fanr-concludes-saudi-visit-1.97304920)

### Nuclear cooperation: UAE's FANR concludes Saudi visit

Gulf News, August 2, 2023

The Federal Authority for Nuclear Regulation (FANR) of the UAE has concluded a two-day official visit to the Nuclear and Radiological Regulatory Commission (NRRC) of the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia.

The visit marks a crucial milestone in the bilateral cooperation initiative established after the signing of the Peaceful Use of Nuclear Energy agreement between the two nations in 2019.

During the visit, the NRRC presented the latest progress of its regulatory work, specifically in developing the Kingdom's radiation protection infrastructure.

<https://gulfnews.com/uae/science/nuclear-cooperation-uaes-fanr-concludes-saudi-visit-1.97304920>

### Saudi Arabia could convert civilian nuclear to military, Israeli expert warns

The Times of Israel, August 2, 2023

A former top official for the Israel Atomic Energy Commission has warned that agreeing to Saudi Arabia's demand to be allowed to build a nuclear power plant as part of a normalization deal with Israel may create a dangerous international precedent and effectively prompt a nuclear arms race in the Middle East.

“It won’t matter how many guarantees we receive from the International Atomic Energy Agency,” Ariel (Eli) Levite, who served as principal deputy director general for policy at Israel’s Atomic Energy Commission from 2002 to 2007, told Zman Israel, The Times of Israel’s Hebrew-language sister site, on Monday.

<https://www.timesofisrael.com/saudi-arabia-could-convert-civilian-nuclear-to-military-israeli-expert-warns/>

### **Saudi Arabia, Turkiye’s defense partnership takes flight**

Arab News, August 7, 2023

In a strategic move to boost its defense capabilities and localize manufacturing, Saudi Arabia inked an agreement and two memorandums of understanding with leading Turkish defense firms on Sunday. Saudi Arabian Military Industries, also known as SAMI, signed a localization agreement with Turkish defense firm Baykar. The agreement is aimed at strengthening the Kingdom’s manufacturing capabilities for electronic systems, mechanical parts, and aircraft structures, in addition to conducting aviation testing.

Presided over by Saudi Minister of Defense Khalid Al-Saud, the collaboration will primarily target the localization of drone manufacturing and associated systems in the Kingdom, SAMI posted on messaging platform X, formerly known as Twitter, on Sunday.

<https://www.arabnews.com/node/2350966/business-economy>

### **FM: Saudi deal with US defense pact would make Gulf nuclear ambitions ‘unnecessary’**

The Times of Israel, August 9, 2023

Foreign Minister Eli Cohen said Tuesday that if the United States were to agree to a defense pact with Riyadh as part of a potential normalization deal between Saudi Arabia and Israel, it would reassure Gulf nations that they are protected from Iranian aggression, rendering their nuclear ambitions “unnecessary.”

As part of moves toward normalization with Israel, Riyadh is seeking a NATO-like mutual security treaty that would obligate the US to come to its defense if it’s attacked. In addition, Riyadh wants an explicit agreement for a civilian nuclear program monitored and backed by the US, and the ability to purchase more advanced weaponry from Washington such as the Terminal High Altitude Area Defense (THAAD) antiballistic missile defense system, which could be used to combat Iran’s increasing missile arsenal.

<https://www.timesofisrael.com/fm-saudi-deal-with-us-defense-pact-would-make-gulf-nuclear-ambitions-unnecessary/>

### **Israel split on Saudi nuclear program as US advances normalization deal**

The Jerusalem Post, August 9, 2023

Israeli officials are divided on the question of whether a Saudi Arabian civilian nuclear program would be too risky, as the kingdom and the US make progress on talks towards an Israel-Saudi normalization agreement.

The National Security Council has been examining the potential impact on Israel's security from the Saudis' requests of the US in the framework of normalization talks, which include a civilian nuclear program and defense guarantees. Israel remains outside of the negotiations, and a senior diplomatic source on Tuesday said it was premature for Jerusalem to discuss specific terms to which it may or may not agree.

<https://www.jpost.com/breaking-news/article-754159>

### **Brazil and Saudi Arabia eye joint ventures, technology transfers**

Defense News, August 10, 2023

Brazilian and Saudi defense companies have signed a memorandum of understanding that could lead to joint ventures and technology-sharing agreements.

The Saudi businesses involved in the potential effort are Scopa Defense and Alqahtani Holding, and the Brazilian firms are weapon manufacturer Taurus, rocket and missile maker Avibras, aircraft battery producer Ocellott, and aviation specialist Avionics Services, according to the Brazilian industry association FIESP.

The signing took place last week during a bilateral investment forum attended by a Saudi delegation to Brazil led by Minister of Investment Khalid Al-Falih. The meeting, held in São Paulo by FIESP, also included the vice president of Brazil and the governor of São Paulo.

