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मनोहर पर्रिकर रक्षा अध्ययन एवं विश्लेषण संस्थान

## Armenia

### Iran supports Armenia's territorial integrity and 'Crossroads of Peace' project - Vice President

Arka News Agency, October 1, 2024

Armenian Prime Minister Nikol Pashinyan received on October 1, an Iranian government delegation led by the First Vice President of the Islamic Republic Mohammad Reza Arif, the Armenian government reported. Reaffirming the words of the Supreme Leader of the Islamic Revolution Seyyed Ali Khamenei, the First Vice President of the Islamic Republic once again stressed that Iran fully supports Armenia's territorial integrity and considers inadmissible any changes of borders in the region. At the same time, he stressed Iran's determination and readiness for diverse cooperation with Armenia. Pashinyan noted that the continuous development of Armenia's relations with Iran is one of the priorities of his government. The Prime Minister highly assessed Iran's principled and public position on the territorial integrity of the Republic of Armenia and inviolability of its internationally recognised state borders.

[https://arka.am/en/news/politics/iran\\_supports\\_armenia\\_s\\_territorial\\_integrity\\_and\\_crossroads\\_of\\_peace\\_project\\_vice\\_president/#google\\_vignette](https://arka.am/en/news/politics/iran_supports_armenia_s_territorial_integrity_and_crossroads_of_peace_project_vice_president/#google_vignette)

### Armenia and NATO discuss areas of cooperation

Arka News Agency, October 4, 2024

On October 3, a delegation led by Lieutenant General Janusz Adamczak, NATO Director General of the

International Military Staff that arrived in Armenia on a working visit, held bilateral meetings with Lieutenant General Edvard Asryan, First Deputy Minister of Defence of Armenia, who is also Chief of the General Staff of the Armed Forces, and Levon Avazyan, Head of the Main Department of Defence Policy and International Cooperation of Armenian Defence Ministry. During the meetings a wide range of issues were discussed, in particular, the current state of Armenia-NATO cooperation and potential opportunities for its development. The most urgent directions of cooperation were defined. The Armenian side presented the ongoing reforms in the Armenian Armed Forces. In addition, regional security issues were touched upon, and the sides exchanged views on international military-political developments.

[https://arka.am/en/news/politics/armenia\\_and\\_nato\\_discuss\\_areas\\_of\\_cooperation/](https://arka.am/en/news/politics/armenia_and_nato_discuss_areas_of_cooperation/)

### Armenia eyes South Korea's K2 main battle tank adapted for mountainous terrain

Global Defense News, October 10, 2024

According to an article by the South Korean media outlet Chosun Biz, dated October 4, 2024, Armenian Defence Minister Suren Papikyan visited South Korea in September 2024 to explore the possibility of acquiring K2 Black Panther main battle tanks developed by Hyundai Rotem. This visit also allowed the Armenian minister to attend the 2024 High-Level Meeting on Responsible Military Use of Artificial Intelligence (REAIM), organized by South Korea's Ministry of National Defence and Ministry of Foreign Affairs on September 9

and 10. According to the Armenian Military Portal, Papikyan also used this visit to initiate discussions on the supply of South Korean weapons, with a particular interest in the K2 tank. The K2 main battle tank, currently used by the South Korean Army, features a semi-active pneumatic suspension system, an advanced technology that is especially well-suited to mountainous terrains. In Armenia, where nearly 86% of the territory is mountainous, this capability could provide a significant strategic advantage by enhancing the mobility and precision of troops in combat. Additionally, the tank is equipped with a sensor that automatically adjusts the suspension based on the terrain, further improving accuracy and crew comfort.

<https://armyrecognition.com/news/army-news/army-news-2024/armenia-eyes-south-koreas-k2-main-battle-tank-adapted-for-mountainous-terrain>

### **Armenia, Germany agree upon 2025 defence cooperation plan**

News.am, October 11, 2024

Bilateral defence consultations between Armenia and Germany were held in Berlin on October 9 and 10, with the participation of the Armenian delegation led by Levon Ayvazyan, Head of the Department of Defence Policy and International Cooperation of the Ministry of Defence of Armenia (MoD). During the meetings held at the Federal Ministry of Defence of Germany, within the Departments of International Security Policy and International Cooperation, various matters concerning international and regional security were discussed, alongside the prospects for the development of bilateral

and multilateral cooperation, the MoD of Armenia informs Armenian News-NEWS.am. Ayvazyan provided an overview of the politico-military situation around Armenia and its ongoing developments, highlighting in particular the Crossroads of Peace initiative developed by the Armenian government, as well as the transformation process of the Armenian Armed Forces.

<https://news.am/eng/news/846909.html>

### **Azerbaijan**

#### **Azerbaijani and Belarusian military experts discuss engineering and technical support issues**

Ministry of Defense of the Republic of Azerbaijan, October 10, 2024

In accordance with the bilateral cooperation plan for 2024, signed between the Defence Ministries of Azerbaijan and Belarus, a delegation from the Belarus Ministry of Defence is currently visiting Azerbaijan. During the visit, the guests attended the International Military Cooperation Department of the Azerbaijan Ministry of Defence. A briefing on the primary activities of the Engineering Troops was subsequently delivered to the Belarusian delegation. The Chief of the Main Department of the Engineering Troops, Major General Anar Karimov informed the guests about the mine clearance work in the liberated territories following the Victory in the Patriotic War under the leadership of the President of the Republic of Azerbaijan, Supreme Commander-in-Chief of the Armed Forces, Mr. Ilham Aliyev. Subsequently, the sides discussed the potential avenues for mutual cooperation

and proposals for the advancement of the relations.

<https://mod.gov.az/en/news/azerbaijani-and-belarusian-military-experts-discuss-engineering-and-technical-support-issues-53102.html>

### **Azerbaijan increases gas exports to Europe in 2024**

Akbar Novruz

Azernews, October 14, 2024

Azerbaijan exported 9.4 billion cubic meters of natural gas to Europe from January to September this year, as stated by Energy Minister Parviz Shahbazov on his "X" social media account, Azernews reports. During the same period, 7.3 billion cubic meters of gas were sent to Turkiye, and 1.7 billion cubic meters to Georgia. Notably, 4.2 billion cubic meters of gas were transported to Turkey through the Trans-Anatolian Gas Pipeline (TANAP). Gas exports from Azerbaijan saw an overall 4.2% increase compared to the same period last year. It is worth recalling that Azerbaijani gas began flowing to Europe via the Trans-Adriatic Pipeline (TAP) at the end of 2020, a key part of the Southern Gas Corridor. TAP's current capacity is 12 billion cubic meters per year, with plans to expand it to 20 billion cubic meters by 2027.

[https://www.azernews.az/oil\\_and\\_gas/232541.html](https://www.azernews.az/oil_and_gas/232541.html)

### **Azercell expands its network of "green" base stations**

Azernews, October 14, 2024

The leading mobile operator launches new solar-powered base stations in the liberated

territories as part of its ongoing commitment to sustainability and innovation, Azercell continues to expand environmentally friendly technologies across the country. The number of Azercell's "green" base stations has now increased to 35 in Karabakh, underscoring the company's dedication to environmental protection. The leading mobile operator has launched "green" base stations in Gubadli, Jabrayil, Zangilan, Fuzuli, Aghdam, Lachin and Kalbajar. In addition, the company's solar-powered base stations are operational in Tovuz and Gobustan. These base stations rely on renewable energy. 60% of their operational time is powered by solar energy, mitigating the environmental impact of human activities by significantly reducing carbon emissions and energy consumption.

