



CLAWS Newsletter



Türkiye Defence Dispatch

by Aishwarya Airy



About us

The Centre for Land Warfare Studies (CLAWS) is an independent think tank based in New Delhi, India, dedicated to strategic studies and land warfare in the Indian context. Established in 2004 and registered under the Societies Registration Act, 1860, CLAWS operates as a membership-based organization governed by a Board of Governors and an Executive Council, under the Aegis of the Indian Army.

With a futuristic outlook and a policy-oriented approach, CLAWS focuses on national security issues, conventional military operations, and sub-conventional warfare. The Centre closely monitors regional conflicts and military developments within India's strategic frontiers, particularly in South Asia.

Committed to fostering strategic culture and informed policymaking, CLAWS disseminates its research to armed forces personnel, policymakers, members of the strategic community, and interested civilians. By facilitating in-depth studies and discussions, CLAWS contributes to shaping India's defense policies and military preparedness.

The CLAWS Newsletter is a newly fortnightly series under the leadership of Dr. Tara Kartha, Director Research & Academics. The newsletter features insightful content curated by CLAWS researchers, each specializing in their respective verticals. This initiative aims to provide in-depth analysis, strategic insights, and updates on key issues.

TÜRKIYE DEFENCE DISPATCH

Newsletter (January 16-31)

DEFENCE & SECURITY

1. Turkey Conducts First Live-Fire UAV Swarm Strike Test with 20 Kargu Drones ([Calibre Defence](#), Jan 28)

STM conducted Türkiye's first recorded live-fire exercise of a coordinated UAV swarm, deploying 20 Kargu loitering munitions against multiple simulated targets at the Polatlı training range. According to a [January 27](#) release, the trial was designed to evaluate autonomous swarm coordination and mission robustness in a representative combat environment. After launch, the drones navigated autonomously to the target area under the supervision of a single operator, then divided into three sub-groups to execute simultaneous strikes on separate designated targets. The system uses a decentralized, distributed control architecture rather than a central command node, allowing UAVs to communicate directly for task-sharing, timing, and mission continuity even if some platforms are lost to counter-UAS measures or electronic warfare. Analysts are calling swarming drones the next evolution in drone warfare. Prof. Dr. Haluk Görgün, Secretary of Defence Industries of the Republic of Türkiye (SSB), Lt Gen Gültekin Yaralı, Commander of the Land Forces Training and Doctrine Command, Lt Gen Ahmet Kurumahmut, Commander of the 4th Corps and Ankara Garrison Commander, along with senior military delegations were present for this test and reportedly gave "full marks" for the swarm UAV's attack capability.

STM noted recent exports of Kargu and Alpargu systems to a NATO and EU member state, where they are being integrated into battle management systems and ground vehicle launchers.

2. TAI Delays KAAN Fighter Prototype Flight to May–June, Deliveries Now Targeted for 2029 ([Turkiye Today](#), [X/@AviationWeek](#) Jan 28)

TAI CEO Mehmet Demiroglu said the first flight prototype of Türkiye's KAAN aircraft is now expected to fly by May or, at the latest, June, slipping from an earlier end-April target due to last-minute adjustments and the scale of required ground testing. Three flight prototypes are currently in production: the first scheduled for early summer, the second by

the end of this year, and a third in late 2026 or early 2027. Demiroglu also confirmed serial production deliveries are now aimed for 2029 rather than 2028, citing the long test and certification cycles typical of fighter development. Initial Block 10 and Block 20 aircraft, around 20 to 40 jets, will use GE F110 engines as an interim solution. Türkiye's indigenous TF35000 engine remains under development, with Demiroglu stating: "We are targeting 2032 for this engine to be completed and its integration with the aircraft finished."

3. Aselsan Signed \$171 Million Defence Export Deal in Asia-Pacific ([Hurriyet Daily News](#), Jan 26)

Turkish defence major Aselsan announced that it has signed an international sales contract worth \$171 million with a client in the Asia-Pacific region. The deal covers the export of communication systems and payloads for unmanned surface vehicles, though the customer was not disclosed. Aselsan, ranking among the world's top 50 defence firms, recently surpassed \$30 billion in market value, becoming the first Turkish firm to reach that milestone, and is now among the top 10 most valuable defence companies in Europe. Aselsan's order backlog has expanded sharply, reaching \$17.9 billion, while export momentum has surged. In the first nine months of 2025 alone, the firm signed \$1.45 billion in new export contracts, a 171 percent increase year-on-year.

4. Turkey Unveils High-Rate RCWS for Counter-UAV Defense ([Next Gen Defense](#), Jan 27)

Turkey is deploying a new remotely controlled weapon system (RCWS, Trakon Lite 134) designed to counter hostile unmanned aerial vehicles. Developed by Turkey's Unirobotics, the system pairs an AI-enabled target tracking suite with a NATO-standard M134 multi-barrel machine gun, capable of delivering approx 3,000 rounds per minute. It integrates Echodyne's EchoGuard radar for automatic wide-area detection and tracking of multiple aerial targets. Once a threat is identified, the system's fire control calculates engagement timing and directs precision fire. Built for mobility, Trakon Lite 134's lightweight design allows mounting on vehicles or robotic platforms with minimal payload impact. Unirobotics reports the system has completed qualification testing and is now cleared for operational deployment, positioning it as a hard-kill, rapid-fire solution against fast-moving UAV threats.