<https://www.defensenews.com/industry/2023/08/10/brazil-and-saudi-arabia-eye-joint-ventures-technology-transfers/>

## **Syrian Arab Republic**

### **Defense Minister: Syrian armed forces shoulder full responsibilities, continue their heroic fight against terrorism**

Syrian Arab News Agency, August 1, 2023

Deputy Commander-in-Chief of the Army and Armed Forces, Defense Minister, Major Gen. Ali Abbas stressed that the Syrian armed forces shoulder full responsibilities and continue their heroic fight against terrorism.

In a phone call with the Syrian TV. Channel, on the occasion of the 78th anniversary of founding the Syrian Arab Army, Major Gen. Abbas greeted the armed forces personnel, asserting that they constitute, through their work, heroism, sacrifices and commitment to their national duties and tasks, a true reflection and firm expression of a deep-rooted history and human civilization.

The Army Chief also offered his greetings to the families of the martyrs and the injured of the armed forces who were the symbol of sacrifice in defending the homeland's dignity and honor.

<https://sana.sy/en/?p=314177>

### **Ambassador Khaddour: Israeli entity noncommitment to international nuclear control system poses threat on international and regional peace**

Syrian Arab News Agency, August 5, 2023

Ambassador Hassan Khaddour, Syria's permanent representative to the United Nations and other international organizations in Vienna stressed the need to

implement the decision of the Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons (NPT) in 1995, stipulating for making the Middle East a nuclear weapon and other mass destruction weapons free zone.

This came during the meetings of the First session of the Preparatory Committee for the 2026 Review Conference of the Parties to the Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons (NPT), held currently in the Austrian capital of Vienna.

“All Arab countries have become parts of the NPT, while Israel is still the only one in the region that has not joined it, and all its activities and nuclear capabilities remain outside any international control system,” Ambassador Khaddour said.

<https://sana.sy/en/?p=314454>

**Dandi: US occupation provided terrorists with chemical weapons to accuse Syria later of using them**

Syrian Arab News Agency, August 8, 2023

“US occupation forces provided terrorists in al-Tanf with chemical weapons, and trained them to use them for alleged incident of chemical weapons use, so they can accuse Syria of such act later” said Deputy Permanent Representative of Syria to the UN, Dr. al-Hakam Dandi during a UNSC session.

“The persistence of the Council to convene monthly meetings on the so called “Syrian chemical file”, in spite that no developments had happened, aims at creating opportunities for well-known states to repeat their accusations” Dandi added.

Dandi went on to say “Syria condemns any use of chemical weapons anywhere, anytime and by any party”.

<https://sana.sy/en/?p=314665>

**President al-Assad to Sky News Arabia: Those who stood by terrorism and plotted for war are the ones who bear responsibility for destruction in Syria**

Syrian Arab News Agency, August 9, 2023

President Bashar al-Assad affirmed that terrorism was the reason behind destruction in Syria, and those who stood by terrorism, intended for war and plotted it, bear the responsibility, not the ones who have fought against terrorism.

President Assad added in an interview given to Sky News Arabia that during the past years, nearly half a million refugees returned to Syria, but now, the President wonders, how can a refugee return without water, electricity, schools for his children, and without medical treatment, these are the basics of life. This was the reason.

<https://sana.sy/en/?p=314755>

**Defense Minister: Israeli occupation entity poses the main threat to security and stability of region**

Syrian Arab News Agency, August 15, 2023

Defense Minister, Major Gen. Ali Mahmoud Abbas said that many countries suffered from the evils of the colonial West, as America and its allies sought to provoke conflicts and support terrorist organizations to destroy countries such as Iraq, Libya, Lebanon and Syria which are still suffering

from the aggression of the US, its allies and terrorism for more than 12 years.

During a speech at the 11th Moscow Conference on International security, Maj. Gen. Abbas said that the world is witnessing an escalation in the intensity of disputes and conflicts in different regions, and this requires additional effective efforts and serious cooperation to reach the better security situation that we and our people aspire to.

<https://sana.sy/en/?p=315079>

## Türkiye

### Ankara, Islamabad launch last Türkiye-made corvette for Pakistan

Daily Sabah, August 2, 2023

Türkiye and Pakistan on Wednesday lauded their ever-growing strategic cooperation as they launched the last of the warships tailored for the Pakistani Navy as part of a project that has cemented strong defense ties between Ankara and Islamabad.

PNS Tariq, the fourth and the last of MILGEM corvettes built by Türkiye for Pakistan, was inaugurated at a ceremony in Pakistan's southern port city of Karachi.