<https://www.azernews.az/business/232569.html>

### **Iran keen on further strengthening relations with Azerbaijan - chairperson**

Elchin Mehdiyev

Trend News Agency, October 14, 2024

Iran is interested in further strengthening relations with Azerbaijan, the Chairman of the Parliament of the Islamic Council of Iran Mohammad Bagher Ghalibaf said during a meeting in Geneva with Speaker of Azerbaijani Parliament Sahiba Gafarova, Trend reports via the Azerbaijani Parliament. Congratulating once again on the holding of extraordinary elections to the Azerbaijani Parliament and the re-election of Sahiba Ghafarova to the post of Chairman of the Azerbaijani Parliament, the Chairman of the Iranian Parliament expressed his country's interest in further

strengthening relations with Azerbaijan. Mohammad Bagher Ghalibaf noted that Iran attaches special importance to relations with Azerbaijan. He added that the position on further expansion of ties will be continued at the level of parliaments. According to him, Iran believes that further strengthening of economic and cultural ties will contribute to peace and security in the whole region. It was noted that opportunities for economic cooperation, including transportation, and regional communications should be widely used. The Chairman of the Iranian Parliament noted the importance of cooperation in the “3+3” format.

<https://en.trend.az/azerbaijan/politics/3956860.html>

## Iran

### Iran hits Israel's Netzarim military facility and Tel Nof intelligence unit

Tehran Times, October 1, 2024

In its retaliatory military strikes on Israel late on October 1, night the Iranian military targeted the Netzarim military facility and the Tel Nof intelligence unit. The military attack was in response to the Israeli assassination of Hamas political chief Ismail Haniyeh in Tehran on July 31 and the killing of Iranian military advisor to Lebanon Brigadier General Abbas Nilforoushan, and Hezbollah leader Sayyed Hassan Nasrallah in the massive airstrike on Beirut on September 27. The Islamic Revolution Guard Corps used hypersonic Fatah missiles in targeting these two sites as well as the Nevatim air base. The Nevatim air base housed F-35 military jets. The fighter jets that bombarded Beirut on

September 27 flew from this military air base.

<https://www.tehrantimes.com/news/504423/Iran-hits-Israel-s-Netzarim-military-facility-and-Tel-Nof-intelligence>

### Iran launches dozens of missiles at Israel

News.az, October 1, 2024

On October 1, Iran announced it had launched dozens of missiles into Israel, marking a significant escalation in the ongoing conflict with Iran-backed militias Hezbollah and Hamas. There were no immediate reports of casualties, but Israel urged residents to seek shelter as air raid sirens rang out across the country, News.Az reports citing The Times Colonist. A series of window-shaking explosions were heard in Tel Aviv and near Jerusalem, though it was not immediately clear whether the sounds were from missiles landing or being intercepted by Israeli defenses, or both. Israel and the United States have warned there would be severe consequences in the event of an attack on Israel from Iran, which backs the militant group Hezbollah in Lebanon. President Joe Biden and Vice President Kamala Harris monitored the attack on Israel from the White House Situation Room.

<https://news.az/news/iran-launches-dozens-of-missiles-at-israel>

### Satellite images show significant damage to Nevatim airbase

Tehran Times, October 3, 2024

Satellite images reveal significant damage to Israel's Nevatim airbase that houses U.S.-made F-35 fighter jets after Iran launched a barrage of ballistic missiles at

Israeli military sites in retaliation to Israel's high-profile assassinations in Tehran and Beirut. Satellite images of the airbase show a large hole in the roof of an aircraft hangar. On October 1 evening, the Iranian military fired around 200 ballistic missiles at Israeli military and intelligence bases in response to the July 31 assassinations of Hamas leader Ismail Haniyeh in Tehran, and the September 27 killing of Hezbollah leader Sayyed Hassan Nasrallah and Iranian military advisor to Lebanon Brigadier General Abbas Nilfroushan in Beirut. The airbase, located in the Negev desert, houses the Israeli Air Force's most advanced aircraft, including F-35 Lightning II stealth fighters. It also accommodates C-130 transport aircraft, Boeing 707 tankers, and reconnaissance planes. At least seven videos showed 20 to 30 Iranian ballistic missiles hitting the base, causing substantial damage, Tasnim reported. Some sources said over 20 fighter jets were destroyed.

<https://www.tehrantimes.com/news/504494/Satellite-images-show-significant-damage-to-Nevatim-airbase>

### **Pezeshkian calls for more contribution of academia to Iran's technological progress**

Islamic Republic News Agency, October 12, 2024

Iranian President Masoud Pezeshkian has called on the country's academia to further contribute to the technological progress of the Islamic Republic. Pezeshkian was speaking at the University of Tehran on October 12, on the occasion of the beginning of the new academic year in Iran. "We have pinned our hope to the university

students and instructors," he said. "Of course, the industry and production sectors are also of prime importance for the country." Pezeshkian urged the university students and professors to take concrete actions to deal with the problems in the country. He said that he welcomes reasonable remarks regardless of the speakers' political backgrounds. The Iranian president called on all experts in various fields including economics, agriculture, industry, culture, and sociology to play a role in line with tackling the local challenges.

<https://en.irna.ir/news/85625299/Pezeshkian-calls-for-more-contribution-of-academia-to-Iran-s>

### **Tehran not seeks tension, but is ready for war too**

Mehr News Agency, October 13, 2024,

The Islamic Republic of Iran does not want to increase tension and conflict, Iranian foreign minister says. "The Islamic Republic of Iran does not want to increase tension and conflict, although it is ready for any incident. We are prepared for both war and peace," Iranian foreign minister, Abbas Araghchi said in a joint press conference with his Iraq counterpart Fuad Hussein in Baghdad on October 13. "The region is in a state of alarm, and the likelihood of an outbreak of clashes is very high, which is rooted in the Zionist regime's crimes," he noted, warning of the spread of the crisis to the other countries of the region. It is necessary to deal with the Israeli regime's acts of aggression in order to stop the war imposed on the people of Gaza and Lebanon, Araqchi stated. "We had good consultations with the Iraqi side, and I

thank the Iraqi authorities for their positions," Araghchi said. The Zionist regime has minimized the possibility of providing aid to Lebanese refugees and does not allow it, he noted, adding, "We continue to send our aid to the Lebanese refugees. We also thank the Iraqi government for hosting a number of displaced and wounded Lebanese."

<https://en.mehrnews.com/news/222872/Te-iran-not-seek-to-increase-tension-conflict-in-region>

### **Iran's president enacts preferential trade agreement with Indonesia**

Islam Republic News Agency, October 13, 2024

Iran's President Masoud Pezeshkian has signed into law the Preferential Trade Agreement (PTA) between Iran and Indonesia after it was approved by the Iranian parliament. The president enacted the deal on October 13 and issued a directive to ministries of industry and foreign affairs to implement it. The agreement was approved by Iran's Parliament on September 24 and ratified by the Guardian Council on October 2. Iranian Parliament Speaker Mohammad Baqer Qalibaf, on October 8, formally informed President Pezeshkian of the approval of the PTA law between the governments of Iran and Indonesia, after it was approved by lawmakers. The agreement, initially signed in Tehran on June 20, 2005, aims to bolster trade ties between the two countries by reducing tariffs and removing non-tariff barriers.

<https://en.irna.ir/news/85626252/Iran-s-president-enacts-Preferential-Trade-Agreement-with-Indonesia>

### **Iran's nuclear program operates entirely within NPT framework – MP**

Elnur Baghishov

Trend News Agency, October 14, 2024

Iran's nuclear activities are exclusively peaceful and are carried out within the framework of the Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons (NPT), Iranian MP Mahmoud Nabavian said at the Standing Committee on Peace and Security of the Inter-Parliamentary Union (IPU) in Geneva on October 14, Trend reports. According to him, Iran is a member of the Nuclear Non-Proliferation Treaty and cooperates with the International Atomic Energy Agency within the framework of the agreement. Nabavian added that in this context, 92 percent of the International Atomic Energy Agency's inspections have been carried out in Iran. "Comparing the peaceful nuclear activities of Iran, a member of the nuclear non-proliferation agreement, with the nuclear activities of North Korea, which lies outside the agreement, is a wrong and unfair comparison," he said. The Iranian MP stated that the NPT has officially recognized the right of everyone to use nuclear energy for peaceful purposes and nothing can undermine this right. Iran's peaceful nuclear program poses no threat to human health or the environment.

