



Volume 3 | Issue 9

# SYLLOGE ON WEST ASIA

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

01 May - 15 May 2023



MANOHAR PARRIKAR INSTITUTE FOR  
DEFENCE STUDIES AND ANALYSES

मनोहर पर्रिकर रक्षा अध्ययन एवं विश्लेषण संस्थान

## Iran

### **AEOI Head Hails Indigenous Nuclear Industry**

Fars News Agency, May 3, 2023

Head of the Atomic Energy Organization of Iran (AEOI) Mohammad Eslami lauded the country's great progress in the nuclear industry, and underscored that the remarkable nuclear achievements have been merely obtained through the efforts made by the Iranian scientist and specialists. "We have a high standing in nuclear capacity; this high-level position has been achieved through our efforts and is not borrowed or imported," the AEOI head said on Tuesday. "We have attained this position via research and with sincere efforts of all those who have been there since the very beginning," he added. Stressing that the AEOI has decided to eliminate the hype surrounding Iran's nuclear program, Eslami criticized "the unfounded allegations" and the "propaganda campaign" aimed at limiting the country's nuclear work, which he said have stirred skepticism in some corners about the costs and benefits of nuclear technology for the country.

<https://www.farsnews.ir/en/news/14020213000132/AEOI-Head-Hails-Indigenous-Nuclear-Industry>

### **We have decided to end commotion over our nuclear program: Iran's nuclear chief**

Tehran Times, May 3, 2023

Mohammad Eslami, chief of the Atomic Energy Organization of Iran, said in a ceremony in the Amir Kabir University of

Technology on Tuesday that the Islamic Republic has decided to end "commotions" over the country's nuclear program. Salami said due to untruthful accusations against Iran for its nuclear program "our path of progress" has become more limited and more "hurdles" have been created every passing day and this has created a situation in which some Iranian citizens may ask what is the "advantage" of nuclear energy.

<https://www.tehrantimes.com/news/484279/We-have-decided-to-end-commotion-over-our-nuclear-program-Iran-s>

### **IRGC to build aircraft carrier**

Tehran Times, April 5, 2023

The Islamic Revolution Guards Corps (IRGC) is working to build a unique aircraft carrier with no par in the world, a senior IRGC commander announced late on Thursday. Alireza Tangsiri, who is the chief of the IRGC Navy, said the aircraft in question will be developed by Iran for the first time in the world. "In the future, we will see an aircraft carrier that does not exist in the world," he said, according to Iranian media. "This carrier has both the ability to carry aircraft and the ability to carry a number of missile-launching boats inside it, which has no equivalent in the world." According to General Tangsiri, the Shahid Mahdavi and Shahid Rodaki vessels are a successful experience of entering this field and building vessels to improve the ability to sail for a long time, and "you will see newer generations of vessels with more capabilities in the future".

<https://www.tehrantimes.com/news/484338/IRGC-to-build-aircraft-carrier>

### **Iran Navy destroyers equipped with new missile**

Tehran Times, May 6, 2023

The Iranian navy destroyers have been armed with cruise missiles called “Abu Mahdi”, Commander of Iran's Army Navy Force Rear Admiral Shahram Irani announced on Saturday. The missiles are named after Abu Mahdi al-Mohandis, a senior commander with Iraq's Popular Mobilization Forces (PMF), who was assassinated together with General Qassem Soleimani in 2020. Abu Mahdi cruise missile is one of Iran's Aerospace Industries products with a range of over one thousand kilometers which can destroy any target, according to Iran's official news agency IRNA.

<https://www.tehrantimes.com/news/484416/Iran-Navy-destroyers-equipped-with-new-missile>

### **Iran to get first shipment of SU-35 warplanes next week**

Tehran Times, May 13, 2023

Iran will receive the first shipment of Russian SU-35 warplanes within the next week, according to a report on Friday. Facing severe Western sanctions, Tehran and Moscow have started to strengthen their relationship. In recent months, Iran and Russia have inked significant agreements to expand their economic, commercial, energy, and military ties. It was first reported by Iran's Persian-language media, which did not go into detail about the shipment. The SU-35 is a

fourth-generation fighter aircraft primarily built for air superiority missions. There have been media reports in recent months alleging that Iran has received SU-35 aircraft from Russia.

