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- U.S. delays Minuteman III missile test over Taiwan tensions
- As Iran Talks of Nuclear Advances, Negotiations With U.S. Restart
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- Ukraine Live Briefing: U.S. to send \$1 billion in weapons to Ukraine; U.N. demands access to targeted nuclear plant
- Russia halts US inspections of nuclear arsenal under New START treaty
- U.S. and Iran Weighing 'Final' E.U. Offer on Nuclear Deal
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- Russian officials trained in Iran as part of drone deal, U.S. says
- House GOP stands by Trump despite revelation FBI searched for nuclear documents
- Rev. Carl Katat, nuclear arms opponent with Plowshares Eight, dies at 88
- FBI searched Trump's home to look for nuclear documents and other items, sources say
- U.S. allies most vulnerable to Russia press for more troops, weapons
- US-led coalition forces repel drone attack near base in Syria
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- U.S. says a drone attack targeted its Syria base, no casualties
- Iran submits a 'written response' in nuclear deal talks
- China announces new military drills as U.S. delegation visits Taiwan

West Asia

J. Iran

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- AEOI Chief Underlines Iran's Opposition to Military N. Drive Despite Capability
- AEOI Spokesman: Iran Starts Injecting Gas into Hundreds More IR6 Centrifuges
- Feeding gas to centrifuges a response to U.S. sanctions: nuclear chief
- Nuclear chief: Iran will turn on IAEA cameras if accusations dropped
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- Nuclear deal can be reached if Iran's red lines are respected, foreign ministry says

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- Foreign interest rises as Israel's Iron Dome shows improved success rate
- Iran Unlikely to Sign Nuclear Deal, Israeli Officials Say, Despite Reported Progress in Talks
- New Iran satellite presents significant challenge to Israel, US and allies
- Israeli airstrikes in Syria said to hit Iranian targets near Russian naval base

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- Mass production of Tu?rkiye's 1st unmanned marine craft begins

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- China launches long-range airstrike drills around Taiwan on fourth day of military exercises
- As China Vows More Military Exercises, Taiwan Is Undeterred

P. South Korea

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- Agreement to bolster Korean nuclear industry
- South Korea's SK invests \$250 million in Bill Gates' Terra Power for nuclear power tech
- South Korea offering large-scale aid package for North's nukes

Q. North Korea

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- North Korea 'paves the way' for more nuclear tests, U.N. report says
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R. Australia

- Opposition calls for Australia to develop missiles, warning 'lucky country' era is over

A. India

Enhancement of Capabilities of AI Technology

PIB, August 1, 2022

As per the recommendation of a task force set up by DDP under the Chairmanship of Shri N Chandrasekaran, Chairman Tata Sons, and in consultation with all stakeholders, Defence Artificial Intelligence Council (DAIC) has been set up under the Chairmanship of Raksha Mantri to provide necessary guidance and structural support. Further, Defence AI Project Agency (DAIPA) has been created under the Chairmanship of Secretary DDP for enabling AI based processes in defence Organisations. Artificial Intelligence framework and guidelines for projects and programmes in DRDO have been issued. All DRDO system laboratories have started AI technology groups to introduce AI features in all products. Further, an AI roadmap has also been finalised for each DPSU under which 70 defence specific AI projects have been identified for development. Out of these projects, 40 projects have been completed by the DPSUs.

<https://pib.gov.in/PressReleasePage.aspx?PRID=1846937>

Union Minister Dr Jitendra Singh says, six start-ups were selected and supported by ISRO with a grant-in-aid of maximum of Rs 50 lakhs each in areas like geo spatial information, propulsion and Robotics/ AR/VR

PIB, August 3, 2022

Union Minister of State (Independent Charge) Dr Jitendra Singh today informed that six start-ups were selected and supported by ISRO with a grant-in-aid of maximum of Rs 50 lakhs each in areas like geo spatial information, propulsion and Robotics/ AR/VR. Dr Jitendra Singh said, ISRO along with Atal Innovation Mission (AIM), NITI Aayog launched ANIC-ARISE-1.0 program that aims to seek, select, support and nurture technology-based innovations

that solve sectoral challenges of national importance. The Minister said that twenty-Four start-ups submitted their proposals, out of which six start-ups were selected and supported with a grant-in-aid of maximum of Rs 50 lakhs each. ANIC-ARISE-1.0 has following three space sector challenges to get project proposals from start-ups: (i) geo spatial information, (ii) propulsion and (iii) Robotics/ Augmented Reality/Virtual Reality.

<https://pib.gov.in/PressReleasePage.aspx?PRID=1847770>

Government says, India's satellite-based navigation system, NavIC, is as good as GPS of the United States in terms of position accuracy and availability in its service region

PIB, August 4, 2022

Government says, India's satellite-based navigation system, NavIC, is as good as GPS of the United States in terms of position accuracy and availability in its service region. Union Minister of State (Independent Charge) Dr Jitendra Singh said, NavIC can help in navigation on land, air, sea and also in disaster management. NavIC satellites are placed at a higher orbit than the GPS of United States. NavIC satellites are placed in geostationary orbit (GEO) & geosynchronous orbit (GSO) with an altitude of about 36,000 km; GPS satellites are placed in medium earth orbit (MEO) with an altitude of about 20,000 km.

<https://pib.gov.in/PressReleasePage.aspx?PRID=1848313>

India Has Better Nuclear Safety Compared To Many Countries: Minister

NDTV, August 4, 2022

Union minister Jitendra Singh assured the members of the Rajya Sabha on Thursday that there is better nuclear safety in India as compared to many other countries and there are enough safeguards in the Indian

nuclear plants. Responding to supplementaries during the Question Hour, Mr Singh said standard operating procedures are in place to ensure that there is no emergency situation in the country's nuclear plants. He also told the members that earlier, the nuclear plants were located only in southern states but now, these plants are coming up in northern states as well and a new one is coming up at Haryana's Gorakhpur. Responding to the concerns of the members as regards the measures in place to ensure the safety of the nuclear plants, the minister said, "The safeguards are so much in place that there is hardly any risk of any emergency." "There is better nuclear safety as compared to many other countries," he added.

