

# Joint Defence Cooperation

Saudi Arabia, Pakistan Launch Military Air Deployment

A Pakistani Air Force (PAF) contingent has arrived at King Abdulaziz Air Base in Saudi Arabia's Eastern Province as part of a joint strategic defence agreement between the two countries.

According to Saudi Arabia's Ministry of Defence, the deployment includes fighter and support aircraft and is aimed at strengthening operational readiness and enhancing joint military capabilities.

The move comes under a bilat-

eral defence framework signed between Saudi Arabia and Pakistan in September last year, which sets out expanded military cooperation, including joint training exercises, exchange of expertise, and the deployment of personnel and assets.

Officials said the arrangement is intended to improve interoperability between the two armed forces and bolster preparedness in response to evolving regional security challenges.

The agreement reflects grow-



ing defence collaboration between the two nations and a shared commitment to strengthening long-term military cooperation.

# Qatar submits 14th UN letter over Iranian attacks

The State of Qatar has submitted its fourteenth identical letter to the United Nations and the United Nations Security Council, addressing recent developments concerning what it described as Iranian attacks on its territory.

In the communication, Qatar said the incidents constitute a "flagrant violation" of its sovereignty and pose a serious threat to regional security and stability. The letter was addressed to UN Secretary-General António Guterres and to the Permanent Representative of the Kingdom of Bahrain to the United Nations and current President of the Security Council for April, Jamal Fares Al-Ruwaishid.

The letter, issued by Qatar's Permanent Representative to the UN Sheikhha Alia Ahmed bin Saif Al Thani, stated that Qatar's Ministry of Defense reported an attack on 8 April 2026 involving seven ballistic missiles and multiple drones launched from the Islamic Republic of Iran. Qatar said its armed forces successfully intercepted all incoming threats.

It further noted that the strikes occurred despite the adoption of UN Security Council Resolution 2817 (2026), which had condemned pre-



Sheikha Alia Ahmed bin Saif Al Thani

vious attacks and demanded an immediate halt to such actions. Qatar argued that the continued incidents represent a violation of that resolution.

The letter urged the Security Council to assume its responsibilities in maintaining international peace and security and to take measures to halt further violations and deter future attacks.

Qatar also emphasized that the targeted sites were civilian in nature, stating that such actions constitute breaches of international humanitarian law, including the Geneva Conventions, and principles governing the protection of civilians in armed conflict.

# India Sends Ministers to Gulf

India has dispatched top ministers to Gulf countries this week to secure energy supplies, as concerns mount over a gas crunch triggered by disruptions linked to the ongoing US-Israel-Iran conflict.

The country, which imports around 60 percent of its liquefied petroleum gas (LPG), relies heavily on Gulf suppliers such as Qatar, the UAE, and Saudi Arabia to meet the cooking fuel needs of its 1.4 billion population.



External Affairs Minister S. Jaishankar began a two-day visit to the United Arab Emirates

on Saturday, while Petroleum and Natural Gas Minister Hardeep Singh Puri concluded talks in Qatar on Friday, focusing on strengthening energy cooperation and ensuring supply stability. "Our ministers are visiting Gulf countries to strengthen energy security," said Indian Ministry of External Affairs spokesperson Randhir Jaiswal.

The move comes amid concerns over disruptions in the

Strait of Hormuz, a critical global energy route. India imports nearly 85 percent of its crude oil, with around 30 percent passing through the strait, raising fears over supply continuity.

Following his meeting in Doha, Puri said Qatar had reaffirmed its commitment to remain a reliable energy partner for India, while both sides emphasized the need to restore stability in global energy flows.

Officials also highlighted ongoing efforts to safeguard petroleum and LPG availability despite geopolitical tensions affecting shipping routes.

# New Regional Peace Talks

Egyptian President Abdel Fattah el-Sisi received a phone call from Italian Prime Minister Giorgia Meloni, during which they discussed the latest Middle East developments.

According to an official statement from the Egyptian presidency spokesperson, the call focused on efforts to maintain regional peace and stability. President Sisi stressed the importance of preserving calm in the region by building on a recent ceasefire agreement



reached between the United States and Iran, and by launching serious negotiations to resolve outstanding disputes.

He also reviewed Egypt's ongoing diplomatic efforts with various parties to de-escalate tensions, reaffirming Cairo's full support for the security and stability of Arab states and its firm rejection of any violations of sovereignty or threats to the rights and resources of regional nations.

For her part, Prime Minister Meloni expressed Italy's

appreciation for Egypt's role in supporting the ceasefire efforts and agreed on the importance of maintaining stability in the region. She emphasized the need to reopen the Strait of Hormuz to international navigation without restrictions or fees, ensure the security of Gulf countries, and reach an agreement on Iran's nuclear program with appropriate safeguards to prevent renewed conflict. She also underscored Italy's commitment to strengthening

political coordination with Egypt to achieve these goals.

The discussion also addressed the situation in Lebanon, where Meloni called for direct negotiations leading to a ceasefire, noting that Hezbollah had made incorrect strategic choices, while Israel's response had gone beyond legitimate self-defense. She further stressed the importance of the ongoing Islamabad negotiations in reaching a final agreement to end the regional conflict.

# UAE Leaders Discuss National Progress and Stability



The President of the United Arab Emirates met with Mohammed bin Rashid Al Maktoum in the presence of Mansour bin Zayed Al Nahyan, where the leaders exchanged cordial and fraternal conversations.

During the meeting, they prayed for the continued protection of the UAE, wishing the

nation lasting security, stability, and prosperity.

The discussions also highlighted ongoing national efforts carried out by various state institutions, including military and civilian entities, as well as specialized teams working to support the country's development and preparedness across different sectors.

# Beirut Safety Plan Reviewed in Baabda Meeting



Lebanese President Joseph Aoun held a meeting at the Baabda Palace on Thursday morning, attended by Minister of National Defense Major General Michel Menassa and Minister of Interior and Municipalities Ahmad Al-Hajjar.

During the meeting, officials reviewed the current security situation across the country, as well as measures being implemented by the Lebanese

Army, Internal Security Forces, and other security agencies to strengthen stability and prevent any security breaches. The discussions were in line with directives approved during the Cabinet's latest session.

The meeting also addressed the ongoing security plan in Beirut, particularly efforts to secure shelters and ensure the safety of individuals inside them.

# Maldives President Departs Jeddah After Official Visit



President of the Republic of Maldives, Dr. Mohamed Muizzu, departed from King Abdulaziz International Airport in Jeddah, he was seen off by several senior officials, including Prince Saud bin Mishal bin Abdulaziz, Deputy Governor of the Makkah Region, and other high-ranking representatives.

Those present at the farewell also included the Deputy Mayor of Jeddah, Eng. Ali bin Mohammed Al-Qarni, the Director of Makkah Region Police, Major General Saleh Al-Jabri, the Ambassador of the Republic of Maldives to Saudi Arabia, Ahmed Sareer, and Ahmed Abdullah bin Dhafer, Director of Royal Protocol in the Makkah Region.