<https://www.tehrantimes.com/news/484677/Iran-to-get-first-shipment-of-SU-35-warplanes-next-week>

### **FM: Exchanges of Delegations Between Iran, IAEA Underway**

Fars News Agency, May 14, 2023

Iranian Foreign Minister Hossein Amir Abdollahian said that great progress has been made in the course of cooperation between Tehran and the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA), and added that the two sides have been exchanging delegations away from media frenzy. Amir Abdollahian stated that “a good development has taken place in the course of cooperation” between Tehran and the UN nuclear agency, stressing the country had always been critical of IAEA chief Rafael Grossi's politically-charged approach towards the country and that he has even brought up the issue in a face-to-face meeting with him. The minister went on to underscore that President Seyed Ebrahim Rayeesi has declared it so transparently that Iran is serious about cooperation with the nuclear agency, and expects the IAEA to fulfill its duties within the technical frameworks and stay away from political issues.

<https://www.farsnews.ir/en/news/14020224000665/FM-Exchanges-f-Delegains-Between-Iran-IAEA-Underway>

## Iraq

### **Iraq, Italy to boost joint military cooperation**

Arab News, May 2, 2023

Iraqi Defence Minister Thabet Muhammad Al-Absi met with his Italian counterpart Guido Crosetto to discuss joint military cooperation between the two countries. Crosetto and his accompanying delegation arrived in Baghdad on Tuesday, Qatar News Agency reported. The two sides also reviewed ways to strengthen future bilateral relations within the framework of joint cooperation. Al-Absi lauded Italy's efforts as part of the international coalition in the war against Daesh. He also thanked the North Atlantic Treaty Organization and its assistance for his country through training sessions held for Ministry of Defense cadres both inside and outside Iraq.

<https://www.arabnews.com/node/2296466/middle-east>

### **Air Force Commander announces receiving four of the 12 aircrafts**

Iraqi News Agency, May 7, 2023

Air Force Commander Lieutenant General Shihab Jahed announced on Sunday that four of the 12 aircrafts will arrive in conjunction with the 92nd anniversary of the founding of the Air Force. Jahed told the Iraqi News Agency (INA), "We celebrate today the occasion of the establishment of the air force in 1931," noting that "the air force is a pride in the region and the Iraqi people, as we were able to etch its name in the most prestigious Arab and regional forums." "Four Pakistani aircrafts will arrive today as part of the first batch out of 12 aircrafts, which we will celebrate today

with their arrival at the Air Force for the purpose of popularizing and strengthening the college's role in graduating fighter jets," Jahed added.

<https://ina.iq/eng/26329-air-force-commander-announces-receiving-four-of-the-12-aircrafts.html>

### **Leaked US intel files: Iran smuggling weapons hidden in earthquake relief to Syria**

The Times of Israel, May 8, 2023

Iran and allied proxy groups have been smuggling weapons into Syria concealed within aid shipments sent in the aftermath of a devastating earthquake earlier this year, the Washington Post reported Sunday. The daily cited a classified US intelligence assessment that was shared on the online messaging platform Discord, where other sensitive American government documents have recently circulated. A suspect accused of leaking the files was charged last month. According to the report, many of the weapons — among them small arms, ammunition and drones — were brought in convoys from Iraq organized by Iran-backed militias there along with the Quds Force, the unit in the Islamic Revolutionary Guard Corps tasked with overseas operations.

<https://www.timesofisrael.com/leaked-us-intel-files-iran-smuggling-weapons-hidden-in-earthquake-relief-to-syria/>

### **Egypt keen to strengthen military cooperation with Iraq: Defence Minister Zaki**

Ahram Online, May 9, 2023

According to a statement by the Armed Forces Spokesperson Gharib Abdel-Hafez

Gharib, Minister Zaki affirmed to Al-Abbassi his appreciation for the relations that bind the two countries' armed forces. The two ministers also discussed current regional and international developments and their impacts on security and stability. For his part, Minister Al-Abbassi expressed his appreciation for Egypt's efforts and support for Iraq in the regional and international community, affirming his keenness for increased cooperation between their two countries, added the spokesperson.