5. TAI Targets Mass Production and Deliveries After Record 2025 Export Year ([Anadolu Agency](#), Jan 28)

TAI plans major advances in 2026 across its domestic aircraft and drone programs, following what CEO Mehmet Demiroglu described as a record-setting 2025. He highlighted Türkiye's largest-ever defense export, reported at nearly \$15 billion, linked to the KAAN stealth fighter deal with Indonesia. TAI also confirmed the export of around 30 Hurjet jet trainers to Spain, marking a notable European breakthrough. This year, the company will prioritise deliveries of Hurjet, Hurkus trainers, and unmanned systems such as Anka and Aksungur, while scaling up production of the Gokbey helicopter. TAI expects new KAAN prototypes to fly in 2026 and plans to begin mass production of the Anka III stealth UCAV.

6. Turkey's National Aviation Programs Enter Critical Development Phase in 2026 **([Defense Watch](#), Jan 25)**

Turkey's indigenous military aviation programs are set to enter a decisive phase in 2026 as TAI ramps up testing, production preparation, and early deliveries across multiple platforms. TAI officials describe 2026 as a transition year, with several programs moving from development toward serial manufacturing and operational deployment, reflecting Ankara's push to reduce foreign dependency in combat aviation. The KAAN fifth-generation fighter remains the centrepiece. Work in 2026 will focus on expanded flight testing, systems integration, and readiness for serial production later in the decade, with KAAN intended to eventually replace F-16s in Turkish Air Force service. In parallel, the Hürjet advanced jet trainer and light attack aircraft is expected to see intensified testing and production preparations as it approaches the manufacturing phase.

The more mature Hürkuş program will continue steady deliveries for domestic use and exports. Together, the simultaneous progression of fighter, trainer, and unmanned programs in 2026 highlights Turkey's strategy of building an integrated, self-sustaining aerospace ecosystem with both domestic and export ambitions.

7. Keel Laid in Istanbul for Portugal's First Turkish-Built Naval Support Ship **([Defense News](#), Jan 30)**

The keel of the first Auxiliary Oiler Replenishment (AOR) and Logistics Support Ship for Portugal's sea service was laid at Ada Shipyard in Istanbul. The vessel is being built by STM under a contract signed in Lisbon on December 17, 2024, covering two ships. The deal marked Turkey's first export of a military ship to a European Union and NATO member state. The keel-laying ceremony was attended by defence ministers and senior naval and air force commanders from both countries. Designed for joint force projection, the ships are

intended to support amphibious operations, sustained naval deployments, and humanitarian and disaster relief missions. Each vessel will feature helicopter facilities and dedicated hangars for UAVs, along with modular mission spaces and integrated communications systems enabling command-and-control and medical support roles. Beyond replenishment at sea, the ships will be capable of transporting fuel, cargo, and armoured vehicles. A stern ramp will allow each ship to carry up to 20 light tactical armoured vehicles, enhancing their role in joint and amphibious operations. STM plans to begin construction of the second ship later this year, lay its keel by June 2026, launch both vessels in 2027, and deliver them to the Portuguese Navy in 2028.

8. Türkiye Plans ANKA III Induction as UCAV Enters Production Phase ([Army Recognition](#), [Army Recognition](#), Jan 25, Jan 27)

TAI expects the Turkish Air Force to place an initial order exceeding 50 ANKA III stealth unmanned combat aerial vehicles in 2026, signalling a shift from development to large-scale production planning. TAI CEO Mehmet Demiroğlu said the programme has completed its critical design review, the configuration has been frozen, and production-related activities are already underway. The jet-powered, flying-wing ANKA III has also entered an advanced testing phase following multiple system verification flights, including autonomous flight and weapons release trials. Designed for operations in contested airspace, the UCAV features internal weapons bays, reduced radar signature, and is intended for deep strike, ISR, and electronic warfare missions alongside manned platforms such as the KAAN fighter. Serial production is expected to begin within the next 18 months, with initial deliveries planned for Turkish service. TAI says Anka III can carry precision-guided munitions and indigenous stand-off weapons, with a reported operational range exceeding 1,000 km.

9. Aselsan Won NATO Contract to Supply IFF Systems for MANPADS ([Anadolu Agency](#), Jan 26)

Aselsan announced that it was awarded a contract by NATO to supply Identification of Friend or Foe (IFF) Interrogator Systems for Man-Portable Air Defense Systems (MANPADS). The contract was issued through the NATO Support and Procurement Agency (NSPA) and took the form of a three-year framework agreement, allowing deliveries over the duration of the contract period.