<https://www.ndtv.com/india-news/india-has-better-nuclear-safety-compared-to-many-countries-minister-3225407>

DRDO successfully test fires indigenously developed laser-guided ATGMs

PIB, August 4, 2022

Indigenously developed Laser-Guided Anti-Tank Guided Missiles (ATGM) were successfully test-fired from Main Battle Tank (MBT) Arjun by Defence Research and Development Organisation (DRDO) and Indian Army at KK Ranges with support of Armoured Corps Centre & School (ACC&S) Ahmednagar in Maharashtra on August 04, 2022. The missiles hit with precision and successfully destroyed the targets at two different ranges. Telemetry systems have recorded the satisfactory flight performance of the missiles. The all-indigenous Laser Guided ATGM employs a tandem High Explosive Anti-Tank (HEAT) warhead to defeat Explosive Reactive Armour (ERA) protected armoured vehicles. The ATGM has been developed with multi-platform launch capability and is currently undergoing technical evaluation trials from 120 mm rifled gun of MBT Arjun.

<https://pib.gov.in/PressReleasePage.aspx?PRID=1848497>

India readies to face nuclear, biological and chemical warfare challenges

Times Now, August 4, 2022

The Centre has acknowledged that "sufficient budgetary allocation" or simply, adequate funds are necessary for developing state-of-the-art technologies "to make the country self-reliant in the field of nuclear and also, biological and chemical warfare. The Centre's statement comes in the wake of a recommendation by parliamentarians that "since all kinds of war in future may be fought using NBC (nuclear, biological and chemical) weapon systems..." adequate budgetary provision needs to be earmarked for R&D efforts of the DRDO or the Defence Research and Development Organisation in the field of NBC warfare. Two of India's neighbours and also, adversaries—China and Pakistan— have nuclear weapons. The DRDO has already developed several protective systems for soldiers and if necessary, civilians, in case there's a nuclear, biological or chemical weapon attack. They include permeable suits, respirators, chemical agent detectors, decontamination systems, shelters (both inflatable and mobile), unmanned surveillance vehicles, first aid kits, NBC attack-resistant packaged food and water and other equipment.

<https://www.timesnownews.com/india/india-readies-to-face-nuclear-biological-and-chemical-warfare-challenges-article-93352483>

Tejas Fighter Aircraft

PIB, August 5, 2022

Hindustan Aeronautics Limited (HAL), a Defence PSU under the Ministry of Defence responded to a Request for Information (RFI) received from Royal Malaysian Air Force (RMAF), Malaysia in February, 2019 for LCA class aircraft. Subsequently, Hindustan Aeronautics Limited responded in October, 2021 to Request for Proposal (RFP) issued against

tender released by Royal Malaysian Air Force, Malaysia for 18 nos of Fighter Lead In Trainer – Light Combat Aircraft (FLIT – LCA) and HAL offered LCA Tejas twin seater variant. Other countries which have evinced interest in LCA aircraft are: Argentina, Australia, Egypt, USA, Indonesia, and Philippines. The Government has taken several policy initiatives in the past few years and brought in reforms to encourage indigenous design, development and manufacture of defence equipment in the country, thereby expanding their production.

<https://pib.gov.in/PressReleasePage.aspx?PRID=1848669>

MOU between Indian Navy and Space Applications Centre (ISRO) for cooperation On Satellite Based Naval Applications In Oceanology And Meteorology

PIB, August 5, 2022

Indian Navy on 05 Aug 22 signed a MoU with the Space Applications Centre (ISRO), Ahmedabad on data sharing and cooperation on Satellite based Naval Applications in Oceanology and Meteorology. With this initiative, both the organisations will have a common platform of mutual cooperation, wherein the scientific advancements by SAC would be synergised into the Indian Naval efforts to keep the nation's defence in step with rapid development in the field of Satellite Data retrieval and applications. This MoU is an extension of previous MoU signed in 2017 and will further the collaboration between two organisations.

<https://pib.gov.in/PressReleasePage.aspx?PRID=1848892>

India should use small modular reactors to meet energy demands: NITI Aayog member V. K. Saraswat

The Hindu August 7, 2022

NITI Aayog member and scientist V. K. Saraswat on Sunday suggested that the government should focus on setting up small modular reactors as it would help meet

India's energy needs and also in replacing aging thermal power plants. Saraswat also said nuclear power plant projects which have been set up under the fleet mode production, should be accelerated, so that India is able to meet base load requirements at the earliest. "We are suggesting that in future we should go for small modular reactors which will be able to meet this (energy) requirements in a distributed manner." "And we are also thinking that it will be the best approach for replacing the aging thermal power plants," he told PTI in an interview.

<https://www.thehindu.com/news/national/india-should-use-small-modular-reactors-to-meet-energy-demands-niti-aayog-member-v-k-saraswat/article65740530.ece>

As Ukraine and Taiwan Tensions Rage, Pakistan Envoy Warns of Another Crisis

Newsweek, August 5, 2022

With the international community's eyes on Russia's ongoing war in Ukraine and a burgeoning crisis between China and Taiwan, Pakistan's envoy to the United States told *Newsweek* that high tensions across his country's disputed border with India risked sparking yet another crisis. Friday marked the third anniversary of India's revocation of Articles 370 and 35A, a move that repealed the special, semi-autonomous status of the India-administered stretch of the disputed Kashmir region. New Delhi has argued the step was necessary to improve the situation of the embattled province beset by decades of insurgency, while Islamabad has rejected the move as an illegal change to a long-running feud with an international dimension. And though the decision continued to stir frictions between two nuclear-armed South Asian rivals, Pakistani Ambassador Masood Khan said there has been a dangerous indifference to the issue on the part of the international community.