<https://en.trend.az/iran/3956775.html>

### **Iran plans to become a member of BRICS Development Bank**

Tehran Times, October 14, 2024

The governor of the Central Bank of Iran (CBI) has said Iran is going to become a member of the New Development Bank,

formerly referred to as the BRICS Development Bank, IRIB reported. Speaking to the press on the sidelines of the BRICS annual summit in Russia, Mohammadreza Farzin said: “The New Development Bank can pursue many of the development goals of the BRICS member countries because today the World Bank operates within the framework of the goals of the United States and Western countries. We hope that the BRICS Development Bank will play this role for BRICS member countries and we intend to become a member of this bank.” During the period when Iran was the secretary of BRICS, the Islamic Republic made good agreements with the Central Bank of Russia regarding the connection of the two countries’ banking networks and financial and monetary cooperation, all of which have been raised again at BRICS summit, Farzin said. “We have a payment system between countries based on local currencies, which was one of the topics of this meeting. China, Russia and Iran are very interested in this issue,” he noted.

<https://www.tehrantimes.com/news/50496/0/Iran-plans-to-become-a-member-of-BRICS-Development-Bank>

### **Iran, China FMs discuss West Asia developments by phone**

Mehr News Agency, October 14, 2024

Chinese Foreign Minister Wang Yi held a telephone conversation with his Iranian counterpart Abbas Araghchi on October 14 to discuss the escalation in the West Asian region during the phone call; the two sides exchanged views on bilateral ties and the latest developments in the West Asian region. Chinese foreign minister pointed to

his country’s strategic and important relations with Iran and emphasized the need for increasing diplomatic efforts and initiatives with various regional and international parties to prevent the escalation of tension and insecurity in the West Asian region. Iran’s top diplomat, for his part, welcomed the Chinese government’s efforts to stop warmongering and crimes of the Zionist regime in Gaza Strip and Lebanon and described the inaction of the UN Security Council as ‘disastrous’, which comes as a result of the United States support for Israeli regime. Araghchi appreciated China’s role in helping maintain peace and security in the region.

<https://en.mehrnews.com/news/222942/Iran-China-FMs-hold-talk-on-latest-developments-in-West-Asia>

### **Iran kicking around idea of setting up Atomic Energy Council**

Elnur Baghishov

Trend News Agency, October 14, 2024

The Atomic Energy Council is set to come into play to champion the peaceful application of Iran’s nuclear technology, Trend reports. According to the information, this has been put on the table as a project, drawing from the insights of the research center of the Iranian parliament. The draft in question was put under the microscope last week during the plenary session of the Iranian parliament. At the helm of the 17-person council will be President Masoud Pezeshkian of Iran. According to the research center of the Iranian parliament, the proposed draft outlines a visionary roadmap for the evolution of Iran’s nuclear industry over the



next two decades, incorporating strategic initiatives and proactive measures. The draft requires the Iranian government to build and put into operation nuclear power plants with a capacity of at least 7,000 megawatts in cooperation with the private sector through the Atomic Energy Organization. The fuel of nuclear reactors at nuclear power plants should be provided fully and reliably.

<https://en.trend.az/iran/3956652.html>

### **Iran had no role in planning, decision-making, conducting October 7 operation: Mission to UN**

Islamic Republic News Agency, October 14, 2024

Referring to the psychological deception operation of the Israeli regime and some American media, the diplomatic mission of the Islamic Republic of Iran stated that the Islamic Republic of Iran had no role in the planning, decision-making and implementing the October 7 operation in any way, either in part or in general. On October 14 local time, the mission of the Islamic Republic of Iran to the United Nations wrote on its X (former Twitter) account: "Psychological operations involve deceiving public opinion by selectively mashing up certain obvious facts with fabricated information. Iran's assistance to the Resistance Front in empowering them to confront occupation and aggression is a matter of common knowledge and an obvious fact." It went on to note that however, dragging Iran or Hezbollah into the October 7 operation represents a fabricated conclusion and a cynical attempt to mislead public opinion—all aimed at

covering up the Israeli regime's major intelligence failure in relation to Hamas.

<https://en.irna.ir/news/85627972/Iran-had-no-role-in-planning-decision-making-conducting-October>

### **Iran condemns new sanctions imposed by EU, UK**

Islamic Republic News Agency, October 15, 2024

Iran's Foreign Ministry spokesman has condemned the European Union and Britain for imposing new sanctions on a number of Iranian individuals and entities based on "false and baseless pretexts". Esmail Baghaei, while rejecting the western allegations related to the sale of ballistic missiles by Iran to Russia, said on October 15 night that his country's stance on the conflict in Ukraine is clear and principled as Tehran has always called on all countries to respect each other's sovereignty and territorial integrity as well as a diplomatic solution to differences between Russia and Ukraine..

<https://en.irna.ir/news/85628055/Iran-condemns-new-sanctions-imposed-by-EU-UK>

### **Iraq**

#### **Israel's missiles on Iran in Iraqi airspace, Tehran threatens**

Shafaq News, October 11, 2024

Iraq and Jordan are the only two countries whose airspace Israel could potentially utilize for a strike on Iran, in response to Iran's missile attack in early October, Reuters reported. Gulf countries are pressuring Washington to prevent Israel

from striking Iranian oil fields, fearing that such actions could lead to retaliatory attacks on their own oil facilities by groups aligned with Tehran if the conflict escalates, Reuters quoted Gulf sources as saying. “Gulf states including Saudi Arabia, the United Arab Emirates and Qatar are also refusing to let Israel fly over their airspace for any attack on Iran and have conveyed this to Washington,” the same sources added. The three Gulf sources emphasized that Israel could route strikes through Jordan or Iraq, but using Saudi, UAE, or Qatari airspace was off the table and strategically unnecessary. Analysts also pointed out that Israel has other options, including mid-air refueling capabilities that would enable its jets to fly down the Red Sea into the Indian Ocean, proceed to the Gulf and then fly back, according to Reuters.

<https://www.shafaq.com/en/Iraq/Israel-s-missiles-on-Iran-in-Iraqi-airspace-Tehran-threatens>

### **Iraq warns against regional escalation, rejects use of airspace for strikes on Iran**

Shafaq News, October 13, 2024

On October 13, Iraqi Foreign Minister Fuad Hussein warned that the ongoing conflict involving Israel could expand to include Iran, potentially threatening global energy supplies and creating a worldwide crisis. During a joint press conference with his Iranian counterpart, Abbas Araghchi, who is visiting Baghdad, Hussein cautioned against the widening of hostilities. “The Israeli aggression on Lebanon could lead to the outbreak of another war,” he said. Hussein expressed concern that the continued fighting in Gaza and Lebanon poses a major threat to

regional security and stability. “The ongoing war is dangerous, and its escalation threatens the entire region,” he said. “Iraq stance is firm, we are against using our airspace as part of any military action,” stating, “The Iraqi government has not made any decision to engage in war. Such decisions rest with the state and its three authorities.”

<https://www.shafaq.com/en/Iraq/Iraq-warns-against-regional-escalation-rejects-use-of-airspace-for-strikes-on-Iran>

### **Iraqi airstrikes kill four ISIS members, including a "key" leader**

Shafaq News, October 15, 2024

On October 15, the Joint Operations Command (JOC) reported that Iraqi Air Force F-16 jets carried out airstrikes that resulted in the deaths of ISIS members in Kirkuk governorate. The JOC stated, “On October 14, the F-16s executed two successful airstrikes targeting a terrorist hideout in the Laylan area at 11:30 PM.” On October 15, at 5:00 AM, a force from the Iraqi Counter-Terrorism Service assessed the results of the strike and found four bodies of ISIS members, one of whom was a "key" leader. “All information will be verified after investigations are conducted,” the JOC said. “The operation also resulted in the destruction of weapons, communication devices, and logistical materials, and the search operation is ongoing.” Earlier today, a security source affirmed that a military operation by the Iraqi Counter-Terrorism Service was launched with air support in Kirkuk.