Aselsan stated that the systems will support NATO's efforts to address growing aerial threats by improving target identification for short-range air defense units. The company noted that it

is one of a limited number of suppliers capable of providing Mode-5 IFF systems, which are used by NATO forces.

10. ASFAT Claims Simultaneous Sea Trials of Warships in Pakistan and Türkiye **([Aksaray Haberci](#), [Turdef](#), Jan 22)**

Sea acceptance trials have begun for BADR, the first of two corvettes being built at Karachi Shipyard under the Pakistan MILGEM programme, led by ASFAT operating under Türkiye's Ministry of National Defence. BADR reportedly entered the sea acceptance phase on 19 January in Karachi, a step that typically precedes final delivery preparations for the Pakistan Navy's third MILGEM-class ship.

On the same day, two offshore patrol vessels, AKHİSAR and KOÇHİSAR, constructed at Istanbul Naval Shipyard Command under ASFAT's prime contracting role, conducted test voyages in the Sea of Marmara. As per reports, the ministry referred to both OPVs as "our ships," reflecting their current status: AKHİSAR remains in the Turkish Naval Forces inventory pending its planned transfer to Romania in June, while KOÇHİSAR entered inventory following a ceremony earlier this year. The statement indicates that trials for both OPVs are ongoing.

ASFAT described the development as marking the first instance of a Turkish defence company building a combat ship abroad while simultaneously conducting sea trials in separate maritime theatres.

11. Ankara Eyes Drone Export Deal With Sri Lanka as Defence Cooperation Grows **([Resonant News](#), Jan 29)**

Türkiye has offered to supply Turkish-made drones to Sri Lanka as defence cooperation between the two countries expands, according to Ambassador Semih Lütfü Turgut. Speaking at a Pathfinder Foundation meeting, the Ambassador said drone procurement is being explored as a key area of bilateral collaboration, with the Sri Lankan military expected to use such systems for roles including maritime surveillance. The proposal has already been conveyed to Sri Lankan defence authorities, though discussions remain preliminary and no agreement has been finalised.

12. TURKEY AT DIMDEX 2026

Qatar's DIMDEX 2026 featured a strong focus on maritime security and surveillance systems, with several countries using the exhibition to advance defence cooperation talks. Haluk Görgün, head of Türkiye's Presidency of Defence Industries, [held a series of meetings](#) with foreign delegations on the sidelines of the event. According to officials, Görgün discussed possible joint development projects, technology transfer arrangements, and export opportunities with defence representatives from Colombia, as well as with officials and executives from Invest Qatar, Barzan Holdings, and EDGE Group. The talks explored industrial partnerships and procurement models aimed at strengthening local capabilities while supporting cross-border collaboration. Görgün also met Sheikh Saoud bin Abdulrahman bin Hassan Al-Thani, Qatar's Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of State for Defense Affairs, for bilateral discussions. Officials said the engagements reflected Türkiye's efforts to broaden defence-industrial ties and expand its role in international markets through cooperative frameworks rather than standalone sales. \$1 B Barzan and TAIS two Istif-class frigate

- **Aselsan, Barzan Expanded BARQ Joint Venture at DIMDEX 2026 ([European Security & Defence, Jan 22](#))**

Aselsan and Qatar-based Barzan Holdings announced the expansion of their BARQ joint venture on 20 January 2026, signing multiple agreements at DIMDEX 2026 in Doha. The agreements were signed by Aselsan Vice President Özgür Taylan Sarı and Barzan Holdings CEO Mohamed Badr Al-Sadah, in the presence of senior Turkish and Qatari defence officials. The expanded joint venture scope covered high-technology domains, selected local production capabilities, and increased technology transfer and industrial know-how between Türkiye and Qatar. Both companies said the initiative aimed to support local expertise development and long-term industrial collaboration. Aselsan and Barzan stated that the BARQ expansion was intended to strengthen joint capabilities by combining advanced defence technologies with local production, supporting the delivery of future-oriented defence solutions within the regional defence ecosystem

- **CTech, HBKU, and Nardan Motor Launched SATCOM Project at DIMDEX 2026 ([ASD News, Jan 20](#))**

CTech, Hamad Bin Khalifa University (HBKU), and Nardan Motor announced a joint satellite communications initiative after securing project funding under Cycle 6 of the QRDI-

TÜBİTAK Academia–Industry Cooperation Call. The partners unveiled the Next-Generation Motor-Driven SATCOM Antenna System Project at DIMDEX 2026 in Qatar. According to the announcement, the project focuses on developing uninterrupted and reliable satellite communications for mobile platforms. It aims to address existing limitations in mobile SATCOM by combining advanced motor-driven antenna systems with additive manufacturing techniques. The planned system is intended for use across defence and aerospace applications, where continuous connectivity is required under dynamic operating conditions.