"Beyond its own needs, Türkiye also builds ships for many developed countries of the world," Vice President Cevdet Yılmaz said at the ceremony. "Thanks to the capacity we have developed in the field of defense, we have the ability to voluntarily manage the processes in which we are involved, without the need for anyone's consent."

<https://www.dailysabah.com/business/defense/ankara-islamabad-launch-last-turkiye-made-corvette-for-pakistan>

### Defense sector key as Türkiye, Pakistan deepen 'perfect' ties: Envoy

Daily Sabah, August 3, 2023

Türkiye and Pakistan enjoy "perfect" bilateral relations and are working to enhance cooperation in various sectors, particularly in the realm of defense, according to the Pakistani ambassador to Ankara.

Both countries have "strong defense industries and capabilities," which has allowed them to "benefit from one another's experiences and expertise," Ambassador Yousaf Junaid told Anadolu Agency (AA) in an interview.

"The Turkish defense industry has achieved spectacular success under the leadership of President (Recep Tayyip) Erdoğan, defying all odds and challenges in the past two decades," he said.

The envoy said the two countries had deepened their partnership through collective research, development and pooling of resources, including through exploring long-term joint ventures.

<https://www.dailysabah.com/business/defense/defense-sector-key-as-turkiye-pakistan-deepen-perfect-ties-envoy>

### Baykar subsidiary to conduct R&D studies at Pakistan's NASTP

Daily Sabah, August 6, 2023

Leading Turkish technology and defense industry company Baykar took its place in Pakistan National Aerospace Science and Technology Park (NASTP) with a recently signed cooperation agreement.



Under the deal, Baykar Teknoloji, founded by Baykar, will carry out research and development (R&D) activities within the park. The momentous ceremony was graced by the esteemed presence of Pakistan's Prime Minister, Shahbaz Sharif, and Baykar's Chairperson of the Board, Selçuk Bayraktar.

This strategic collaboration holds great promise for both nations, fostering technological advancements and enhancing defense capabilities.

<https://www.dailysabah.com/business/defense/baykar-subsi-dary-to-conduct-rd-studies-at-pakistans-nastp>

### **Indonesia buys 12 Anka drones from Turkey's TAI business**

Defense News, August 7, 2023

Indonesia has bought 12 surveillance and reconnaissance drones worth \$300 million from Turkish Aerospace Industries to be used by its military to strengthen the nation's defenses, the Defense Ministry said Aug. 2. The purchase aims to increase the variety, quantity and quality of Indonesia's military equipment with the contract signed Feb. 3 with TAI. The 12 units of Anka drones are expected to be delivered before November 2025. Indonesia will also get training, logistics support and related equipment as well as a warranty period of two years or 600 flying hours. The 12 Anka drones will be used by Indonesia's Air Force, Army and Navy. The 8.6-meter (28-foot) drone can fly for about 30 hours at an altitude of 9,100

meters (29,856 feet). The Turkish Air Force has used them since 2010.

<https://www.defensenews.com/unmanned/2023/08/07/indonesia-buys-12-anka-drones-from-turkeys-tai-business/>

### **Saudi Arabia, Türkiye's Baykar build on record drone sale with new deal**

Daily Sabah, August 7, 2023

Saudi Arabia and Türkiye's drone pioneer have signed a strategic agreement to localize the manufacturing of unmanned aerial vehicles (UAVs) in the kingdom, the sides said on Sunday, building on a historic deal signed last month.

The agreement with Baykar "will enhance SAMI's (state-owned Saudi Arabian Military Industries) role in supporting the national defense industry and strengthening our local capabilities," it posted on messaging platform X, formerly known as Twitter. The deal also includes technology transfer, Anadolu Agency (AA) reported.

The ceremony hosted by Saudi Arabia's Defense Ministry in Riyadh also saw other leading Turkish defense contractors, including Aselsan and Roketsan, sign new agreements, AA said.

<https://www.dailysabah.com/business/defense/saudi-arabia-turkiyes-baykar-build-on-record-drone-sale-with-new-deal>

### **Turkish defense firms listed among world's top 100**

Daily Sabah, August 7, 2023

Four Turkish defense magnates made it to the top 100 defense firms list published by

the U.S.-based Defense News Magazine on Monday. Türkiye's Aselsan was at 47th place in the annual ranking, up from 49th last year, said the outlet that describes itself as "the authoritative, independent, professional news source for the world's defense decision-makers." Turkish Aerospace Industry (TAI) was at 58, up from 67, while missile producer Roketsan climbed to 80th place from 86th. The Military Factory and Shipyard Management Inc. (Asfat) also entered the list for the first time and took the 100th spot.