<https://english.ahram.org.eg/NewsContent/1/1234/500405/Egypt/Foreign-Affairs/Egypt-keen-to-strengthen-military-cooperation-with.aspx>

### **Türkiye eliminates another 'senior' PKK terrorist in N. Iraq**

Daily Sabah, May 10, 2023

Türkiye's National Intelligence Organization (MIT) has taken out another high-ranking member of the PKK/KCK terrorist group in an operation in the northern Iraqi region of Gara. Müslüm Ürper, code-named "Soro Guyi," served as the so-called special forces operative of the terrorist organization, the agency informed in a statement on Wednesday. He first joined the groups' rural cadres in 2013 and took part in street protests in Türkiye. He later moved to Syria where he helped organize numerous attacks against Türkiye. After moving to Iraq in 2015, Ürper began overseeing the delivery of arms and ammunition for attacks on security forces and got caught on MIT's radar.

<https://www.dailysabah.com/politics/war-on-terror/turkiye-eliminates-another-senior-pkk-terrorist-in-n-iraq>

## **Israel**

### **BIRD completes deliveries of additional AMPS systems for Czech Mi-17 helicopters**

Israel Defense, May 2, 2023

BIRD Aerosystems, an Israeli provider of innovative defense technology and solutions that protect the air, sea, and land fleets of governments and related agencies, announces that it has completed the deliveries of additional AMPS systems, including the MACS – a Missile Approach Confirmation Sensor, and a provision of SPREOS – the Self Protection Radar Electro-Optic System DIRCM, on Czech Mi-17 helicopters. This program is part of a follow-up program with the Czech Air Force that has been protecting its helicopters with the AMPS system for the last 15 years and has deployed them in the most complex environments, such as Afghanistan.

<https://www.israeldefense.co.il/en/node/58037>

### **Israel Aerospace Industries awarded \$100 million contract to provide airborne SIGINT solutions to international customer**

Israel Defense, May 2, 2023

Israel Aerospace Industries (IAI), through its defense electronics subsidiary, ELTA Systems, announced today that it has been awarded with a contract to provide airborne Signals Intelligence (SIGINT) solutions to an international customer. The contract size including systems delivery and maintenance will surpass \$100 million. Under the contract, ELTA will provide SIGINT systems and airborne

communications suites for installation both on manned and unmanned aircraft. The SIGINT capabilities are designed to cope with the challenges of modern, dense communications and electronic environments, to analyze complex signal formats, and to build a real-time Electronic Order of Battle (EOB) providing time-critical intelligence. These systems will provide the customer with continuous, detailed intelligence on communications and enemy activity over a wide geographic area.

<https://www.israeldefense.co.il/en/node/58038>

### **India opts for local manufacturing of loitering munition**

Israel Defense, May 2, 2023

The Indian Ministry of Defense decided to procure 450 Nagastra-1 Loitering ammunition for its armed forces, manufactured by the Indian manufacturer Economic Explosives. According to the official press release, the Nagastra-1 prevailed over competitors from Poland and Israel. Economic Explosives describes the Nagastra-1 as an in-house development and consists of components that are 75% Indian-made. It is equipped with a 1.5 kg pre-fragmented warhead and, with a launch mass of eight kilograms and capable of independently detecting and engaging targets at a distance of up to 15 km. The system also has a day-and-night vision camera in the front. The Nagastra-1 is powered by two propellers with electric motors, which are integrated into the wings.