<https://www.newsweek.com/ukraine-taiwan-tensions-rage-pakistan-envoy-warns-another-crisis-1731424>

Indian Army signs a MOU with Drone Federation of India

PIB, August 8, 2022

The Army Design Bureau on behalf of the Indian Army has signed a MoU with the Drone Federation of India to collaboratively work towards promoting research, development, testing and manufacturing of drones, counter-drone and associated technologies that can assist the Indian Army in its operations. This MoU also signifies the unwavering commitment of the Indian Army in supporting our industry and the complete eco system to develop indigenous equipment and weapon systems in line with Atmanirbharta in defence manufacturing. The Army Design Bureau is the nodal agency of the Indian Army to be the facilitator for the R&D efforts with the Industry, Academia, DRDO and DPSUs to enable them to understand and appreciate user requirements in depth.

<https://pib.gov.in/PressReleasePage.aspx?PRID=1849959>

India sets out climate commitments, ponders SMRs

World Nuclear News, August 9, 2022

The cabinet approval was announced on 3 August and translates the *Panchamrit* - five pledges on carbon reductions announced by Prime Minister Narendra Modi in his National Statement to the November 2021 COP26 climate conference - into India's formal climate targets. It updates India's previous NDC, which was submitted to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC) in October 2015, and, according to the government, is a step towards achieving India's long-term goal of reaching net-zero by 2070. India currently has 22 operating nuclear reactors, totalling some 6795 MWe of capacity. A further eight units, totalling just over 6000 MWe, are under construction, and the Indian government is committed to growing nuclear capacity as part of its massive infrastructure development programme. Small modular reactors (SMRs) do not currently feature in those plans, but NITI Aayog member VK Saraswat said the

government should look to SMRs. "We are suggesting that in future we should go for small modular reactors which will be able to meet this (energy) requirements in a distributed manner," he told *Press Trust of India*. "And we are also thinking that it will be the best approach for replacing the aging thermal power plants."

<https://www.world-nuclear-news.org/Articles/India-sets-out-climate-commitments,-ponders-SMRs>

U.S. President Biden will expedite India-specific CAATSA sanctions waiver because he has the political mileage: Ro Khanna

The Hindu August 10, 2022

The recent India-specific CAATSA sanctions waiver by the U.S. House of Representatives is the most consequential vote since the civilian nuclear deal, an influential Indian-American Democratic Congressman has said, asserting that U.S. President Joe Biden will expedite the waiver because he has the "political mileage" and the backing of 300 members of the Congress. In July, the U.S. House of Representatives passed a legislative amendment that approves an India-specific waiver for punitive CAATSA sanctions for its purchase of the S-400 missile defence system from Russia.

<https://www.thehindu.com/news/international/us-president-biden-will-expedite-india-specific-caatsa-sanctions-waiver-because-he-has-the-political-mileage-khanna/article65753378.ece>

Indian scientists extract record uranium from seawater that could power nuclear plants

India Today, August 11, 2022

As the world faces the effects of climate change, and pressure mounts to reduce emissions from fossil fuel-based energy sources, countries are looking at newer ways to switch to renewable, including shifting existing technologies to non-polluting methods. Now, a group of Indian researchers have demonstrated a way in which nuclear energy can go truly

renewable. But wait. Isn't nuclear power a renewable source of energy? Well, kind of. Let us explain. Nuclear power, mostly used in the production of electricity, is widely considered to be a renewable source of energy. However, the raw material that is used to generate nuclear power through a process called fission is non-renewable. Nuclear power plants need a specific form of uranium called Uranium-235.

<https://www.indiatoday.in/science/story/indian-researchers-extract-record-uranium-from-seawater-that-powers-nuclear-plants-1986196-2022-08-10>

Shelling near Ukraine nuclear plant: India calls for mutual restraint

Hindustan Times, August 12, 2022

India has expressed concerns over shelling near the fuel storage of the Zaporizhzhia Nuclear Power Plant (NPP) in Ukraine, as the Russian offensive continues for over five months. The shelling at the Zaporizhzhia Nuclear Power Plant, which is under Russia's control since March, came ahead of a United Nations Security Council (UNSC) meeting on Thursday to address concerns regarding the facility's safety. Both Ukraine and Russia have accused each other of striking the compound on Thursday and last week. Addressing the UNSC briefing on Thursday, India's Permanent Representative to the UN Ruchira Kamboj said that India calls for mutual restraint so as not to endanger the safety and security of nuclear facilities. Kamboj added that India is following developments regarding the safety and security of Ukraine's nuclear power reactors and facilities.

<https://www.hindustantimes.com/world-news/shelling-near-ukraine-nuclear-plant-india-calls-for-mutual-restraint-101660264025957.html>

Terms of Indian Navy's mega submarine deal unrealistic: Russian official

The Hindu, August 15, 2022

Rs. 40,000 crore project, out of which Russia pulled out, can't move forward without changes, says senior official. Russia, which has pulled out of the Indian Navy's tender for the construction of six advanced

submarines under Project-75I, has informed India that it cannot meet the terms and conditions for the over Rs. 40,000 crore project. Terming it unrealistic, a senior Russian official said on Monday that without any changes in the entire process, the process cannot move forward. "The requirement stated in the Request For Proposal (RFP) demanded very strict timelines and a lot of responsibility to the designer. At the same time, designer has no control over the construction, which happens in India," said Andrey Baranov, Deputy Director General, Rubin Design Bureau, speaking at the inaugural day of the Army-2022 expo. "We are the first ones to leave the project and the last one we know to leave the project is France," he said.

<https://www.thehindu.com/news/national/terms-of-indian-navys-mega-submarine-deal-unrealistic-russian-official/article65771922.ece>

B. Russia

Hypersonic BrahMos-II missile may include technology from Tsirkon missile

TASS, August 1, 2022

The hypersonic version of the BrahMos cruise missile - the BrahMos-II - will probably have the same specifications as the hypersonic version of the Tsirkon missile, BrahMos Aerospace CEO Atul Rane told TASS Monday, adding that it would take up to five or six years before first flight trials.

<https://tass.com/defense/1487641>

Russian troops cripple US Harpoon anti-ship missile launcher in Odessa Region

TASS, August 1, 2022

Russian troops wiped out a US-made Harpoon anti-ship missile launcher in the Odessa Region in the special military operation in Ukraine, Defense Ministry Spokesman Lieutenant-General Igor Konashenkov reported on Monday.