- **Aselsan Presented “Steel Dome” Integrated Air Defence System at DIMDEX (European Defence Review, Jan 21)**

Aselsan showcased its Steel Dome (Çelik Kubbe) integrated air and missile defence architecture at DIMDEX, outlining Türkiye’s approach to layered, land-based air defence. The system is designed to integrate sensors, command-and-control, and effectors into a single national air defence framework, covering threats ranging from FPV drones and loitering munitions to cruise and ballistic missiles. Steel Dome is structured as a multi-layer system combining very short-, short-, medium-, and long-range air defence assets under unified command. It incorporates early-warning radars, electro-optical and electronic warfare sensors, the Hakim air defence C2 system, and a mix of soft- and hard-kill effectors including jammers, lasers, gun systems, and surface-to-air missiles from the Hisar and Siper families. Aselsan described the architecture as modular and scalable, allowing adaptation to different operational and geographic requirements.

- **Aselsan Displayed AHTAPOT 100 Naval EO System at DIMDEX 2026 (Naval News, Jan 30)**

Aselsan showcased its AHTAPOT 100 naval electro-optical surveillance and targeting system at DIMDEX 2026 in Doha. AHTAPOT 100 is a fully stabilised director integrating a mid-wave infrared thermal imager, high-definition day camera, and eye-safe laser rangefinder, with optional SWIR sensors, long-range spotter cameras, and a laser designator. The system features a modular line-replaceable unit architecture, allowing sensor swaps during missions to maintain availability. It provides stabilised HD video, continuous zoom, automatic target detection, tracking, geolocation, and laser illumination for day and night operations.

Aselsan said a next-generation AHTAPOT 200 variant with AI-based target detection is under development and planned for unveiling at IDEF 2027. The AHTAPOT family is intended for Turkish naval platforms and export markets.

- *Complete list of Turkish Companies at DIMDEX 2026 can be found [here](#).*

13. Swiss General Staff Delegation Visited MKE Facilities in Ankara ([Tekha](#), Jan 22)

A delegation from the Swiss General Staff visited MKE in Ankara on 21 January to review the company's defence production capabilities. Led by Colonel Thomas Brunner, the delegation toured MKE headquarters and factories and received briefings on ongoing projects and technological infrastructure. According to MKE, the Swiss officials showed particular interest in the TOLGA close-in air defence system and the BORAN 105 mm light towed howitzer, which were presented as part of the company's product portfolio. The visit also included discussions on potential areas of cooperation. MKE said it hosted 56 official delegations from 39 countries in 2025 and continues to receive foreign military and industry visitors in 2026 as part of its international engagement activities.

14. Italy's Guardia di Finanza Evaluated Turkish USVs During Türkiye Visit ([MENAFN](#), Jan 29)

Italy's financial police, Guardia di Finanza, visited Türkiye to examine unmanned surface vehicles (USVs) and assess their operational capabilities for maritime surveillance missions. The delegation observed demonstrations of Rafnar boats, which can operate fully autonomously or via remote control, using software developed in cooperation with Turkish firms including Havelsan and VN Maritime. Live remote-control operations were demonstrated, and Havelsan also presented its broader USV portfolio. According to officials, the GdF is seeking solutions to support persistent monitoring in ports, coastal waters, and high-traffic maritime zones. USVs are being considered due to their ability to conduct patrol, surveillance, and inspection tasks with lower operating costs and reduced risk to personnel. The systems are also suited for monitoring pollution and environmental violations, and are intended to integrate with existing command, control, and decision-support frameworks rather than replace human operators.

15. RSF Claims Shootdown of Turkish-Made Akıncı Drone Over El Fasher ([RSF](#), Jan 27)

Sudan's Rapid Support Forces (RSF) said its air defence unit shot down a Turkish-made Akıncı unmanned combat aerial vehicle over El Fasher, the capital of North Darfur. In a statement, the RSF alleged that the drone had been used in recent strikes that caused civilian casualties in parts of Darfur, including Bulbul Tembesko west of Nyala and areas north of El Fasher, though these claims could not be independently verified. The RSF attributed responsibility for the alleged strikes to what it described as the "Terrorist Islamic Movement Army," accusing rival forces of using Turkish-manufactured drones in attacks on civilian populations in areas where the RSF says it has no military presence. The group framed the incidents as part of a wider campaign involving crimes against civilians, including allegations of ethnic cleansing.

16. Turkish Naval Task Group Deploys Under NATO ARF for STEADFAST DART 2026 ([UK Defence Journal](#), [X/NavforTracker](#), Jan 28)

A Turkish naval task group led by the amphibious assault ship TCG Anadolu has deployed under NATO's Allied Reaction Force (ARF) to participate in exercise STEADFAST DART 2026, marking the first large-scale peacetime employment of the Alliance's new rapid response force. The group sailed earlier this month and arrived at Rota, Spain, on 29 January. The deployment coincides with Türkiye assuming the roles of Commander Amphibious Task Force (CATF) and Commander Landing Force (CLF) from July 2025 to June 2026, the first time it has held both NATO commands simultaneously. The task group comprises TCG Anadolu, logistics support ship TCG Derya, I-class frigate TCG İstanbul, and Barbaros-class frigate TCG Oruçreis, forming a self-sustaining national maritime force.