<https://www.israeldefense.co.il/en/node/58030>

### **Estonia signs contract with Israel Aerospace Industries to acquire long-range loitering munitions**

Israel Defense, May 3, 2023

The Republic of Estonia has signed an agreement with Israel Aerospace Industries (IAI) to procure advanced long-range loitering munitions, making it the one of the most expensive defense procurement Estonia has ever made. The procurement of long-range loitering munitions aims to strengthen Estonia's defense capability by significantly increasing its indirect fire capabilities. Along with extended range artillery ammunition, anti-ship missiles, and multiple launch rocket systems, Estonia will have various capabilities to influence the adversary from long distances in the near future.

<https://www.israeldefense.co.il/en/node/58053>

### **Ukraine receives Israeli missile warning systems**

Israel Defense, May 8, 2023

The first images of an Israeli-made radar on Ukrainian soil have surfaced online. These are likely to be radars intended for the “Red Alert” detection system that Israel had committed to install in Ukraine as a humanitarian measure of defense against missile attacks. The transfer of such radar systems requires the approval of the Israeli Ministry of Defense. Rada's are also used by the Israeli defense establishment to identify and classify aircrafts and rockets. The radars are connected to the “Red Army” system that alerts people within a threatened polygon. The actual warning can take place through horns or via cell phone.

The radar's role is to alert that there is an imminent threat, as well as what kind of threat it is, where it will hit and when.

<https://www.israeldefense.co.il/en/node/58094>

### **IDF launches Operation Shield and Arrow against the Islamic Jihad in Gaza**

Israel Defense, May 9, 2023

Overnight, the IDF has launched a targeted campaign against Islamic Jihad in Gaza, named Operation Shield and Arrow. IDF fighter jets struck Khalil Bahitini, responsible for the rocket fire toward Israel in the past month. The IDF explains that Bahitini is the senior operational officer of Islamic Jihad and the commander of the Northern Gaza Division - entrusted with approving and carrying out all terrorist activities from northern Gaza and planning terrorist attacks on Israeli civilians. After the elimination of Tayseer Jabri during operation "Breaking Dawn" in August 2022, Bahitini took over his position. Bahitini was a member of the terrorist organization's military council and had direct and active contact with senior members of the Islamic Jihads' Political Bureau.

<https://www.israeldefense.co.il/en/node/58108>

### **Elbit Systems awarded \$71 million contract with British Army**

Israel Defense, May 10, 2023

Elbit Systems announced that its UK subsidiary Elbit Systems UK was awarded a contract from the UK Ministry of Defence worth approximately \$71 million to supply, maintain and operate the Ground

Manoeuvre Synthetic Trainer systems (GMST) for the Boxer armoured vehicles and Challenger 3 tanks under the British Army's Project Vulcan. The contract will be delivered over a three-year period with an additional nine year period that will include operation and maintenance services at UK facilities. The initial phase of delivery of Elbit Systems UK's systems will support the first arrivals of the British Army's new Mechanised Infantry Vehicle – Boxer. The initial capability provided by Elbit Systems UK will include a comprehensive Platform Trainer, delivering both collective and individual training requirements.

<https://www.israeldefense.co.il/en/node/58125>

### **Day 3: Israel continues operation "Shield and Arrow" against the Islamic Jihad in Gaza**

Israel Defense, May 11, 2023

Israel's "Shield and Arrow" operation against the Islamic Jihad terrorist group in Gaza has entered its third day. More than 500 rockets were fired at Israel since yesterday (Wednesday) afternoon. Overnight, the Israel Air Force targeted Ali Ghali, the commander of Islamic Jihad's Rocket Launching Force, as well as two other Islamic Jihad operatives in Gaza. The IDF tweeted that "Ghali was a central figure in IJ, as well as responsible for the recent rocket barrages launched against Israel."

Some 360+ rockets crossed over into Israeli territories, and most were either intercepted or fell in open areas. According to the IDF, one in every five launches failed, with the rocket landing in the Gaza Strip, also

resulting in civilian casualties. In Tel Aviv, the David's Sling air defense system was used for the first time to intercept a rocket.