<https://tass.com/defense/1487423>

Russia's Soyuz carrier rocket puts defense satellite into orbit

TASS, August 2, 2022

Russia's Soyuz-2.1 light rocket with the Volga booster successfully orbited a Russian military satellite in the early hours of Tuesday, the Russian Defence Ministry's department of information and mass communications told reporters.

<https://tass.com/science/1487733>

Russian strikes kill Ukrainian grain tycoon; drone hits Russian naval base

FINANCIAL POST, August 01, 2022

Russian missiles pounded the southern Ukrainian port city of Mykolaiv on Sunday, killing the owner of a major grain exporter, while a drone strike on Russia's Black Sea naval base in Sevastopol was launched from within the city in a "terrorist attack," a Russian lawmaker said.

<https://financialpost.com/pmnl/business-pmnl/russian-strikes-kill-ukrainian-grain-tycoon-drone-hits-russian-naval-base-2>

Pantsyr-S air defense systems are in Russia-Mongolia Selenga drills for the first time

TASS, August 5, 2022

The teams of Pantsyr-S surface-to-air missile/gun systems will accomplish air defense tasks for the first time during the active phase of the Selenga 2022 joint Russia-Mongolia drills that kicked off on August 4, the press office of Russia's Eastern Military District reported on Friday.

<https://tass.com/defense/1490085>

Dmitry Donskoy nuclear submarine on combat mission despite media reports

TASS, August 6, 2022

Project 941 Akula heavy nuclear submarine missile cruiser "Dmitry Donskoy" is currently out at sea on a combat mission,

despite media reports about Russia's decommissioning it from the Navy, Vladimir Maltsev, head of the All-Russian Fleet Support Movement, told TASS.

<https://tass.com/defense/1490265>

Russia calls for condemning Zelensky regime's acts of nuclear terrorism

TASS, August 6, 2022

Russia has called on international organizations to condemn the criminal actions of the Kiev authorities, which engage in acts of nuclear terrorism, the Russian defense ministry said on Friday.

<https://tass.com/defense/1490221>

Russian MFA says Kiev 'effectively takes all of Europe hostage' by shelling nuclear plant

TASS, August 8, 2022

Russian Foreign Ministry Spokeswoman Maria Zakharova on Monday said the Kiev regime 'effectively takes all of Europe hostage' by shelling the Zaporozhye nuclear power plant.

<https://tass.com/politics/1491035>

Ukraine's military strikes Kherson bridge by HIMARS rocket systems, official says

TASS, August 8, 2022

The Ukrainian military again struck the Antonovka Bridge across the Dnieper River in Kherson, using HIMARS rocket systems, Kirill Stremousov, a deputy head of the region's military-civilian administration, told TASS on Monday.

<https://tass.com/defense/1490743>

Algeria to hold joint Desert Shield anti-terrorist drills with Russia

TASS, August 9, 2022

Joint Russian-Algerian anti-terrorist exercises dubbed Desert Shield 2022 will

take place in Algeria for the first time, the press service of the Southern Military District told reporters on Tuesday.

<https://tass.com/defense/1491165>

Russia successfully launches Iranian spy satellite as concerns over Ukraine war loom

The Times of Israel, August 9, 2022

An Iranian satellite launched by Russia blasted off from Kazakhstan early Tuesday and went into orbit amid controversy that Moscow might use it to improve its surveillance of military targets in Ukraine.

<https://www.timesofisrael.com/russia-successfully-launches-iranian-spy-satellite-as-concerns-over-ukraine-war-loom/>

Russia suspends inspections under US nuke treaty, citing lack of reciprocity

The Times of Israel, August 9, 2022

Russia said Monday it was suspending US on-site inspections under a strategic arms reduction treaty with Washington, pointing to Western sanctions and coronavirus infections.

<https://www.timesofisrael.com/russia-suspends-inspections-under-us-uke-treaty-citing-lack-of-reciprocity/>

After Gaza fighting, Russia says Lapid's Ukraine war criticism is 'double standard'

The Times of Israel, August 10, 2022

Russia's embassy in Egypt on Tuesday lashed out at Prime Minister Yair Lapid, slamming him for past criticism of an alleged Russian massacre in Ukraine in light of the past weekend's fighting in Gaza between Israel and Palestinian terrorists.

<https://www.timesofisrael.com/after-gaza-fighting-russia-says-lapids-ukraine-war-criticism-is-double-standard/>

Russian missiles kill 14 in strikes near Europe's largest nuclear power plant

The Times of Israel, August 11, 2022

Ukraine on Wednesday accused Russia of carrying out rocket strikes that killed 14 civilians in areas near a nuclear power plant, as the G7 warned that Russian control of the facility "endangers the region."

<https://www.timesofisrael.com/russian-missiles-kill-14-in-strikes-near-europes-largest-nuclear-power-plant/>

Russia, Ukraine Trade Blame in Fresh Strike on Nuclear Plant

The Moscow Times, August 11, 2022

Russia and Ukraine accused each other on Thursday of shelling the Zaporizhzhia nuclear plant in Russian-controlled southern Ukraine ahead of an emergency meeting of the UN Security Council to address global concerns over the facility.

<https://www.themoscowtimes.com/2022/08/11/russia-ukraine-trade-blame-in-fresh-strike-on-nuclear-plant-a78555>

Latvian Parliament Declares Russia 'State Sponsor of Terrorism'

The Moscow Times, August 11, 2022

Latvian MPs on Thursday declared Russia a "state sponsor of terrorism" whose actions in Ukraine constitute "targeted genocide against the Ukrainian people". The statement MPs adopted said the parliament "recognizes Russia as a state sponsor of terrorism, and calls on other like-minded countries to express the same view".

<https://www.themoscowtimes.com/2022/08/11/latvian-parliament-declares-russia-state-sponsor-of-terrorism-a78553>

Satellite images show destruction at Russian air base in Crimea

Reuters, August 11, 2022.

Satellite pictures released on Thursday showed devastation at a Russian air base in Crimea, hit in an attack that suggested Kyiv may have obtained new long-range strike capability with potential to change the course of the war.