Designed for multi-domain operations, the group includes embarked aviation, amphibious assault vehicles, and unmanned systems, enabling joint maritime and littoral missions. From January to April 2026, it is expected to operate across the Mediterranean, Bay of Biscay, North and Baltic Seas, and Adriatic. NATO says the exercise is designed to test rapid reinforcement, logistics, and interoperability amid heightened security tensions particularly along NATO's eastern and northern flanks.

17. Turkey-Pakistan News

- **Turkish Army Chief Visits Pakistan; Meets Munir** ([Aaj TV](#), [Tribune.pk](#), Jan 30)

Chief of the Turkish General Staff General Selcuk Bayraktaroglu met Field Marshal Asim Munir, Pakistan's Chief of Army Staff and Chief of Defence Forces, at General Headquarters in Rawalpindi, showing the deepening strategic partnership between the two militaries. General Bayraktaroglu was presented a guard of honour on arrival. According to official statements, the talks covered matters of mutual interest, the evolving regional and global security environment, and ways to further strengthen bilateral defence and military cooperation. Both sides expressed satisfaction with the positive trajectory of Pakistan–Türkiye relations and stressed the importance of closer coordination. Munir highlighted the longstanding “brotherly ties” between the two militaries, while Bayraktaroglu praised the professionalism of Pakistan's armed forces and reiterated Türkiye's commitment to expanding cooperation through training programmes, joint exercises, and capacity-building initiatives.

Meeting with Khwaja Asif

General Bayraktaroglu also met Defence Minister Khawaja Muhammad Asif in Islamabad, where both sides reiterated the deep-rooted historical and “brotherly” ties between Pakistan and Türkiye. The Turkish military chief appreciated Pakistan's role in promoting regional peace and stability, while stressing Ankara's interest in lasting security across the wider neighbourhood, including Afghanistan. Minister Asif thanked Türkiye for its consistent support during challenging periods and reaffirmed Pakistan's emphasis on restraint, dialogue and cooperation with regional partners. The talks covered avenues for enhanced defence and security collaboration, with both sides agreeing to further expand the bilateral defence partnership in line with shared strategic convergence.

- **Pakistan Seeks Zero Tariff Access for Basmati Rice in Talks With Türkiye** ([Profit](#), [Pakistan Today](#), Jan 28)

Pakistan has raised market-access concerns with Türkiye, seeking zero or reduced tariffs on basmati rice and better utilisation of existing tariff-rate quotas under the bilateral trade framework. The issues were discussed during a meeting between Pakistan's Commerce Minister Jam Kamal Khan and Turkish Ambassador İrfan Neziroğlu, held on the directions of Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif. Khan said Pakistan has a strong exportable rice surplus but faces stiff competition from India and Vietnam. He urged Türkiye to expand imports from

Pakistan, stressing that Islamabad is prioritising export volumes over price maximisation to support farmers. The minister also called for more effective use of the 18,000-ton tariff-rate quota under the Pakistan–Türkiye Preferential Trade Agreement, which he said remains underutilised due to procedural hurdles. Both sides discussed activating government-to-government trade channels and agreed to fast-track technical consultations, with Türkiye reaffirming interest in deepening trade ties and working toward the shared \$5 billion bilateral trade target.

- **Pakistan’s Gujrat Chamber Pushes for Anatolia Visa Office, Turkish Airlines Flights from Sialkot ([Dawn](#), Jan 25)**

The Gujrat Chamber of Commerce and Industry (GtCCI) has urged Türkiye to open an Anatolia visa application office in Gujrat and launch Turkish Airlines flights from Sialkot International Airport to support the region’s business community and expand bilateral trade links. GtCCI President Ahmed Hassan Mattu raised the proposals during a meeting with Turkish Consul General Mehmet Eymen Simsek and other diplomats, arguing that a direct Sialkot route would benefit travellers and exporters from Gujrat, Gujranwala, Sialkot and surrounding districts. Consul General Simsek noted that establishing a visa office involves significant operational costs, including security and staffing. On aviation connectivity, he said Turkish Airlines has already increased Lahore services from 11 to 14 flights per week and expressed optimism that Sialkot flights could be introduced in the future, subject to feasibility.

- **Türkiye Expresses Condolences Over Karachi Mall Fire Tragedy ([Ilkha](#), Jan 19)**

Türkiye’s Foreign Ministry has expressed deep sorrow over the loss of life in a deadly fire that broke out at a shopping mall in Karachi on 17 January 2026. In an official statement, Ankara conveyed condolences to the people of Pakistan and offered prayers for those who died in the incident. “We wish Allah’s mercy upon those who lost their lives, and extend our condolences to the people of Pakistan,” the ministry said. The message underscored Türkiye’s solidarity with Pakistan during the period of national mourning.