<https://www.israeldefense.co.il/en/node/58143>

### **Israel Aerospace Industries, ATLAS ELEKTRONIK unveil joint development integrated BlueWhale unmanned submarine**

Israel Defense, May 11, 2023

Israel Aerospace Industries (IAI) and ATLAS ELEKTRONIK, a company of thyssenkrupp Marine Systems, officially launched their latest joint development for advanced anti-submarine warfare (ASW) missions at the Undersea Defence Technology (UDT) Conference and Exhibition in Rostock, Germany. In a festive ceremony at ELTA's exhibition booth, Eyal Shapira, Vice President and General Manager of ELTA's division for Air Defense and Naval Systems, and Michael Ozegowski, Chief Executive Officer of ATLAS ELEKTRONIK, unveiled the joint development, demonstrating an important milestone in the long-standing partnership between thyssenkrupp Marine Systems and the Israeli industry.

<https://www.israeldefense.co.il/en/node/58144>

### **Shield and Arrow in numbers**

Israel Defense, May 15, 2023

After five days, Israel's "Shield and Arrow" operation against the Islamic Jihad in the Gaza Strip has come to an end. The operation was launched following ongoing rockets fired at Israeli communities near the

Gaza Strip. In an overwhelming opening move, the Israel Air Force targeted three of the Islamic Jihad's leaders, and throughout the operation it significantly damaged the organization's top command, launch capabilities, and reinforcement.

<https://www.israeldefense.co.il/en/node/58170>

### **Iran claims it has added 2000-km range missiles to navy vessels**

Israel Defense, May 15, 2023

Iran has mounted its domestically-developed "Qadr-474" cruise missiles on two classes of the IRGC Navy vessels, namely Martyr Mahdavi and 7, according to Iranian state media. Rear Admiral Alireza Tangsiri, commander of the Islamic Revolutionary Guard's navy, was quoted in the Tasnim news agency as saying that the cruise missile can hit targets within a range of 2,000 kilometers. Tangsiri added, that the advanced Soleimani warship (named after the former head of Quds force who was assassinated by the US in 2020), has been equipped with various types of missiles with ranges of 200, 300, 750 and 2,000 kilometers, and that the IRGC Navy is going to employ a new coast-to-sea cruise missile, named after Abu Mahdi Al-Muhandis.

<https://www.israeldefense.co.il/en/node/58174>

## **Lebanon**

### **Further anti-government demonstrations in Lebanon likely through late May**

Ya Libnan, May 1, 2023

Further protests likely in Lebanon through May amid protesters' regular clashes with police. Increased security, disruptions



likely. Lebanon continues to be mired in its worst crisis since the end of the country's Civil War in 1990. The World Bank has stated that the country's current economic depression is one of the world's worst. More than 80 percent of Lebanon's population is in poverty. The value of the country's currency has plummeted by over 90 percent since 2019, with essential goods and services increasingly difficult to access. In addition, hours-long power outages are routine in Beirut and other cities.

<https://yalibnan.com/2023/05/01/further-anti-government-demonstrations-in-lebanon-likely-through-late-may/>

### **Biden must thwart French folie in Lebanon**

Ya Libnan, May 4, 2023

Lebanon is on the verge of complete collapse, and if Washington is serious about preventing not just another failed state but a growing normalization of unchecked authoritarianism in the Middle East, it must stop outsourcing leadership on Lebanon to France. In the aftermath of the port of Beirut explosion that devastated the capital in August 2020, French President Emmanuel Macron positioned Paris as an ostensibly capable international actor that could break Lebanon's political gridlock and facilitate a sustainable recovery to its debilitating crisis. In a sense, the blast was a microcosm of Lebanon's ills — Hezbollah's intervention in Syria and unchecked security dominion over Lebanon, a mafia-esque political class in cahoots, all made deadly by international impunity.

<https://yalibnan.com/2023/05/04/biden-must-thwart-french-folie-in-lebanon/>

### **Germany arrests two suspected Hezbollah members over 'recruiting activities'**

Al-Monitor, May 10, 2023

German authorities announced on Wednesday the arrest of two suspected members of the Lebanese Iran-funded Hezbollah group, which Germany designated a terror organization in 2020. The German Federal Prosecutor's office said in a statement that the pair were arrested in northern Germany on suspicions of recruiting and organizing activities for the Shiite militant group. They face charges of belonging to a foreign terrorist organization. The statement identified the suspects as Lebanese national Hassan M. and German-Lebanese dual citizen Abdul-Latif W. Hassan M. has been a member of the group's Department for External Relations since 2016 and was in charge of providing logistic and ideological support for Lebanese associations in northern Germany, according to the statement.