<https://www.reuters.com/business/aerospace-defense/satellite-images-show-destruction-russian-air-base-crimea-2022-08-11/>

Russian lab head supporting hypersonic missile program held for treason, TASS reports

Reuters, August 11, 2022

The director of a Russian laboratory working on hypersonic missiles, a weapon where President Vladimir Putin claims a strategic advantage for Russia, has been arrested on suspicion of treason, the state-run TASS news agency reported on Friday.

<https://www.reuters.com/world/europe/head-russian-hypersonics-lab-arrested-treason-tass-2022-08-05/>

Russia accuses U.S. of 'provocative' weapons inspection move

Reuters, August 11, 2022.

Moscow accused the United States on Tuesday of "unreasonable and unnecessary escalation" in announcing an inspection on Russian territory under the New START nuclear arms reduction pact, knowing that it would not let Russia carry out reciprocal inspections.

<https://www.reuters.com/world/russia-accuses-us-provocative-weapons-inspection-move-2022-08-09/>

Dozens of IRGC-linked Flights Landed in Moscow; U.S. Says Drone Deal Advancing

Haaretz, August 12, 2022

The number of Iranian cargo flights to Russia has surged since the war in Ukraine began,

an analysis of open-source flight data shows.

<https://www.haaretz.com/israel-news/security-aviation/2022-08-12/ty-article/.premium/amid-drone-deal-irgc-linked-flights-to-russia-surge/00000182-8bcc-da98-abf6-bfdd2d710000>

Russian air defenses down four drones, intercept four HIMARS rockets in Ukraine operation

TASS, August 13, 2022

Russian air defense forces destroyed four unmanned aerial vehicles and intercepted four HIMARS rockets in the past 24 hours in their special military operation in Ukraine, Defense Ministry Spokesman Lieutenant-General Igor Konashenkov reported on Saturday.

<https://tass.com/defense/1493151>

Russia unveils deck-based vertical take-off drone at Army 2022 forum

TASS, August 15, 2022

The Russian Navy's Main Command unveiled the latest deck-based vertical take-off fixed-and rotary-wing drone at the Army 2022 international military-technical forum, a TASS correspondent reported from the scene on Monday.

<https://tass.com/defense/1493675>

Dmitry Donskoy nuclear sub to remain in service for several years

TASS, August 15, 2022

The Dmitry Donskoy heavy nuclear submarine (project 941 Akula) will remain in service for several more years, the Russian Navy's commander-in-chief, Admiral Nikolay Yevmenov, told TASS on Monday.

<https://tass.com/defense/1493647>

Armored vehicle Tigr equipped with anti-drone module presented at Army

TASS, August 15, 2022

The Tigr-M armored vehicle equipped with a combat module for detecting and destroying unmanned aerial vehicles (UAVs) was for the first displayed at the Army-2022 forum on Monday.

<https://tass.com/defense/1493577>

Putin, Kim Vow Stronger Russia-North Korea Ties

The Moscow Times, August 15, 2022

Russian President Vladimir Putin and North Korean leader Kim Jong Un exchanged letters indicating stronger bilateral relations amid Moscow's international isolation over its war in Ukraine, North Korean state media reported Monday.

<https://www.themoscowtimes.com/2022/08/15/putin-kim-vow-stronger-russia-north-korea-ties-state-agency-a78565>

Russia says it will facilitate IAEA visit to Ukrainian nuclear plant

Reuters, August 15, 2022.

Russia says it will do "everything necessary" to allow specialists from the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA) to visit the Zaporizhzhia nuclear power plant in southern Ukraine amid fears over the plant's safety due to shelling.

<https://www.reuters.com/world/europe/russia-will-facilitate-iaea-mission-ukrainian-nuclear-plant-foreign-ministry-2022-08-15/>

C. China

Satellite photos show China's new nuclear test site in Xinjiang

Nikkei Asia, August 01, 2022

China is expanding its nuclear test facilities in the Xinjiang Uyghur Autonomous Region, an analysis of satellite photographs obtained by Nikkei suggests. Beijing halted

explosive tests in the area a quarter of a century ago. Nikkei has viewed satellite photographs with a number of experts that appear to confirm China is strengthening its nuclear testing capability. Extensive coverings have been erected on a mountainside in this arid region, and broken rocks piled up nearby are believed to be evidence of excavation of a new "sixth tunnel" for testing hidden beneath. Power transmission cables and a facility that could be used for storing high-explosives have recently been installed, while unpaved white roads lead from a command post in various directions.

<https://asia.nikkei.com/Spotlight/The-age-of-Great-China/Satellite-photos-show-China-s-new-nuclear-test-site-in-Xinjiang>

Chinese FM reiterates strong opposition against Japan's dumping of nuclear-contaminated water ahead of facility construction

Global Times, August 03, 2022

The Chinese Foreign Ministry reiterated its strong concern and opposition on the one-sided decision made by the Japanese government on releasing nuclear-contaminated water from the Fukushima nuclear power plant into the sea as the construction of dumping facilities are reported to begin. According to Kyodo News, Tokyo Electric Power Company said that it will start to build undersea tunnels and other facilities to discharge treated water from the Fukushima nuclear plant into the ocean. Chinese Foreign Ministry spokesperson Hua Chunying restated China's criticism of Japan's extremely irresponsible act of arbitrarily dumping nuclear-contaminated water when asked to comment on Japanese Prime Minister Fumio Kishida's remarks at the Review Conference of the Parties to the Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons (NPT).

<https://www.globaltimes.cn/page/202208/1272148.shtml>

Pelosi says U.S. will not let China isolate Taiwan

Ken Moriyasu

Nikkei Asia, August 05, 2022

The U.S. will not allow China to isolate Taiwan, U.S. House Speaker Nancy Pelosi said in Tokyo, capping a weeklong trip that saw her visit Hawaii, Singapore, Malaysia, Taiwan, South Korea and Japan. Speaking at a news conference at the U.S. Embassy, the speaker said, "The Chinese have tried to isolate Taiwan, keeping them most recently from the World Health Organization," pointing to the pressure Beijing applied to block Taiwan from attending the WHO's annual assembly in May. "They may try to keep Taiwan from visiting or participating in other places, but they will not isolate Taiwan by preventing us to travel there," she said. Responding to a question asking if the visit was more about burnishing her credentials than benefiting Taiwan, Pelosi called the suggestion "ridiculous."