<https://www.dailysabah.com/business/defense/turkish-defense-firms-listed-among-worlds-top-100>

### **After Saudi drone deal, Turkey's defense industry eyes record export year**

Al-Monitor, August 12, 2023

The landmark \$3.1 billion deal that Turkey's leading drone manufacturer Baykar signed with Saudi Arabia last month is expected to boost Turkish military exports to a record level this year and open new avenues of cooperation with the Gulf heavyweight. President Recep Tayyip Erdogan has said that Turkey is aiming for \$6 billion in defense industry exports this year, but the sales could well surpass that mark to reach \$7.5 billion, according to representatives and observers of Turkey's defense industry sector. The deal between Baykar and the Saudi government was signed during Erdogan's July 18 visit to Saudi Arabia, which marked a high point in fence-mending between Ankara and

Riyadh after years of regional rivalry and tensions in the wake of the Arab Spring.

<https://www.al-monitor.com/originals/2023/08/after-saudi-drone-deal-turkeys-defense-industry-eyes-record-export-year>

### **Leap in space tech as Türkiye launches homegrown probe rocket**

Daily Sabah, August 13, 2023

Türkiye on Saturday announced it had successfully tested its first domestically developed probe rocket, marking the biggest advancement in the nation's ambitious space endeavors.

Developed by the pioneering defense and technology contractor, Roketsan, the rocket was test-fired from Iğneada in Türkiye's northwestern Kırklareli province, the country's top defense body wrote on social media platform X, formerly known as Twitter.

The launch and the advanced engineering behind the probe rocket reflect Türkiye's dedication to space exploration, said the Presidency of Defense Industries (SSB).

<https://www.dailysabah.com/business/tech/leap-in-space-tech-as-turkiye-launches-homegrown-probe-rocket>

### **Turkey Launches First Homegrown Probe Rocket**

Israel Defense, August 15, 2023

Turkey successfully tested its first domestic probe rocket on Saturday, with a launch from the country's northwestern Kırklareli province.

“Our probe rocket, which was developed with our advanced engineering technologies as part of our country's efforts to reach space, was successfully launched from Igneada,” said the SSB, which also shared footage of the launch.

The rocket was developed by Rokestan, one of Turkey’s major weapons manufacturers and defense contractors.

<https://www.israeldefense.co.il/en/node/59261>

## United Arab Emirates

### New UAE reactor helps nuclear power provide 25% of the world’s clean energy: report

Arab News, August 2, 2023

The UAE’s Barakah nuclear plant helped push the globe towards having 25 percent of its clean energy coming from atomic power in 2022, according to a new report.

Analysis by the World Nuclear Association showed that the world’s reactors generated more than 2,500 terawatt hours of electricity for the sixth consecutive year.

Unit 3 of the UAE’s Barakah nuclear power plant, situated 230 km west of Abu Dhabi, came online in October 2022 and helped make up for a drop in production in Europe partly caused by Russia's invasion of Ukraine. It was one of six reactors across the world to begin generating power last year, along with two in China and one each in Finland, Pakistan, and South Korea.

<https://www.arabnews.com/node/2348476/business-economy>

### Jordan, UAE ministers discuss cooperation ahead of COP28

Zawya, August 15, 2023

Minister of Water and Irrigation Mohammad Al Najjar, Minister of Energy and Mineral Resources Saleh Al Kharabsheh and Minister of Environment Muawieh Radaideh, on Monday met with Sultan Al Jaber, UAE Minister of Industry and Advanced Technology and the special envoy for climate change.

During the talks, the ministers reaffirmed the Kingdom's support for UAE hosting the World Climate Summit and recognised its important role as the presiding nation for the 28th Conference of the Parties of the UNFCCC (COP 28), which will be held at Expo Dubai later this year, as well as its global role in addressing climate-related challenges, according to the Jordan News Agency, Petra.

<https://www.zawya.com/en/special-coverage/cop-28-talking-climate-in-uae/jordan-uae-ministers-discuss-cooperation-ahead-of-cop28-a7tm34qi>

### UAE denies supplying arms to Sudan’s factions, stresses neutrality

Jordan News, August 15, 2023

On Sunday, the United Arab Emirates denied allegations made by a media outlet regarding arms and ammunition supply to Sudan's warring factions. A statement clarified that the UAE hasn't provided weapons to any parties involved since the conflict started in April 2023. The Ministry of Foreign

Affairs' Director of Strategic Communications, Afra Al-Hameli, stressed that the UAE remains neutral in the conflict, advocating for de-escalation, ceasefires, and diplomatic dialogues through meetings with partners. Hameli emphasized the UAE's consistent backing for Sudan's political process and its endeavor to facilitate national consensus for a governing body, Arab News reported.

<https://www.jordannews.jo/Section-20/Middle-East/UAE-denies-supplying-arms-to-Sudan-s-factions-stresses-neutrality-30319>

# NUCLEAR AND ARMS CONTROL CENTRE

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