<https://www.al-monitor.com/originals/2023/05/germany-arrests-two-suspected-hezbollah-members-over-recruiting-activities>

### **Saudi Arabia**

#### **Saudi Arabia wants to be a bigger player in the Middle East — this time with diplomacy**

CNN, May 4, 2023

When Iranian evacuees from Sudan were being flown out of Saudi Arabia on Saturday, a top Saudi military official went as far as boarding their plane back home to bid them a warm farewell. "(This is) your

country,” the kingdom’s Western Region Commander Major General Ahmed Al-Dabais declared to the departing Iranians as he held hands with Hassan Zarangar, Iran’s charge d’affaires to the kingdom. “If you need anything in Saudi, you’re most welcome... Iran and Saudi, they are brothers.” Sixty-five Iranians evacuated from Sudan by the Saudi military were welcomed in the Saudi Red Sea city of Jeddah with flowers, images of which were broadcast on both Iranian and Saudi state television. Dabais told Zarangar that the friendly welcome for the Iranians was “from the directives of the leadership, from the king, from the crown prince.”

<https://edition.cnn.com/2023/05/03/middle-east/saudi-diplomacy-iran-sudan-mime-intl/index.html>

### **Saudi Arabia, Syria to reopen embassies restoring relations**

ABC News, May 10, 2023

Saudi Arabia and Syria will reopen diplomatic missions between the two countries now that relations have improved 11 years after the facilities were closed, the two nations foreign ministries said Tuesday.

The announcements came nearly a month after Syria and Saudi Arabia said they were moving toward reopening embassies and resuming airline flights. That had followed a visit by Syria’s top diplomat to the kingdom, the first since Saudi Arabia cut off diplomatic relations with Syria in 2012 and a visit by Syria’s foreign minister to Riyadh. On Sunday, the 22-member Arab League agreed to reinstate Syria, ending a 12-year suspension and taking another step toward bringing Syrian President Bashar

Assad, a long-time regional pariah, back into the fold.

<https://abcnews.go.com/International/wireStory/saudi-arabia-reopen-embassy-syria-relations-improve-99207807>

### **Iran still smuggling weapons to Yemen despite Saudi deal, US says**

Al-Monitor, May 11, 2023

The recent rapprochement between Saudi Arabia and Iran hasn't stopped Tehran from sending weapons to Yemen’s Houthi rebels, US Special Envoy for Yemen Tim Lenderking said Thursday. Tehran and Riyadh, which back opposing sides in Yemen’s civil war, agreed in March to resume diplomatic relations and reopen their respective embassies shuttered in 2016. Lenderking told reporters that the United States welcomes the China-brokered agreement but remains concerned by Iran’s role in war-torn Yemen. “They have armed and trained and equipped the Houthis to fight and attack Saudi Arabia,” Lenderking said. “These attacks have not taken place for over a year, but the Iranians have continued to smuggle weaponry and narcotics toward the conflict.”

<https://www.al-monitor.com/originals/2023/05/iran-still-smuggling-weapons-yemen-despite-saudi-deal-us-says>

### **Syria**

### **Israeli airstrike kills one soldier, puts Aleppo airport out of service, says Syria**

WION, May 2, 2023

At least one soldier was killed after Israel launched airstrikes targeting north Syria's

Aleppo province late Monday (May 1), reported the Syrian state media. The report citing a military source also said that seven people were injured including two civilians and the supposed strike had since put the area's international airport out of service. According to a report by Syria's state news agency, SANA, Israeli Air Force warplanes targeted the Aleppo International Airport which was out of service due to heavy damage caused and other sites on the outskirts of the city. The strike allegedly began at around 11:35 pm (local time) where "the Israeli enemy carried out an air attack with several missiles," reported SANA citing a military source. "A soldier was killed and seven people were wounded including two civilians," SANA was quoted by the news agency AFP.