<https://asia.nikkei.com/Politics/International-relations/US-China-tensions/Pelosi-says-U.S.-will-not-let-China-isolate-Taiwan>

China receives data from newly launched ecosystem monitoring satellite

CGTN, August 07, 2022

China has received data from its newly launched terrestrial ecosystem carbon monitoring satellite, according to the scientists in charge of receiving the satellite data. The satellite was carried into space on August 4 by a Long March-4B rocket from the Taiyuan Satellite Launch Center in north China's Shanxi Province. Since the night of August 4, ground stations located in Beijing and Xinjiang Uygur Autonomous Region have tracked and received the data from the satellite in three tasks, which lasted 25 minutes with a total size of 306 GB, said the Aerospace Information Research Institute under the Chinese Academy of Sciences.

<https://news.cgtn.com/news/2022-08-07/China-receives-data-from-newly-launched-ecosystem-monitoring-satellite-1ciqBrYuCrK/index.html>

Chinese space telescope team hopes to join race to find Earth-like planets – and maybe signs of life

Ling Xin

South China Morning Post, August 09, 2022

Researchers in China have completed the concept study for a 6-metre (20-foot) space telescope to examine the atmosphere of nearby Earth-like planets and search for signs of life with unprecedented precision. If selected to enter the design phase, the HABitable Terrestrial planetary ATmospheric Surveyor – or Habitats – will join the global race to find a twin of planet Earth. With a potential price tag of over 10 billion yuan (US\$1.48 billion), it will also be the most ambitious and expensive space science project China has ever funded. Thanks to telescopes such as Kepler and TESS surveying the sky for planets outside the solar system, humanity has discovered more than 5,000 exoplanets and edged ever closer to answering the question "are we alone in the universe?"

<https://www.scmp.com/news/china/science/article/3188300/chinese-space-telescope-team-hopes-join-race-find-earth-planets>

China upgrades nuke test site with an eye on Taiwan

Gabriel Honrada

Asia Times, August 09, 2022

Satellite photos obtained by Nikkei last week show that China is rapidly expanding its nuclear test facilities in western Xinjiang, sparking fears of a renewed nuclear arms race with the US as tensions boil over Taiwan. The Nikkei report states that a satellite hovering at 450 kilometers detected extensive construction at the Lop Nur test site, a dried salt lakebed in the arid and restive Xinjiang region that borders Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Tajikistan, Afghanistan, and Pakistan. The

report said that China may be building a sixth tunnel for underground testing, evidenced by broken rocks piled nearby and extensive coverings erected on a nearby mountainside. The satellite photos also show power cables, possible storage facilities for high explosives and unpaved roads from command centers.

<https://asiatimes.com/2022/08/china-upgrades-uke-test-site-with-an-eye-on-taiwan/>

'Potentially catastrophic' China sparks Taiwan panic over fears Xi will 'use nuclear card'

Express, August 10, 2022

Beijing has put the world on red alert after conducting a series of military drills surrounding the east Asian island it claims sovereignty over. While it now claims it has completed the drills, in which it "effectively tested the integrated joint combat capabilities of the troops", US House Speaker Nancy Pelosi's visit sparked fears that this was China's preparation for an invasion. In an interview with Jacobin magazine, Lyle J. Goldstein, an associate professor at the Strategic Research Department at the US Naval War College (NWC), said: "If I were to blame Pelosi for anything, it's that, in the nuclear age, this kind of posturing is ridiculous and should be condemned widely." He added that "in the field of US-China military studies, we don't talk a lot about tactical nuclear weapons, but Chinese strategists talk about this a lot these days, especially because they were a feature of the US-Soviet rivalry".

<https://www.express.co.uk/news/science/1653302/china-taiwan-nuclear-weapons-nancy-pelosi-japan-aukus>

Sri Lanka gives clearance to deferred arrival of Chinese scientific research vessel: reports

Global Times, August 15, 2022

Sri Lanka's foreign ministry announced on Saturday the conveyance of clearance to the deferred arrival of the Chinese "Yuan Wang 5" scientific research vessel at the port of Hambantota between August 16 to 22,

according to local media. The scientific research vessel was initially scheduled to make the port call for replenishment purposes between August 11 to 17. Indian media reported that the initial plan was deferred due to Indian pressure on Sri Lanka, citing so-called "national security concerns." "In light of certain concerns raised with" the foreign ministry, the Sri Lankan government requested that the Chinese embassy defer the vessel's visit until further consultations on the matter, without naming New Delhi. "It is completely unjustified for certain countries to cite so-called 'security concerns' to pressure Sri Lanka," Foreign Ministry spokesperson Wang Wenbin told a regular press conference in Beijing on August 8, when asked to comment on the delayed visit.

<https://www.globaltimes.cn/page/202208/1272973.shtml>

D. Pakistan

Colombo allows Pakistani frigate Taimur to dock, Dhaka says no

Hindustan Times, August 8, 2022

Sri Lanka has allowed permission to the Chinese built-Pakistani guided missile frigate PNS Taimur to make a port call at Colombo while on its way to join the Pakistan Navy in Karachi. Built by Hudong-Zhonghua shipyard in Shanghai, the warship is on its maiden voyage to Pakistan while exercising en-route with Cambodian and Malaysian navies. The ship is expected to be at Colombo port from August 12-15, 2022. While Sri Lanka gave permission to the Pakistani guided missile frigate to make a port call at Colombo, it is understood that the ship was denied a permission to make a port call at Chattogram port by the Sheikh Hasina government from August 7-10 after making a port call at Lumut port in Malaysia. According to diplomatic sources, India's close ally Bangladesh denied permission to PNS Taimur as August is a month of mourning for Sheikh Hasina as her father, Sheikh Mujib-ur-Rehman also fondly called Bangabandhu, was assassinated by Pak instigated and

Jamait-e-Islami inspired radical Islamist forces on August 15, 1975.