<https://www.shafaq.com/en/Iraq/Source-Iraqi-Counter-Terrorism-Service-launches-operation-against-ISIS-with-air-support>

## Israel

### Benjamin Netanyahu vows retaliation after Iran fires barrage of missiles at Israel

James Shotter

Financial Times, October 2, 2024

Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu vowed to retaliate against Iran after the Islamic republic fired scores of ballistic missiles at Israel on October 1, as the region slid ever closer towards all-out war. Speaking after the Israeli military said Tehran had fired about 180 missiles at the country, Netanyahu warned “Iran made a big mistake tonight — and it will pay for it”. “Whoever attacks us, we will attack them,” he said. Israeli military spokesperson Daniel Hagari said most of the Iranian missiles had been intercepted, but added there were “a few hits in the centre and other areas in the south of the country”. He said the military was not aware of any casualties. The Guards warned that any Israeli response would result in “devastating” attacks on the Jewish state, adding that 90 per cent of its missiles had hit their targets.

<https://www.ft.com/content/e053817b-9f15-4b3e-af58-b106a8fed087>

### IDF strikes Hezbollah weapon production sites in multiple Beirut strikes

The Jerusalem Post, October 2, 2024

The IDF conducted targeted strikes in the area of Beirut against a number of Hezbollah weapon production facilities and terror infrastructure sites over the past few

days, Israel's military announced on October 2 morning. According to the IDF, the strikes were conducted to degrade Hezbollah's military capabilities. It also noted that the Hezbollah terror group deliberately embedded its weapon production facilities beneath residential buildings within central Beirut, hiding them in populated areas. The IDF emphasized that numerous steps were taken to mitigate the risk of harming civilians and that it had sent out warnings in advance about the strikes to civilians in the area. Furthermore, during the early hours of October 2 morning, The IDF said that it was operating in Beirut, striking terror targets in the area. Following the announcement, IDF Arabic Spokesperson Avichay Adraee posted on X, formerly Twitter, an urgent warning in Arabic calling the residents of the southern suburbs of Beirut to evacuate.

<https://www.jpost.com/breaking-news/article-822914>

### Can Israel's land offensive 'defeat' Hizbollah?

Andrew

Financial Times, October 3, 2024

After meeting with his military chiefs near Israel's northern front with Hizbollah late last year, Benjamin Netanyahu delivered a stark warning to the Lebanese militant group: if it started an all-out war, Israel would “turn Beirut and southern Lebanon . . . into Gaza”. It is now Netanyahu who has escalated the conflict with Hizbollah, with Israel launching what it calls “limited, localised and targeted ground raids” against the militant group in its first land offensive in southern Lebanon in 18 years. Having

previously vowed to push Hezbollah back from the border and enable the safe return to northern Israel of 60,000 people displaced by rocket fire, Netanyahu has since spoken of a more ambitious aim to “defeat” the Iran-backed militant group altogether. “We are in a war for our very existence,” the prime minister said on October 2. “We will unite, go hand in hand and defeat our enemies.”

<https://www.ft.com/content/5e0ae647-4c21-4fca-a3c2-aec06b31a44f>

### **Can Israel destroy Iran’s nuclear facilities by itself?**

John Paul Rathbone

Financial Times, October 4, 2024

Asked if he would support an Israeli strike on Iran’s nuclear facilities, US President Joe Biden on October 2, was unequivocal: “The answer is no.” Some hawks in Israel have nevertheless been debating whether its air force should carry out such a strike in retaliation for the barrage of 180 ballistic missiles that Tehran fired into Israel this week. But without US support, a solo Israeli air strike on Iran’s nuclear facilities would be highly risky and at best only delay rather than destroy its programme, according to analysts. Why would an Israeli operation be difficult? The first reason is distance. It is more than a thousand miles from Israel to Iran’s main nuclear bases, and to reach them Israeli planes would have to cross the sovereign airspace of Saudi Arabia, Jordan, Iraq, Syria and potentially Turkey. The next is fuel. Flying to the targets and back would take all of Israel’s aerial refuelling capability and leave little or no margin for

error, according to a report by the US Congressional Research Service.

<https://www.ft.com/content/4cfc2761-ec1d-4769-8ff9-f0b636255425>

### **'Defence is more expensive than offense': The cost of Iran's missile attack and Israel's defence**

Udi Ezion

The Jerusalem Post, October 4, 2024

People stand around apparent remains of a ballistic missile lying in the desert, following an attack by Iran on Israel, near the southern city of Arad, Israel October 2, 2024. One of the concepts that emerged from military and public discourse since the outbreak of the Israel-Hamas War is "Missile Economics" - It’s not enough to have the best missile or bomb; you also need to maintain a large enough stockpile to meet your needs and the capability to replenish that stockpile in the event of a prolonged war. Even in developing weapons that can fly at speeds of thousands of kilometers per hour, armed with warheads and sophisticated sensors, a successful military arsenal can come down to finance. Israel's state inquiry commission into the war will need to address the issue of funding large numbers of defensive launches. Prior to October 7, along with political and intelligence failures, there was a significant shortcoming in adequately equipping the Israel Air Force, armored units, and artillery with sufficient munitions. This now leaves Israel in a somewhat precarious position.

<https://www.jpost.com/israel-news/defense-news/article-823148>

## **IDF destroys Hezbollah tunnel that crossed into Israel, steps up airstrikes**

Emanuel Fabian

Times of Israel, October 8, 2024

Israeli forces have demolished a small Hezbollah tunnel that crossed into Israeli territory from Lebanon, the military announced October 8, as its ground operation north of the border continued to target the terror group's infrastructure. According to the Israel Defense Forces, the 20-meter-long tunnel had no exit in Israeli territory, and its path crossed the UN-recognized Blue Line by about 10 meters, in the western sector of the border, near the Lebanese village of Marwahin, just across from the Israeli community of Zar'it. No towns were ever under any threat by the tunnel, the military said. According to Israeli military assessments, Hezbollah began the construction of the tunnel about two years ago, and it was quickly identified by the IDF. The military said it wanted to keep tabs on the tunnel as it was being built, rather than reveal to Hezbollah that it had intelligence of the underground route.

<https://www.timesofisrael.com/idf-destroys-hezbollah-tunnel-that-crossed-into-israel-steps-up-airstrikes/>

## **All's fair in Lebanon war? When it comes to removing Hezbollah, Israeli experts say yes**

Jeremy Sharon

Times of Israel, October 9, 2024

The Israeli military's stepped-up campaign against Hezbollah has unsurprisingly drawn criticism that aspects of the offensive could violate key provisions of international law.

Accusations against the Israel Defense Forces have included allegations regarding the displacement of civilians, with hundreds of thousands forced to flee an intense bombing campaign in several parts of Lebanon and ground operations in villages near the Israeli border. There have also been charges regarding the proportionality of Israel's strikes on residences, with some questioning whether the estimated collateral damage is outweighed by the military gain of any given action. The campaign first appeared to ramp up on the afternoons of September 17 and 18, when pagers and walkie-talkies used by Hezbollah members suddenly exploded, maiming thousands and reportedly killing some three dozen people, many of them Hezbollah members.

<https://www.timesofisrael.com/all-fair-in-lebanon-war-when-it-comes-to-removing-hezbollah-israeli-experts-say-yes/>

## **Israel cancels defence minister's visit to US**

Financial Times, October 9, 2024

Israel has told the US that defence minister Yoav Gallant will no longer travel to Washington this week, prompting fears the cancellation could jeopardise coordination with Israel over its response to Iran's missile attack. "We were just informed that minister Gallant will be postponing his trip to Washington, DC," deputy Pentagon press secretary Sabrina Singh said on Tuesday, hours before he was due to fly to the US. The visit, which had been scheduled at Gallant's request, was seen as a crucial chance for the US and Israel to discuss Israel's planned retaliation against Iran for its ballistic missile attack last week.

and its expanding conflict in Lebanon. Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu told Gallant to postpone his visit to Washington, said a person familiar with the matter. The prime minister did not want Gallant to go until his cabinet votes on the country's response to Iran's ballistic missile strike and Netanyahu speaks with US President Joe Biden on the phone, the person said.