<https://www.wionews.com/middle-east/israeli-airstrike-kills-one-soldier-injures-seven-people-puts-aleppo-airport-out-of-service-says-syria-587974>

### **Iranian president in Damascus for first visit since Syrian war began**

Reuters May 4, 2023

Iranian President Ebrahim Raisi met counterpart Bashar al-Assad in Damascus on Wednesday in the first visit by an Iranian head of state since Syria's war began in 2011, underlining close ties as Syrian relations with Arab states thaw. With military and economic support from both Iran and Russia, Assad regained control of most of Syria from rebels that were backed by regional countries now seeking dialogue with him. Raisi's visit comes as Iran and regional rival Saudi Arabia rebuild relations after years of tensions, and as Arab states

that shunned Assad - including Riyadh - rebuild ties with his government. Assad, speaking alongside Raisi, welcomed "the development" of ties between Tehran and Riyadh. Assad also stressed the importance of meetings between officials from Syria, Turkey, Russia and Iran in Moscow.

<https://www.reuters.com/world/middle-east/iranian-president-lands-damascus-first-visit-since-syrian-conflict-began-2011-2023-05-03/>

### **Iran Ready to Arm Syria with Advanced Weapons: Defense Minister**

Tasnim News, May 8, 2023

The Iranian defense minister, who was accompanying the Iranian president during a visit to Syria last week, held a meeting with his Syrian counterpart Ali Mahmoud Abbas in Damascus to weigh plans for closer cooperation between the two states.

Highlighting Iran's support for Syria in a full-fledged war against the Daesh (ISIL or ISIS) terrorist group, General Ashtiani said the Defense Ministry of Iran is prepared to arm the Syrian armed forces with the most advanced defense weapons. Voicing Iran's readiness to establish "defense and multilateral infrastructures" in Syria and strengthen the Arab nation's military arms capabilities, the defense minister said Iran can cooperate with Damascus in the construction of factories and production of "strategic defense equipment" in order to improve the Syrian people's security.

<https://www.tasnimnews.com/en/news/2023/05/08/2891564/iran-ready-to-arm-syria-with-advanced-weapons-defense-minister>

## Türkiye

### **Türkiye's homegrown 5th-generation fighter jet named KAAN**

Daily Sabah, May 1, 2023

Türkiye's domestically developed 5th-generation fighter jet will be named "KAAN," President Recep Tayyip Erdoğan announced Monday. Erdoğan's remarks came after the TF-X, known as the National Combat Aircraft (MMU), made a runway debut and successfully completed its first taxi test after starting its engines for the first time in mid-March. "Türkiye is now in every field, on land, in sea and submarine, in air and space," Erdoğan told the "Century of the Future" event in the capital Ankara. Erdoğan watched as KAAN and Hürjet, Türkiye's first nationally built jet-powered trainer and light attack aircraft, rolled on the runway of the Turkish Aerospace Industries (TAI) headquarters in Kahramankazan district.

<https://www.dailysabah.com/business/defense/turkiyes-homegrown-5th-generation-fighter-jet-named-kaan>

### **'Türkiye hopes to serve friendly countries for aircraft retrofit'**

Daily Sabah, May 2, 2023

Türkiye wishes to retrofit friendly countries' aircraft in its factories in the near future, the country's defense chief said on Tuesday. "We believe that in the coming period, the retrofit operations of friendly and allied countries' aircraft will also be carried out in our factory, thus providing much more added value to the national economy," National Defense Minister Hulusi Akar said at the delivery ceremony of the fourth of A400M transport aircraft

retrofitted in the central Kayseri province. The 2nd Air Maintenance Factory Directorate in Kayseri is one of the four centers in the world performing retrofit activities for A400M aircraft, which Akar described as a "source of pride."