<https://www.hindustantimes.com/world-news/colombo-allows-pakistani-frigate-taimur-to-dock-dhaka-says-no-101659952772019.html>

Mint Explainer: Will the world allow a nuclear Pak to fail?

Mint, August 10, 2022

Even sipping a cup of tea is a luxury in Pakistan now. "I appeal to the nation to cut down on the consumption of tea by one to two cups because we import tea on loan," Pakistan federal minister of planning Ahsan Iqbal told the nation on 14 June. Call it the tipping point for Pakistan.

<https://www.livemint.com/economy/mint-explainer-will-the-world-allow-a-nuclear-pak-to-fail-11660030453994.html>

The nuclear arsenals of China, India and Pakistan are growing

The Economist, August 11, 2022

For most of the 75 years since India and Pakistan became independent states, at midnight on 15th August 1947, nuclear weapons have cast a shadow over South Asia. China got the bomb in 1964, two years after thumping India in a border war and forcing its policymakers to confront their country's vulnerabilities. India showed it too could build one with a demonstrative explosion just a decade later. Pakistan was a screwdriver's turn away by the 1980s. In 1998, both India and Pakistan conducted nuclear-weapons tests, making official what was already an open secret. Yet, in many ways, all three countries were hesitant nuclear powers. China did not deploy a missile capable of hitting the American mainland until the 1980s. When India and Pakistan fought a war over Kargil, in the disputed region of Kashmir, in the summer of 1999, India's air force, tasked with delivering the bombs if needed, was not told what they looked like, how many there were or the targets over which they might have to be dropped.

<https://www.economist.com/asia/2022/08/11/the-nuclear-arsenals-of-china-india-and-pakistan-are-growing>

Pakistan 'certainly' thinks of nuclear weapons as leverage, says strategic expert Ashley Tellis

The Print, August 12, 2022

Pakistan views nuclear weapons as a "form of leverage", with the weapons having utility not only for deterrence but also as a "licence for underwriting provocative behaviours", according to senior fellow at the Carnegie Endowment for International Peace Ashley J. Tellis. In conversation with ThePrint's Editor-in-Chief Shekhar Gupta during a virtual session of 'Off The Cuff', Tellis talked about his new book, 'Striking Asymmetries: Nuclear Transitions in South Asia,' the divergence in nuclear policies of China, Pakistan and India in the 21st century and much more. Elaborating on his view about Pakistani nukes and the importance of leverage, the Mumbai-born strategic expert predicted that Pakistan would not threaten to use its arsenal in order to get its way, but could exploit it to "wage low-intensity conflicts" against India and support terrorism.

<https://theprint.in/theprint-otc/pakistan-certainly-thinks-of-nuclear-weapons-as-leverage-says-strategic-expert-ashley-tellis/1079455/>

Sri Lankan Navy rejects reports of conducting war games with Pakistan

The Hindu, August 14, 2022

The navy said that it will hold a "Passage Exercise" in the western seas with PNS Taimur as it leaves the island nation. The Sri Lankan Navy on Sunday rejected as "fallacious" media reports that it will hold war games with a Pakistani warship docked at the Colombo port but confirmed that it will hold a "Passage Exercise" in the western seas with PNS Taimur as it leaves the island nation. The docking of Pakistan's newly-commissioned Chinese-built frigate at the Colombo port on Friday came amid Sri Lankan government allowing a high-tech Chinese research ship to visit the southern port of Hambantota from August 16 till 22 for "replenishment

purposes," despite India's concern over the vessel's presence in its neighbourhood.

<https://www.thehindu.com/news/international/sri-lankan-navy-rejects-reports-of-conducting-war-games-with-pakistan/article65768450.ece>

Europe

E. Ukraine

UN nuclear chief: Ukraine nuclear plant is 'out of control'

The Washington post, August 03, 2022

The U.N. nuclear chief warned that Europe's largest nuclear power plant in Ukraine "is completely out of control" and issued an urgent plea to Russia and Ukraine to quickly allow experts to visit the sprawling complex to stabilize the situation and avoid a nuclear accident.

https://www.washingtonpost.com/world/un-nuclear-chief-ukraine-nuclear-plant-is-out-of-control/2022/08/03/a56fbc1a-12f4-11ed-8482-06c1c84ce8f2_story.html

NATO members working with defence companies to boost weapons supplies to Ukraine

Reuters, August 04, 2022

NATO members are working closely with defence companies to ensure Ukraine gets more supplies of weapons and equipment to be prepared for the long haul in its war with Russia, NATO Secretary-General Jens Stoltenberg said on Thursday.

<https://www.reuters.com/world/europe/nato-members-working-with-defence-companies-boost-weapons-supplies-ukraine-2022-08-04/>

Rocket attacks at Zaporizhzhia power plant raise fears of 'nuclear catastrophe'

The Washington post, August 07, 2022

Ukraine's nuclear power firm warned Sunday that rocket attacks on the site of Europe's largest nuclear power plant risked a "nuclear disaster" as the governments of

Russia and Ukraine traded blame for the explosions at the facility.

<https://www.washingtonpost.com/world/2022/08/07/ukraine-zaporizhzhia-nuclear-plant-shelling/>

Radiation levels remain normal after shelling at nuclear plant, official says

The Washington post, August 07, 2022

Radiation levels at Europe's largest nuclear power plant are still within normal range, a Ukrainian official said Sunday, after Kyiv accused Russia of carrying out artillery strikes on the grounds of the facility, damaging monitoring sensors and heightening concerns of a "nuclear disaster." The situation remains "tense," the official said.

<https://www.washingtonpost.com/world/2022/08/07/russia-ukraine-war-latest-updates/>

U.N. watchdog warns of 'nuclear disaster' from shelling at Zaporizhzhia plant

The Washington post, August 07, 2022

The United Nations nuclear chief warned of a potential "nuclear disaster" after shelling of Europe's largest atomic power plant, once again urging Russia and Ukraine to allow a mission of experts access to the facility to help secure it.