<https://www.ft.com/content/623d2dc8-e306-4e4c-9303-c3445aa8240c>

### **What US really thinks of Netanyahu after year of war**

Times of Israel, October 10, 2024

Magid reviews the nearly hour-long call held between Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu and US President Joe Biden on October 9 — ostensibly about Israel's plans to attack Iran, though that subject was discussed only briefly. Magid talks about the US "walking away" from its initial push for a 21-day ceasefire with Hezbollah, and its support for IDF raids into Lebanon. He also looks at the clear frustrations the US administration has with Netanyahu, the failure to achieve a ceasefire, and the blame game in which both the Israeli premier and Hamas leader Yahya Sinwar play a part. Magid weighs in, too, on comments made by former Biden aide Andrew Miller about how Israel approaches military actions in civilian areas, how the US administration had to change its approach in influencing Israel during the ongoing war, and the need to plan for the day after in Gaza.

<https://www.timesofisrael.com/daily-briefing-oct-10-day-370-what-us-really-thinks-of-netanyahu-after-year-of-war/>

### **Israel turns to defence industry for help in bolstering capabilities against drones**

Times of Israel, October 15, 2024

The government has turned to the defence industry to bolster the military's ability to intercept aerial drones launched by Iran or by its proxy terror groups, including Lebanon's Hezbollah. The Defence Ministry said on October 15, that it had launched a competition among eight large and small companies. "After analyzing the trial results, the Defence Ministry will select several technologies to enter an accelerated development and production process. This aims to deploy new operational capabilities within months," it said. In addition to missiles, rockets and an array of other arms, Iran, Hezbollah and others have used drones in attacks on Israel, a weapon that has proven tough to counter. On October 13, a Hezbollah drone struck the Israel Defence Forces' Golani Brigade training base near Binyamina, killing four soldiers and injuring dozens, after it eluded Israeli air defence radars.

<https://www.timesofisrael.com/israel-turns-to-defense-industry-for-help-in-bolstering-capabilities-against-drones/>

### **Ex-IDF air defence chief Kochav to 'Post': How to solve drone problem**

Yonah Jeremy Bob

The Jerusalem Post, October 15, 2024

Former IDF air defense chief Brig. Gen. (res.) Ran Kochav told the Jerusalem Post that the two keys to beating the drone defense problem highlighted by the Golani base disaster on October 13 are better identification and a wide range of tailored

shootdown solutions. Speaking to the Post shortly after the incident, Kochav said, “We need to find solutions. It’s a big challenge for the country. We need major moves to do it. The biggest issue is identification” of the drones as they fly into Israeli airspace. Further, the former air defense chief said, “This needs to happen no matter what. They have been working on it for months, but recently, six soldiers were killed, four at the Golani base and two from a drone from Iraq. We must succeed.”

<https://www.jpost.com/israel-news/defense-news/article-82477>

### **Israel faces potential shortage of interceptor missiles — report**

Times of Israel, October 15, 2024

Israel is encountering a potential shortage of rocket and missile interceptors in its air defense array amid the yearlong war in Gaza and Lebanon, and as it prepares for a possible escalating conflict with Iran, according to a British report October 15. Citing experts and former military officials, the Financial Times said that Washington is assisting the Jewish state in addressing the matter, in particular through its promise to send a Terminal High Altitude Area Defense missile system (THAAD), but Jerusalem could increasingly find itself needing to decide which targets it wants to prioritize defending. “Israel’s munitions issue is serious,” Dana Stroul, an ex-US defense official, said. “If Iran responds to an Israel attack, and Hezbollah joins in too, Israel’s air defenses will be stretched.” She added that supplies were not unlimited and that Washington could not keep up its ongoing

supply of both Ukraine and Israel at the same pace.

<https://www.timesofisrael.com/israel-faces-potential-shortage-of-interceptor-missiles-report/>

### **US to deploy THAAD missile defence system in Israel, to be operational against ballistic and hypersonic missiles**

Middle East Monitor, October 15, 2024

Following the Pentagon’s decision to send a Terminal High Altitude Area Defence (THAAD) battery and military personnel to Israel amid rising tensions with Iran, the technical capabilities of the system have drawn considerable attention. Anadolu has compiled details of the THAAD system, a highly regarded air defence technology designed to intercept ballistic missiles that travel within and outside the Earth’s atmosphere. The US plans to deploy it in Israel to counter threats from Iran, Houthi rebels in Yemen and the Hezbollah group in Lebanon. Currently, Israel employs three air defence systems — the long-range Arrow, medium-range David’s Sling and short-range Iron Dome. However, these systems have struggled to intercept certain types of missiles during recent Iranian retaliatory attacks.

<https://www.middleeastmonitor.com/2024-10-15-us-to-deploy-thaad-missile-defence-system-in-israel-to-be-operational-against-ballistic-and-hypersonic-missiles/>

### **Iranian TV shows Quds Force head after weeks of speculation regarding his fate**

Times of Israel, October 15, 2024

Iran’s state TV showed on Tuesday a person who appeared to be the top

commander of Iran's Quds Force, Esmail Qaani, at a memorial ceremony for a senior Islamic Revolutionary Guard Corps commander killed in Lebanon, after his weeks-long disappearance from public view sparked reports and rumors over his fate. Reports had said Qaani may have been killed in an Israeli strike in Lebanon that targeted top Hezbollah official Hashem Safieddine earlier in the month, while later it was suggested he was under guard and being interrogated by Iran on suspicion of involvement in Israeli intelligence infiltration and of playing a part in Israel's assassination last month of Hezbollah chief Hassan Nasrallah. One report said he had a heart attack during questioning and was rushed to the hospital. Tuesday's footage showed Qaani at a memorial service in the Iraqi city of Karbala for Iran's IRGC General Abbas Nilfroushan, who was killed in the airstrike that eliminated Nasrallah on September 27.

<https://www.timesofisrael.com/iranian-tv-shows-quds-force-head-after-weeks-of-speculation-regarding-his-fate/>

### **Netanyahu: Israel opposed to unilateral Hezbollah ceasefire**

Tovah Lazaroff

The Jerusalem Post, October 15, 2024

Israel is opposed to a unilateral ceasefire with the Iranian proxy group Hezbollah in Lebanon that does not address the security dangers facing Israel, Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu told French President Emmanuel Macron on October 15. "Israel is working against the terrorist organization Hezbollah so that it no longer threatens its

citizens on the northern border and so those residents in the north can return home safely," Netanyahu told Macron in a phone conversation, according to read out of the call from the Prime Minister's office. There are over 60,000 residents from Israel's northern communities who have not been able to live in their homes for the last year safely. Creating a situation by which they can return home without fear of an October 7-style attack or relentless missile barrages on their communities has been one of the key goals of Israel's military campaign in Lebanon.

<https://www.jpost.com/israel-news/article-824770>

### **Netanyahu told Biden Israel will not attack Iranian nuclear or oil sites – report**

Times of Israel, October 15, 2024

Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu told US President Joe Biden that Israel's retaliation against Iran for its ballistic missile attack will not include strikes on non-military sites, according to a report October 14, suggesting the Israeli premier had curtailed planned action to avoid interfering with the US election. The Washington Post report, citing two officials familiar with the matter, including one identified as a US official, pointed to Netanyahu's softening stance as a key factor in the US decision to send an advanced anti-ballistic missile air defence system to Israel. The Middle East has been on high alert for weeks as it awaits Israel's promised reprisal after Iran launched some 200 ballistic missiles at the country on



October 1 in revenge for the killing of Hezbollah terror chief Hassan Nasrallah.