- **Pakistan Academy of Letters Honors Turkish Scholar Dr. Halil Toker ([Associated Press of Pakistan](#), Jan 29)**

The Pakistan Academy of Letters (PAL) hosted a special literary and cultural event in Islamabad to honour renowned Turkish writer, scholar and researcher Professor Dr. Halil

Toker for his significant contributions to language and literature, especially Urdu. Dr. Toker, recipient of Pakistan's Sitara-e-Imtiaz, was celebrated for building a strong literary and cultural bridge between Pakistan and Türkiye. The ceremony was attended by dignitaries including Pakistan's Minister of State for National Heritage, the Turkish ambassador to Pakistan, and senior cultural figures. Speakers highlighted Dr. Toker's role in promoting academic cooperation and cultural exchange, and his deep emotional and intellectual attachment to Urdu and Pakistan. Ambassador Dr. Irfan Neziroglu noted that cultural and literary ties add new dimensions to Pakistan–Türkiye relations, while other participants emphasised the importance of books and cross-cultural dialogue in strengthening bilateral bonds. Dr. Toker received a commemorative shield and reaffirmed his commitment to furthering literary and cultural cooperation between the two countries

- **Türkiye Condemns Attacks in Balochistan ([Anadolu Agency, Jan 31](#))**

Türkiye has strongly condemned the recent coordinated terrorist attacks in Pakistan's southwestern Balochistan province, which resulted in significant casualties among security forces and civilians. The Turkish Ministry of Foreign Affairs expressed condolences to the people of Pakistan and wished mercy upon the Pakistani soldiers who lost their lives, reaffirming Ankara's solidarity in Islamabad's ongoing fight against terrorism. Türkiye's statement underscored the ties between the two countries and reiterated support for Pakistan's efforts to ensure regional stability and counter extremist violence.

18. Turkish Pistols Emerging as 'Weapon of Choice' in Punjab's Illicit Arms Networks ([NDTV, Jan 18](#))

Punjab Police seized a significant cache of weapons near the India-Pakistan border in Pathankot, including AK-47 rifles, ammunition, and foreign-origin pistols, notably Turkish-made firearms, reports suggest. Turkey's PX5 pistols, manufactured by TİSAŞ, seem to be increasingly appearing in Punjab's illicit arms networks. Over recent months, multiple seizures in Punjab, including near Amritsar, Gurdaspur and Pathankot, have recovered PX5 .30-bore pistols manufactured by TİSAŞ in Turkey, alongside magazines and live ammunition, underscoring their rapid circulation in the illicit market. Media reports cite investigations that suggest these Turkish PX5s are being smuggled into India via drones launched from across the India–Pakistan border, often directed by Pakistan-linked handlers before distribution to local criminal and terror modules. Authorities have noted that PX5

pistols are becoming a “weapon of choice” among traffickers and gang networks due to their availability through these aerial delivery methods and established transnational routes.

DIPLOMACY & FOREIGN AFFAIRS

19. Gaza Executive Board Downgraded to Advisory Role Under New US Peace Resolution: Report ([The Times of Israel](#), 29 Jan)

A draft resolution under US President Donald Trump’s Board of Peace initiative for postwar Gaza appears to reduce the authority of the Gaza Executive Board, and reports said this eases Israeli concerns over the inclusion of senior officials from Turkey and Qatar. While the panel was initially seen as central to Gaza’s demilitarisation and reconstruction, the draft document describes it instead as serving only in an advisory capacity to a separate, more powerful general Executive Board dominated by figures closely tied to the White House. The resolution, obtained by The Times of Israel, would expand Washington’s control over Gaza’s transition while granting sweeping executive authority to former UN envoy Nickolay Mladenov, named High Representative for Gaza. The Board of Peace, currently comprising 27 member states including Turkey, Qatar, Pakistan, Saudi Arabia and Israel, has been tasked with overseeing Gaza’s governance away from Hamas rule through 2027. The draft also reinforces Trump’s ability to adopt resolutions unilaterally, highlighting the initiative’s unprecedented concentration of authority under US leadership.

20. Türkiye Contributed \$500,000 to UN Afghanistan Trust Fund ([Kabul Now](#), Jan 28)

Türkiye donated \$500,000 to the United Nations Special Trust Fund for Afghanistan (UN-STFA) to support humanitarian assistance in Afghanistan, according to statements released this week. The fund said Türkiye’s contribution will be used to support essential services and strengthen resilience for returnees and internally displaced people. The announcement came alongside other international donations, including \$2.3 million from Luxembourg to UN-STFA and \$600,000 from the Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation to UNICEF for emergency assistance. UNICEF said the Gates funding would support children and families affected by the August 2025 earthquake in eastern Afghanistan, which killed nearly 2,000 people and displaced thousands.