<https://www.dailysabah.com/business/defense/turkiye-hopes-to-serve-friendly-countries-for-aircraft-retrofit>

### **Turkish fighter jet KAAN to fly after high-speed taxi tests**

Daily Sabah May 2, 2023

Türkiye's domestically developed KAAN fifth-generation fighter jet will make its maiden flight after completing high-speed taxi tests, a test pilot of the aircraft said. Gökhan Bayramoğlu told Anadolu Agency (AA) that the KAAN is on its way to becoming an effective weapon of the Turkish military with indigenous software and hardware. Its engine tests and system integration are already done, bringing it a step closer to its first flight, said Bayramoğlu. "We carried out taxi tests, and after successfully passing them, we will now work on the control systems and bring them to the flying position," the pilot added.

<https://www.dailysabah.com/business/defense/turkish-fighter-jet-kaan-to-fly-after-high-speed-taxi-tests>

### **Türkiye rejected US proposal to send S-400s to Ukraine: Top diplomat**

Daily Sabah May 7, 2023

The United States asked Türkiye to send to Ukraine its Russian-made air missile defense system that triggered a major row with Washington, but Ankara refused the proposal, the country's top diplomat said

Sunday. The decision to acquire the Russian-made S-400 anti-aircraft system eventually led to Türkiye being removed from the multinational program developing the fifth-generation F-35 stealth fighter jet. Washington proposed to Türkiye that it gives control of the system to the U.S. or another country, including Ukraine, as it tries to fight off Russian forces, Foreign Minister Mevlüt Çavuşoğlu told an interview with private broadcaster Habertürk.

<https://www.dailysabah.com/business/defense/turkiye-rejected-us-proposal-to-send-s-400s-to-ukraine-top-diplomat>

### **Turkish UCAV Akıncı fires Roketsan cruise missile in global 1st**

Daily Sabah, May 12, 2023

The Turkish defense industry giant Roketsan-made Çakır mini cruise missile was successfully fired from the state-of-the-art unmanned combat aerial vehicle (UCAV) Akıncı. The Çakır was deployed at an altitude of 7,000 meters, marking its inaugural flight with the indigenous turbojet engine KALE KTJ-1750. Ismail Demir, head of the Presidency of Defense Industries (SSB) shared the images of the test-firing of the Çakır missile on his social media account. “For the first time in the world, a cruise missile was fired from a UCAV,” he wrote. Demir said that the missile was fired with an engine whose critical components were domestic and hit the target with pinpoint accuracy, congratulating the local defense industry.

<https://www.dailysabah.com/business/defense/turkish-ucav-akinci-fires-roketsan-cruise-missile-in-global-1st>

### **Türkiye’s long-range air defense system Siper completes final test**

Daily Sabah, May 12, 2023

Türkiye’s domestically developed long-range air defense missile system Siper project has achieved another significant milestone with a successful test conducted in northern Sinop province. In its final pre-deployment trial, the system showcased its pinpoint accuracy by hitting the target with full precision. Ismail Demir, head of the Presidency of Defense Industries (SSB) commented: “Siper, the guardian of Turkish skies, has achieved a precise long-range hit in its final test before deployment. We are tirelessly working day and night to safeguard our independence and secure our future across land, air, sea, and space.”

<https://www.dailysabah.com/business/defense/turkiyes-long-range-air-defense-system-siper-completes-final-test>

# NUCLEAR AND ARMS CONTROL CENTRE

*Sylloge on West Asia is compiled by Mr. Kushal Agrawal  
with inputs from Mr. Niranjana C. Oak*

**Manohar Parrikar Institute for Defence Studies and Analyses**

**No. 1, Development Enclave,  
Rao Tula Ram Marg,  
Delhi Cantt., New Delhi-110 010  
Telephone: 91-11-26717983;  
Fax: 91-11-26154191,  
Website: [www.idsa.in](http://www.idsa.in)**



**MANOHAR PARRIKAR INSTITUTE FOR  
DEFENCE STUDIES AND ANALYSES**  
मनोहर पर्रिकर रक्षा अध्थयन एवं विश्लेषण संस्थान