<https://www.timesofisrael.com/netanyahu-told-biden-israel-will-not-attack-iranian-nuclear-energy-sites-report/>

## Jordan

### Jordan divided on Hezbollah, but united against Israeli attacks on Lebanon

Nils Adler

Aljazeera, October 1, 2024

Over the weekend, an unusual calm filled the square outside al-Husseini Mosque in the bustling downtown area of Jordan's capital. The location, sandwiched between a commercial thoroughfare and a busy intersection, has been the site of weekly raucous pro-Palestinian protests since the beginning of Israel's war on Gaza. Ahmed, a 50-year-old bookkeeper who runs a shop located on the route protesters usually traverse, told Al Jazeera that the subdued atmosphere was due to the "shock and despair" caused by Israel's attacks on Lebanon and the death of Hezbollah's leader Hassan Nasrallah. However, this coming weekend, he said, after October 4 prayers, this sentiment will have given way to anger and frustration, resulting in what he expects to be a huge turnout. The televised speech by Hezbollah's deputy chief Naim Qassem on September 30, the first appearance by a Hezbollah official since Nasrallah's death, has also given people in Jordan renewed optimism that the Lebanese group remains a "fighting force" Ahmed said.

<https://www.aljazeera.com/news/2024/10/1/jordan-divided-on-hezbollah-but-united-against-israeli-attacks-on-lebanon>

### SOFEX 2024 Defence Exhibition in Aqaba: "Collaboration and Unity for Global Security"

Aljundi, October 1, 2024

The Special Operations Forces Exhibition (SOFEX) 2024, a premier event for the defence and special operations industry, commenced on September 3, 2024, in Aqaba, Jordan, under royal patronage. Held at the Aqaba International Exhibition and Conference Centre, SOFEX 2024 spanned three days, attracting over 400 official delegations, 300 local and international companies, and representatives from 73 countries, including some of the world's leading defence equipment manufacturers. The exhibition showcased a wide array of defence technology, including light and medium weapons, offensive and reconnaissance drones, and cutting-edge military equipment used by armed forces and security units. His Royal Highness Prince Faisal bin Al Hussein inaugurated the Middle East Special Operations Commanders Conference (MESOC), an integral part of SOFEX 2024, in the presence of the Army Chief of the Joint Chiefs of Staff, Major General Yousef Ahmed Al-Hunait, Director of Public Security, Major General Obaidallah Al-Maaytah, senior officers from the Jordanian Armed Forces, security apparatus, and representatives from allied nations.

<https://www.aljundi.ae/en/exhibitions-and-conferences/sofex-2024-defence-exhibition-in-aqaba-collaboration-and-unity-for-global-security/>

## Kuwait

### Hamdan bin Mohammed to depart for official visit to Kuwait on October 8

Aletihad, October 7, 2024

H.H. Sheikh Hamdan bin Mohammed bin Rashid Al Maktoum, Crown Prince of Dubai, and Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of Defence of the UAE, is scheduled to depart for an official visit to Kuwait on October 8, as the head of a high-level delegation. The visit underscores the strong fraternal ties between the UAE and Kuwait and their ongoing collaboration across various fields. It aims to review the significant progress in bilateral relations and explore new opportunities to enhance cooperation in key areas to serve the mutual interests of both nations and further promote joint Gulf cooperation.

<https://en.aletihad.ae/news/uae/4520445/hamdan-bin-mohammed-to-depart-for-official-visit-to-kuwait-o>

## Lebanon

### How long will Israel's war in Lebanon last?

James Shotter

Financial Times, October 10, 2024

Shifting rhetoric from Israel's political leadership and the scale of its military's evacuation orders in Lebanon have left officials in the region and in western capitals suspecting that its war will be longer and more grinding than the "limited" operation that was announced. Since soldiers from Israel's 98th division entered Lebanon in their first invasion of the country for nearly two decades, the scale of

Israel's ground assault on Hizbollah has quickly grown. Three other divisions have joined the fighting, with thousands of Israeli soldiers advancing into Lebanon from locations ranging from Rosh HaNikra in the west to Misgav Am in the east. Military evacuation orders now cover more than 110 areas in Lebanon, ranging from villages on the border to coastal areas 60km north, according to a Financial Times tally. At the same time, Israeli leaders have hardened their language about what lies ahead. Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu on Tuesday called on the Lebanese to rise up against Hizbollah, warning the alternative was "a long war that will lead to destruction and suffering like we see in Gaza".

<https://docs.google.com/document/d/19Zcg7OaxdJNIBKLv0f31Vb45B9GsYU5eLzZllsIjCA/edit?tab=t.0>

### Israeli strikes hit central area of Lebanon's Beirut, killing 22

Alastair McCreedy

Aljazeera, October 10, 2024

An Israeli attack has hit central Beirut, Lebanon, outside of the city's southern suburbs where attacks are regular, killing at least 22 and wounding another 117 people. An Israeli attack on a school shelter in central Gaza has killed at least 28 people and wounded many more, health officials say. UNIFIL says Israeli troops have repeatedly opened fire on its positions in southern Lebanon, wounding two peacekeepers. Israeli forces have killed four Palestinians in Khan Younis and three in the Jabalia refugee camp as a siege that forced the United Nations to shut down

schools and hospitals in northern Gaza enters a sixth day. In Gaza, at least 42,065 people have been killed and 97,886 wounded in Israeli attacks since October 2023. In Israel, at least 1,139 people were killed in the Hamas-led attacks on October 7, 2023, and more than 200 people were taken captive.

<https://www.aljazeera.com/news/liveblog/2024/10/10/live-israel-kills-medics-in-lebanon-as-siege-on-north-gaza-enters-6th-day?update=3238437>

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<https://www.ft.com/content/3f7a928a-31a9-4d14-bd4c-4128d9ce2a35>

### **Israel widens Lebanon campaign with air strike on northern village**

Neri Zilber

Financial Times, October 14, 2024

Israel has killed 18 people in an air strike on a Christian-majority village in northern Lebanon, the Lebanese Red Cross said, as Israeli forces widened their attacks on the country. October 14 strike on Aitou, which hit a house, is the first time the district in the country's northern mountains has been targeted since Israel launched its offensive against Hizbollah, the Shia militant group. It was one of multiple air attacks across Lebanon on October 14. Israel also said it killed Mohammad Kamel Naim, commander of the anti-tank missile unit of Hizbollah's elite Radwan Force, in a strike in the Nabatieh area of south Lebanon. They came a day after a Hizbollah drone attack on a military base near Binyamina, northern Israel, killed four Israeli soldiers and wounded about 60. That was the deadliest attack by the Iranian-backed group inside Israel since the Israel Defence Forces ramped up their offensive against Hizbollah three weeks ago, killing its leader Hassan Nasrallah and invading Lebanon's south.

<https://www.ft.com/content/100f8a4c-c332-474c-a4d2-95cddb21db4a>

### **UNSC ‘concerned’ over Israeli attacks on peacekeepers in Lebanon**

Islam Republic News Agency, October 15, 2024

The United Nations Security Council has expressed its "grave concern" over the recent Israeli attacks on United Nations Interim Force in Lebanon (UNIFIL) and demanded the full implementation of Resolution 1701. In the continuation of conflicts along the Lebanese border, the Security Council members expressed their serious concerns after several UNIFIL positions were targeted by Israeli forces, Pascale Baeriswyl, Permanent Representative of Switzerland to the UN who holds the rotating presidency of the Security Council this month (October), told reporters on October 14 evening local time. She said that the Council has asked warring sides to take into account the safety and security of UNIFIL personnel and premises and reminded that peacekeepers and their premises should never be targeted.