21. Netanyahu Warns Saudi Pivot Toward Turkey, Qatar Could Stall Abraham Accords Expansion ([New Arab](#), Jan 28)

Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu has voiced concern over Saudi Arabia's growing alignment with Turkey and Qatar, warning that the emerging regional formation could obstruct any future normalisation deal with Riyadh under the Abraham Accords framework. Speaking to The Times of Israel, Netanyahu said Israel expects prospective partners to avoid alliances "steered by forces or ideologies" that oppose peace with Israel, arguing that Ankara and Doha nurture actors hostile to Israeli legitimacy. Saudi movement toward the Accords has largely frozen since the Gaza war, while Riyadh's outreach to Turkey and Qatar is increasingly seen as a counterweight to expanding UAE-Israeli influence. The shift also comes amid visible Saudi-UAE frictions, including tensions over Yemen and Abu Dhabi's regional posture.

22. Türkiye, Nigeria Reaffirm \$5 Billion Trade Target, Expand Security and Energy Talks ([China Military](#), [APA News](#), Jan 28, Jan 31)

Türkiye and Nigeria reaffirmed their commitment to reaching a \$5 billion bilateral trade volume during talks in Ankara between President Recep Tayyip Erdoğan and visiting Nigerian President Bola Tinubu on 27 January. Erdoğan said both sides reviewed steps needed to expand trade and remove barriers to economic cooperation, while also discussing closer engagement on security, military training, and intelligence sharing. Erdoğan stated that Türkiye supports Nigeria's efforts against terrorism and welcomed deeper cooperation between Turkish and Nigerian firms, particularly in the energy sector. The two leaders also witnessed the signing of nine bilateral agreements covering areas including defence, education, media, diplomacy, and institutional cooperation. Tinubu said the talks focused on practical outcomes and announced the creation of a Joint Economy and Trade Committee to support implementation, attract investment, and promote industrial growth, technology transfer, and private sector participation between the two countries.

23. Turkey-China News

- **Temu Suspended Cross-Border Sales in Türkiye After Regulatory Inspection ([Türkiye Today](#), Jan 24)**

Temu has suspended all international product sales in Türkiye, limiting its platform to listings from local Turkish sellers with domestic shipping. Users can no longer access cross-border, low-cost imports that had defined the platform's presence in the market, effectively turning Temu into a Türkiye-only marketplace. The change followed an on-site inspection by the Turkish Competition Authority at Temu's Istanbul office on 21 January. While the authority

said the visit did not constitute a formal investigation, Temu confirmed it was cooperating with regulators. Both sides denied reports of equipment seizures. Temu has not said whether the suspension is temporary or permanent. The move comes amid tighter Turkish oversight of Chinese e-commerce platforms, including the planned removal of simplified customs procedures for low-value imports from February.

- **Türkiye–China Consulted on Middle East Issues in Beijing ([Chinese Foreign Ministry](#), Jan 22)**

China's Special Envoy for the Middle East, Zhai Jun, met Türkiye's Ambassador to China Selçuk Ünal in Beijing on 21 January, at the ambassador's request. According to the Chinese side, the meeting focused on exchanging views on current hotspot issues in the Middle East, reflecting ongoing diplomatic consultations between Türkiye and China on regional developments. No further details were shared.

24. Türkiye Held Talks With South Korea, US, China on New Nuclear Plants ([Hurriyet Daily News](#), Jan 23)

Türkiye is in discussions with South Korea, the United States, and China on the construction of nuclear power plants at Sinop and Thrace, Energy and Natural Resources Minister Alparslan Bayraktar said. Speaking to broadcaster A Para, Bayraktar said preparations at the Sinop site are advanced, with environmental impact assessments, seismic surveys, and marine studies completed. He also said Türkiye aims to begin electricity generation from the first reactor at the Akkuyu Nuclear Power Plant this year. Bayraktar outlined plans for up to 12 reactors across Akkuyu, Sinop, and Thrace, alongside at least 5,000 MW of small modular reactors. Türkiye's 2050 target is 20,000 MW of nuclear capacity, covering 10–15% of electricity demand. He also cited ongoing energy cooperation with US firms, including a pending agreement with Chevron.

25. Akkuyu Nuclear Plant's First Reactor Reached 99% Completion ([Telegrafi](#), Jan 21)

Türkiye is nearing first electricity generation from nuclear power as the initial reactor at the Akkuyu Nuclear Power Plant reached 99% completion, Energy and Natural Resources Minister Alparslan Bayraktar said during site inspections on Monday. Bayraktar said he reviewed progress at the control room of the first reactor alongside Rosatom Director General Alexey Likhachev.

The \$20 billion plant in Mersin is planned to have four reactors with a total capacity of 4.8 GW, expected to supply around 10% of Türkiye's electricity once fully operational. Authorities aim to commission the first unit this year. Bayraktar reiterated that nuclear energy is part of Türkiye's long-term strategy to diversify energy sources, reduce imports, and expand capacity to 20,000 MW by 2050, including future projects at Sinop and Thrace and small modular reactors.

