

\$8.6 billion in US arms exports

US fast-tracks major arms packages for Gulf allies

The administration of US President Donald Trump has approved more than \$8.6 billion in arms sales to key Middle Eastern allies, using emergency powers to bypass congressional review, the State Department said Friday.

Secretary of State Marco Rubio determined that an "emergency" situation required immediate action, allowing the administration to waive the standard process in which Congress can review and potentially block major foreign military sales.

The package includes multiple defence agreements across the region. Qatar will receive the largest share, a \$4.01 billion deal for Patriot air and missile defence support services intended to strengthen its defensive capabilities.

Kuwait has been cleared to purchase an integrated battle command system valued at



\$2.5 billion, aimed at improving coordination across its military operations.

Additional approvals include \$992.4 million in Advanced Precision Kill Weapon Systems (APKWS) for Israel, and \$147.6

million worth of similar systems for the United Arab Emirates.

US officials said the sales reflect Washington's commitment to reinforcing the defence capabilities of regional allies amid ongoing geopolitical tensions.

However, the use of emergency authority is expected to trigger scrutiny in Congress, where lawmakers may question both the scale of the deals and the decision to bypass legislative oversight.

Kuwait Defence Minister highlights officer training standards



Kuwait Defence Minister Shaikh Abdullah Ali Abdullah Al-Salem Al-Sabah inspected the military culture examination for candidates applying to the 2027-2028 Command and Staff Courses at the Mubarak Al-Abdullah Joint Command and Staff College.

During the visit, the minister reviewed organisational and administrative arrangements in place to

ensure the smooth conduct of the assessments. He was also briefed on the evaluation mechanisms and the criteria used in selecting candidates.

Shaikh Abdullah stressed the importance of such examinations in preparing and qualifying future military leaders, and in enhancing the overall efficiency and readiness of armed forces personnel.

Dubai-Seychelles Connectivity Talks



The President of the Dubai Civil Aviation Authority and senior aviation leaders welcomed the President of the Republic of Seychelles, Dr. Patrick Herminie, to Dubai for talks focused on strengthening air connectivity and economic cooperation.

The meeting, also attended by Seychelles Ambassador to the UAE Gervais Mougou and UAE Ambassador to Seychelles Ahmed Saeed Al Neyadi, underscored the strategic importance of aviation links in supporting tourism, trade and long-term economic resilience for island nations.

Officials highlighted the long-standing role of Emirates Airline & Group in connecting Seychelles to global markets, with flights to Mahé

first launched in 2005. They reaffirmed commitment to expanding connectivity through Dubai, working alongside Air Seychelles and Tourism Seychelles to diversify source markets and support sustainable growth.

The discussions come as Seychelles continues to prioritise aviation and tourism as key pillars of its economic strategy.

“Enhanced Dubai-Seychelles air connectivity will support tourism, trade and sustainable economic growth.”

UAE records 6,014 traffic accidents in a year

Light vehicles accounted for the largest share of traffic accidents in the UAE last year, according to data released by the Ministry of Interior, highlighting ongoing road safety concerns in the country.

A total of 3,834 accidents involved light vehicles, significantly higher than any other category. Motorcycles ranked second with 1,224 incidents, while heavy trucks were linked to 325 accidents.

Smaller but notable figures were recorded across other transport modes. Bicycles were involved in 158 accidents, heavy buses in 131, and electric scooters in 120 cases. Light buses accounted for 115 incidents, followed by e-bikes with 62. Vehicles of unknown type were involved in 31 accidents, while heavy and light mechanical



equipment were linked to 13 and one incident respectively, according to figures reported by Al Khaleej newspaper.

In total, the UAE recorded 6,014 traffic accidents during the year. Collisions between vehicles made up the majority with 4,085 cases, while 1,102 involved pedestrians and 800 were rollovers. A further 27 incidents were classified under other categories.

Authorities identified sudden swerving as the leading cause,

responsible for 1,074 accidents. Driver distraction followed with 948 cases, while failing to maintain a safe distance caused 849 incidents. Negligence and lack of attention contributed to 661 accidents.

The Ministry of Interior said it had identified up to 160 contributing factors to road accidents, including failure to yield to pedestrians, unsafe overtaking, running red lights, excessive speed relative to road conditions, and tyre blowouts.

Pakistan, Kuwait discuss regional stability

Pakistan's Deputy Prime Minister and Foreign Minister Mohammad Ishaq Dar held a phone call with Kuwait's Foreign Minister Shaikh Jarrah Jaber Al-Ahmad Al-Sabah to discuss regional developments and their broader economic implications, officials said.

During the conversation, Dar underscored Pakistan's continued efforts to promote constructive engagement and diplomacy aimed at supporting peace and stability in the region

and beyond.

Kuwait's Foreign Minister Sheikh Jarrah Jaber Al-Ahmad Al-Sabah commended Pakistan's diplomatic efforts, describing them as sincere initiatives contributing to lasting peace and security for the

wider Muslim world and the international community.

Both sides reaffirmed the longstanding fraternal relations between Pakistan and Kuwait and agreed to maintain close coordination on issues of mutual interest.



Care and Recovery

DUBAI

Her Excellency Dalal Saeed Al Shamsi, Assistant Undersecretary for the Labour Protection Sector, conducted an inspection visit to Rashid Hospital on International Workers' Day to check on workers and review their health conditions.

The visit was part of the ministry's efforts to support and care for workers, reflecting what officials described as a humanitarian approach that prioritises human safety and dignity.

Authorities extended wishes for the workers' speedy recovery and safe return to their duties, while also marking International Workers' Day with messages of appreciation for the labour force.



Sea Hawk Maintenance



U.S. Navy Sailors conduct routine maintenance on MH-60 Sea Hawk helicopters aboard USS Abraham Lincoln (CVN 72). The MH-60 is U.S. Navy's primary shipboard helicopter and operates from destroyers, amphibious ships, and carriers in the region.



“Life teaches me that responsibility is a trust.

A leader who is concerned only with his own personal success is not trustworthy.

A leader who does not care about the success of other leaders in the nation is not trustworthy.

Selfishness in public service is a betrayal of that trust, because the nation is indivisible.

True responsibility is to carry the burden of the entire nation — all of it — so that you are not a burden upon it.”

— Shaikh Mohammed bin Rashid Al Maktoum, Ruler of Dubai