<https://en.irna.ir/news/85628061/UNSC-concerned-over-Israeli-attacks-on-peacekeepers-in-Lebanon>

### **UN warns of humanitarian catastrophe in Lebanon amid Israel-Hezbollah war**

Al-Jazeera, October 15, 2024

United Nations agencies have called for an urgent increase in funding to deal with the unfolding humanitarian crisis in Lebanon as the Israeli military continues its offensive against Hezbollah. UNICEF and the World Food Programme (WFP) warned

in a joint statement on October 15 that the fighting, which has displaced hundreds of thousands in Lebanon, has “triggered a catastrophe”. “We are preparing for the reality that the needs are increasing,” the agencies said. “We need additional funding, without conditionalities.” Lebanese officials have said 1.2 million people have been affected by the conflict, in which Israel has conducted air attacks on Beirut and many other parts of Lebanon, as well as sending ground troops into the south. “Around 1.2 million people have been affected, with a significant impact on vulnerable communities,” the statement cautioned. “Nearly 190,000 displaced individuals are currently sheltered in over 1,000 facilities, while hundreds of thousands more are seeking safety among family and friends.”

<https://www.aljazeera.com/news/2024/10/15/un-warns-of-humanitarian-catastrophe-in-lebanon-amid-israel-hezbollah-war>

### **Oman**

#### **Iran, Oman conduct first joint ground military exercise**

Tehran Times, October 1, 2024

The inaugural joint ground exercise involving the armies of Iran and Oman has started. As reported by ISNA, the "Mountain Falcons-1" military exercise commenced on October 1 in Oman's Jebel Akhdar province, featuring the ground forces of the Islamic Republic of Iran alongside those of the Kingdom of Oman. This collaborative effort includes participation from the ground forces of both nations, supported by the Royal Air Force

and the Royal Police of Oman. The primary objectives are facilitating experience sharing, conducting joint combat training, and improving overall combat and operational readiness. As public relations of Iran's army say, this exercise aims to bolster combat readiness and cooperation between the two nations' forces, as outlined in their bilateral agreements on maritime security. The drill features a range of military assets, including helicopters, destroyers, and drones, working together to enhance interoperability and showcase the combined strength of the Iranian and Omani forces.

<https://www.tehrantimes.com/news/50441/1/Iran-Oman-conduct-first-joint-ground-military-exercise>

### **Royal navy of Oman and Indian navy hold 'Sea Breeze 2024' exercise**

Muscat Daily, October 14, 2024

The Royal Navy of Oman (RNO), alongside several vessels from the Indian Navy, is currently participating in the annual joint naval exercise, 'Sea Breeze 2024'. The exercise is being held in the Indian maritime region of Goa and will continue until the 18th of October. This joint operation is part of the RNO's yearly training programme, which focuses on exchanging expertise with allied navies. The exercise aims to enhance the operational readiness of the Omani fleet and its personnel across various maritime disciplines. It forms part of ongoing efforts to ensure the RNO is fully prepared for its national duties. 'Sea Breeze 2024' further strengthens the ties between Oman and India, reinforcing their commitment to

maritime security and cooperation in the region.

<https://www.muscatdaily.com/2024/10/14/royal-navy-of-oman-and-indian-navy-hold-exercise/>

## **Palestine**

### **The unravelling of the Gaza ceasefire talks**

Andrew

Financial Times, October 11, 2024

It was late July when three secretive men charged with a near-impossible mission believed they were finally on the cusp of a breakthrough. The US spy chief, the head of Egyptian intelligence and Qatar's prime minister arrived on a summer day at a private Qatari-owned villa in Rome, convinced that a ceasefire between Israel and Hamas was tantalisingly close. In the wake of Hamas's October 7 attack and Israel's subsequent offensive in Gaza, the negotiators had relentlessly nudged, cajoled and pressured both parties to accept an agreement that would secure the release of Israeli hostages and a permanent end to war in the besieged Palestinian enclave. The trio had known each other for years. CIA director Bill Burns is a veteran American diplomat serving his fourth US president, and was charged by Joe Biden with ending a war that has divided the Democratic party and stoked turmoil on US university campuses. Qatar's soft-spoken Sheikh Mohammed bin Abdulrahman al-Thani has helped establish the gas-rich Qatar state as a go-to mediator in various crises, and none mattered to him more than ending a war in his own backyard.

<https://www.ft.com/content/8c6a338c-990c-439b-ad8b-11d019f79a4f> 1/15

### **Israeli forces martyr 62 Palestinians in Gaza in past 24 hrs**

Mehr News Agency, October 14, 2024

The Zionist regime's forces martyred 62 Palestinians and injured 220 others in the Gaza Strip over the past 24 hours, the Palestinian health ministry in the enclave said. The Palestinian Ministry of Health in the Gaza Strip announced on October 13, that more than 42,289 Palestinians have been martyred since the outbreak of war on October 7, 2023. The ministry in a statement announced the latest number of martyred and wounded Palestinians in the Israeli attacks on the Gaza Strip since October 7 of the previous year. The report put the total number of Palestinian people wounded in Israeli attack on Gaza Strip at 98,684. The ministry added that 62 Palestinians were martyred and 220 others were wounded in Israeli attacks on the Gaza Strip in the past 24 hours.

<https://en.mehrnews.com/news/222923/Israeli-forces-martyr-62-Palestinians-in-Gaza-in-past-24-hrs>

## **Qatar**

### **Qatar demands international probe for Israeli targeting of UN peacekeepers in Lebanon**

Ahmed Asmar

Anadolu Agency, October 12, 2024

Qatar demanded an immediate international investigation on October 11, for Israel's targeting of the UN peacekeeping mission in Lebanon (UNIFIL). The Qatari Foreign Ministry condemned "the attack that targeted the United Nations Interim Force

in Lebanon (UNIFIL), which resulted in injuries among (its) personnel." It added that the attacks against UNIFIL are "a flagrant violation of the provisions of international humanitarian law and Security Council Resolution No. 1701." The resolution demands a complete cessation of hostilities between Lebanon and Israel and the establishment of a demilitarized zone between the Blue Line -- the boundary between Lebanon and Israel -- and the Litani River, allowing only the Lebanese army and UNIFIL to possess weapons and military equipment in the area.

<https://www.aa.com.tr/en/middle-east/qatar-demands-international-probe-for-israeli-targeting-of-un-peacekeepers-in-lebanon/3359561>

### **Oman, Uzbekistan sign MoU to enhance logistics cooperation**

Muscat Daily, October 13, 2024

Oman and Uzbekistan signed a memorandum of understanding (MoU) on October 13 to explore 'promising' business opportunities in the logistics sector. The agreement was signed in Tashkent by Sheikh Nasser bin Sulaiman al Harthy, Deputy Chairman for Operations at the Oman Investment Authority and Chairman of the Board of Directors of Asyad Group, alongside Laziz Qodratov, Minister of Investment, Industry and Trade of the Republic of Uzbekistan. The MoU aims to leverage Asyad Group's expertise in managing and operating land ports, railways, warehouses, air freight, last-mile services, and e-commerce solutions, thereby enhancing the effectiveness of logistics operations in Uzbekistan and

Central Asia. This partnership aligns with Asyad Group's vision to expand its role as an operator of integrated logistics solutions, improve the efficiency of international trade, open new avenues for business growth, meet global market demands, and strengthen trade relations between Oman and Uzbekistan. The signing ceremony was attended by H E Wafa bint Jabr al Busaidi, Ambassador of Oman to Uzbekistan, and Abdulrahman bin Salem al Hatmi, CEO of ASYAD Group.

<https://www.muscatdaily.com/2024/10/13/oman-uzbekistan-sign-mou-to-enhance-logistics-cooperation/>

## Saudi Arabia

### Top Saudi, Iran diplomats discuss regional developments in Riyadh

Al Arabiya, October 9, 2024

Saudi Arabia's Foreign Minister Prince Faisal bin Farhan met with his Iranian counterpart Abbas Araghchi in Riyadh on Wednesday, the Saudi Press Agency reported. The top diplomats "discussed bilateral relations and ways to enhance them in various fields" and also addressed regional developments, SPA said. Saudi Arabia's al-Ekhbariya channel earlier broadcast footage of Prince Faisal greeting Araghchi and his delegation in Riyadh. Earlier on October 9, Iranian foreign ministry spokesman Esmail Baghaei said on X that Araghchi's visit would focus on stopping "the Israeli regime's genocide & aggression" and aimed to "alleviate the pain and suffering of our brothers and sisters in Gaza and Lebanon." Israel has been waging a year-long war against Hamas in Gaza that

was triggered by the Palestinian militant group's unprecedented attack on southern Israel on October 7, 2023.