26. Türkiye Urged Step-by-Step US–Iran Engagement on Nuclear Issue ([Reuters](#), Jan 28)

Türkiye's Foreign Minister Hakan Fidan said Ankara has advised the United States to address its disputes with Iran incrementally rather than through a single, comprehensive deal, starting with the nuclear file. Speaking to Al Jazeera, Fidan said resolving issues "one by one" would be more workable and avoid creating outcomes that Iranian officials could find politically difficult to accept. Fidan reiterated Türkiye's opposition to any foreign military intervention against Iran, warning that renewed conflict would further destabilise the region. He said Ankara has been in contact with both United States and Iranian officials and stressed that Iran should be allowed to manage its internal affairs without external pressure.

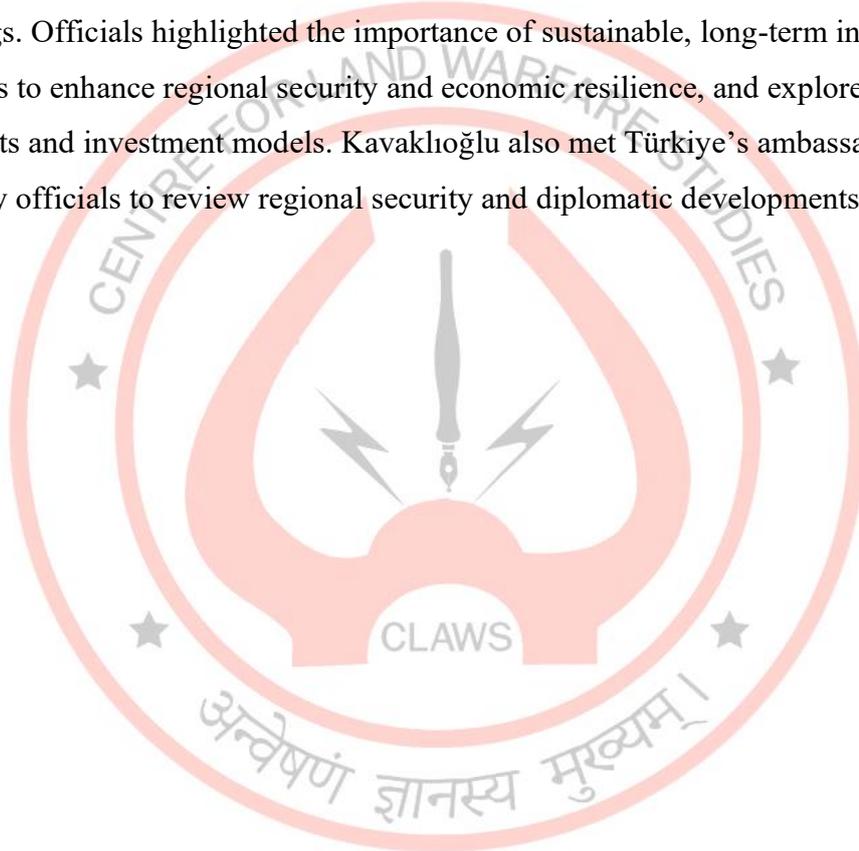
27. Türkiye Deepened Military and Security Engagement With Somalia ([Dawan Africa](#), January 30)

Türkiye has expanded its military and security engagement with Somalia following a series of developments reported this week. Turkish F-16 fighter jets were deployed to Mogadishu, alongside multiple Turkish cargo aircraft arriving in the city, according to Somali sources.

The Somali cabinet also approved the appointment of a new army commander, General Ibrahim Mohamed Mahamud, a graduate of a Turkish military academy, reflecting the depth of defence cooperation between the two countries. Separately, Türkiye's National Security Council reportedly listed Somalia's territorial integrity as a strategic priority. Somali officials said Turkish soldiers recently operated alongside Somali forces against Al-Shabaab near Warshiiq district, close to a site planned for a future Turkish satellite facility. Türkiye already operates its largest overseas military base in Somalia, providing training and support to Somali forces.

28. Turkey, Lithuania Discuss Defense Industry Cooperation and Baltic Partnerships (ILKHA, January 30)

Turkey's Deputy Minister of National Defense Alpaslan Kavaklıođlu paid an official visit to Lithuania to hold talks on defense industry cooperation and long-term strategic partnerships in the Baltic region. During the visit, Kavaklıođlu met Lithuanian Vice Minister of Economy and Innovation Paulius Petrauskas and Vice Minister of Defense Vitalija Źumerienė. The discussions focused on expanding defense industrial cooperation, with particular emphasis on plans by Türkiye's Machinery and Chemical Industry Corporation (MKE) to establish production facilities in the Baltic region. MKE General Manager İlhami Keleş also attended the meetings. Officials highlighted the importance of sustainable, long-term industrial partnerships to enhance regional security and economic resilience, and explored potential joint projects and investment models. Kavaklıođlu also met Türkiye's ambassador to Vilnius and military officials to review regional security and diplomatic developments.



About the Author

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