<https://english.alarabiya.net/News/middle-east/2024/10/09/iran-s-foreign-minister-arrives-in-saudi-arabia-for-talks-on-gaza-and-lebanon>

### US approves Hellfire, AIM-9X missiles sale to Saudi Arabia

Airforce Technology, October 14, 2024

The US State Department has approved three foreign military sales to the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia to enhance Saudi Arabia's air defence capabilities and support its self-defence and regional security missions. The Defence Security Cooperation Agency has notified Congress of the potential sales. The first sale includes 220 AIM-9X Block II Sidewinder tactical missiles, missile containers, missile software, training, support equipment, spares, and US Government and contractor technical assistance, totalling an estimated \$251.8m (Sr944m). Additionally, Saudi Arabia has requested 2,503 AGM-114R3 Hellfire II missiles.

<https://www.airforce-technology.com/news/us-approves-hellfire-missiles-sale-saudi-arabia/>

## Syria

### Attack reported against US military base in eastern Syria

Mehr News Agency, October 14, 2024

The US military base in the Koniko natural gas field, in the northeastern Syrian governorate of Deir Al Zawr has been

reportedly attacked on October 14, afternoon. Local Syrian media reported on October 14, afternoon American defense systems in the Koniko gas field in eastern Syria war activated to repel flying objects. Some unnamed local sources announced that following the attack, US military drones were patrolling over the base to prevent possible attacks. Some sources also told Lebanese Al-Mayadeen TV that the attack caused material damage, the extent of which was not said.

<https://en.mehrnews.com/news/222951/Attack-reported-against-US-military-base-in-eastern-Syria>

## Turkiye

### **Turkish manufacturer recognized for international success in defence and aerospace exports**

Goksel Yildirim

Anadolu Agency, October 15, 2024

Turkish manufacturer Repkon, known for its specialized production equipment in the defence, aviation, and space industries, has been recognized with an export achievement award from Türkiye's Defence Industry Agency, highlighting its growing global influence. Operating in the high-precision metal forming sector, Repkon is sought after by companies requiring top-quality equipment and machinery. The company recently secured a contract to install three production lines at a manufacturing facility in Texas that produces 155mm artillery shells. Last month, Repkon signed multiple deals for ammunition production at Azerbaijan's International Defence Exhibition (ADEX 2024). In 2022, Repkon established a

strategic partnership with France's Bowas Group, a prominent supplier of industrial facilities for the production of explosives, gunpowder, and ammunition.

<https://www.aa.com.tr/en/science-technology/turkish-manufacturer-recognized-for-international-success-in-defense-and-aerospace-exports/3362517>

## United Arab Emirates

### **US approves \$1.2bn sale of GMLRS and ATACMS to UAE**

Army Technology, October 14, 2024

The US State Department has approved a potential Foreign Military Sale to United Arab Emirates (UAE), involving Guided Multiple Launch Rocket System (GMLRS) and Army Tactical Missile Systems (ATACMS) munitions, along with related logistics and programme support. The deal is valued at an estimated \$1.2bn (Dh4.4bn). It will help the UAE modernise its military capabilities and enhance interoperability with the US and other partners. The Defence Security Cooperation Agency has formally notified Congress of the possible sale, which includes 259 GMLRS M31A1 unitary pods and 203 ATACMS M57 unitary missiles. ATACMS is a surface-to-surface artillery system designed to engage targets at distances greater. The system can be launched from the HIMARS and MLRS M270 platforms. Guided MLRS Unitary round offers precision strike for point targets. It integrates a 200lb unitary warhead and has a range of more than 70km.

<https://www.army-technology.com/news/us-sale-gmlrs-atacms-uae/>



### **The UAE Space Pavilion makes its presence at IAC 2024 in Milan**

Times Aerospace, October 15, 2024

The pavilion is designed to showcase and highlight the latest developments, leading projects, and milestones in the UAE's national space sector. Additionally, it will shed light on the UAE's ongoing efforts to support innovation, development, and sustainability in advanced space research. The 75th IAC is being held in Milan, Italy from 14-18 October. "The UAE's participation in the IAC reflects its commitment to consolidating its position as a leading global hub for innovation in the space sector. This participation will open new horizons for international collaboration and exchange of expertise, while supporting the leadership's visions and aspirations to achieve a comprehensive development in all sectors over the next 50 years and realize the UAE's national strategies for economic diversification and technological advancement," said His Excellency Dr. Ahmad Belhoul Al Falasi, Minister of Sports and Chairman of UAE Space Agency.

<https://www.timesaerospace.aero/news/space/the-uae-space-pavilion-makes-its-presence-at-iac-2024-in-milan>

## **Yemen**

### **US strikes Houthi targets in Yemen as fears grow of wider Mideast war**

Felicia Schwartz

Financial Times, October 5, 2024

The US military conducted multiple strikes on Houthi targets in Yemen on October 4,

resuming offensive action there as fears grow of a wider war in the Middle East. US Central Command said it carried out strikes on 15 Houthi targets at a number of locations around the country. "These actions were taken to protect freedom of navigation and make international waters safer and more secure for US, coalition and merchant vessels," Centcom said in a statement. The strikes against the Houthis, who have controlled Yemen's populous north since seizing the capital Sana'a and ousting the government in 2015, came as Iran and the wider region braced for Israel's response to this week's Iranian missile barrage against the country.

<https://www.ft.com/content/e503865d-086c-4e69-87f0-2aa54833634c> 1/4

### **Israeli 'aggression' on Hasiya city in Syria's Homs, Syrian state TV says**

Alarabiya News, October 10, 2024

Syrian state media reported an Israeli attack in central Homs province early October 10, after an Israeli strike hit the country's south the previous day. "An Israeli attack" targeted an industrial area in the town of Hassia, around 30 kilometres (20 miles) south of the city of Homs, state news agency SANA said, adding that "initial information" indicated the attack targeted a "car factory", reporting material damage. Citing the manager of the industrial area, SANA reported the "air attack" targeted not only a factory but also vehicles "loaded with medical and relief supplies... which led to a large fire" that firefighters were working to extinguish. Since Syria's civil war erupted in 2011, Israel has carried out hundreds of strikes in the country, mainly

targeting army positions and Iran-backed fighters, including Lebanon's Hezbollah.

<https://english.alarabiya.net/News/middle-east/2024/10/10/israeli-aggression-on-hasiya-city-in-syria-s-homs-syrian-state-tv-says>

### **Yemen's Houthis claim attacks on 2 vessels in Red Sea, Indian Ocean**

Mohammed Sameai

Anadolu Agency, October 10, 2024

The Yemeni Houthi group said October 10, it targeted two ships in the Red Sea and the Indian Ocean. One was an American ship and the other was owned by a company that allegedly violated the group's ban on entering Israeli ports. "The Yemeni Armed Forces (Houthis) carried out two military operations. The first targeted the American oil vessel OLYMPIC SPIRIT," group spokesperson Yahya Saree said in a recorded statement. "The American vessel was attacked in the Red Sea with 11 ballistic missiles and two drones, sustaining severe and direct damage." Saree noted that the second operation involved a cruise missile striking the St. John vessel with "a direct hit" in the Indian Ocean. He indicated that the St. John was targeted because the owning company had violated the ban on entering ports of occupied Palestine without specifying the nationality of the ship.

<https://www.aa.com.tr/en/middle-east/yemen-s-houthis-claim-attacks-on-2-vessels-in-red-sea-indian-ocean/3358340>

# NUCLEAR AND ARMS CONTROL CENTRE

*Sylloge on West Asia is compiled by Ms. Bhawna*

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