<https://www.washingtonpost.com/world/2022/08/06/iaea-nuclear-disaster-ukraine-zaporizhzhia/>

Russia, Ukraine open to IAEA visit after 'suicidal' nuclear plant strike

The Washington post, August 09, 2022

A series of blasts hit the plant on Friday, causing some damage and partially disconnecting a reactor from Ukraine's electricity grid — although no radioactive leak was detected. Russian forces control the complex, which has six nuclear reactors and is the largest of its kind in

Europe, but Ukrainian staff still operate the plant.

<https://www.washingtonpost.com/world/2022/08/08/zaporizhzhia-shelling-ukraine-nuclear-plant-un-iaea-russia/>

From the Workshop to the War: Creative Use of Drones Lifts Ukraine

The New York Times, August 10, 2022

A private in the Ukrainian army unfolded the rotors of a common hobby drone and, with practiced calm, attached a grenade to a device that can drop objects and was designed for commercial drone deliveries.

<https://www.nytimes.com/2022/08/10/world/europe/ukraine-drones.html?searchResultPosition=2>

Ukraine Live Briefing: U.N. chief calls for cease-fire at nuclear plant as 'catastrophic consequences' loom

The Washington post, August 11, 2022

The chief of the United Nations on Thursday called for an immediate end to fighting around a nuclear power plant in south-eastern Ukraine, warning that damage to Europe's largest nuclear power facility could have "catastrophic consequences." Yet attacks on the Zaporizhzhia plant continued, with the site's operator reporting multiple instances of Russian shelling: "The situation is getting worse," the company wrote.

<https://www.washingtonpost.com/world/2022/08/11/russia-ukraine-war-latest-updates/>

Western countries pledge \$1.55 bln in military aid to Ukraine

Reuters, August 11, 2022

Western countries on Thursday committed more than 1.5 billion euros (\$1.55 billion) in cash, equipment and training to boost Ukraine's military capabilities in its war against Russia, Danish Defence Minister Morten Bods kov said.

<https://www.reuters.com/world/europe/denmark-will-contribute-additional-110-mln-euros-ukraine-pm-2022-08-11/>

Shelling near nuclear plant kills worker as world leaders call on Russia to retreat

The Washington post, August 14, 2022

Shelling near a nuclear power plant in southeastern Ukraine continued through the weekend, threatening the security of Europe's largest nuclear facility and alarming the leaders of countries around the world, who called on Russia to withdraw its troops from the hotly contested site. A volley of rockets struck the city surrounding the plant on Sunday, killing one of its foremen and injuring two other workers, Ukrainian officials said.

<https://www.washingtonpost.com/world/2022/08/14/russia-ukraine-war-latest-updates/>

Ukraine says it is targeting Russians shooting at, or from nuclear plant

Reuters, August 14, 2022.

Ukraine is targeting Russian soldiers who shoot at an occupied nuclear plant in the south of the country or use it as a base to shoot from, President Volodymyr Zelenskiy said on Saturday.

<https://www.reuters.com/world/europe/ukraine-warns-fresh-provocations-shelling-near-occupied-nuclear-plant-2022-08-13/>

F. United Kingdom

Continued importance of the Nuclear Non-Proliferation Treaty (NPT): UK, US and France joint statement

Gov.UK, August 1, 2022

At the 10th Nuclear Non-Proliferation Treaty review conference, the UK, US and France pledged to work towards fully implementing the NPT's provisions and purposes.

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/continued-importance-of-the-nuclear-non-proliferation-treaty-npt-uk-us-and-france-joint-statement>

An excellent alliance': Scandinavians join British forces for drills

Gov.UK, August 2, 2022

The North Yorkshire-based Royal Lancers teamed up with the Royal Danish Army for Exercise Lucknow Lancer in Scotland last month.

The North Yorkshire-based Royal Lancers teamed up with the Royal Danish Army for Exercise Lucknow Lancer in Scotland last month. Around 750 personnel, using approximately 300 vehicles, made their way from Catterick Garrison to the Galloway Forest Park, the largest of its kind in the UK. The aim of the exercise was to develop integration between British forces and NATO partners, as well as prepare soldiers for Operations Cabrit (Poland) and Elgin (Kosovo) later this year.

<https://www.army.mod.uk/news-and-events/news/2022/08/exercise-lucknow-lancer/>

SKYNET Enduring Capability (SKEC) programme

Gov.UK, August 10, 2022

Engage with the Ministry of Defence (MOD) on SKYNET Enduring Capability (SKEC), the next generation of solutions for future satellite communication programmes.

<https://www.gov.uk/guidance/skynet-enduring-capability-skec-programme>

Zaporizhzhya Nuclear Power Plant in Ukraine: G7 foreign ministers' statement

Gov.UK, August 10, 2022

The G7 foreign ministers gave a statement in support of the IAEA's efforts to promote nuclear safety and security at the Zaporizhzhya Nuclear Power Plant.

<https://www.gov.uk/government/news/ukraine-g7-foreign-ministers-statement-on-zaporizhzhya-nuclear-power-plant>

UK to give more multiple launch rocket systems and guided missiles to Ukraine

Gov.UK, August 11, 2022

Decision comes after the successful use of UK multiple-launch rocket systems by the Armed Forces of Ukraine, gifted earlier this year.

<https://www.gov.uk/government/news/uk-to-give-more-multiple-launch-rocket-systems-and-guided-missiles-to-ukraine>

Defence Cyber Protection Partnership

Gov.UK, August 11, 2022

Defence Cyber Protection Partnership (DCPP) is a joint Ministry of Defence (MOD) and industry initiative to improve the protection of the defence supply chain from the cyber threat.

<https://www.gov.uk/guidance/defence-cyber-protection-partnership>

Calling on Russia to return full control of Ukraine's nuclear facilities to their rightful sovereign owner: UK statement to UN Security Council

Gov.UK, August 11, 2022

Statement by Ambassador James Kariuki at the UN Security Council briefing on the Zaporizhzhia Nuclear Power Plant in Ukraine.

<https://www.gov.uk/government/speeches/calling-on-russia-to-return-full-control-of-ukraines-nuclear-facilities-to-their-rightful-sovereign-owner-uk-statement-to-un-security-council>

New maritime security strategy to target latest physical and cyber threats

Gov.UK, August 15, 2022

The UK's position as a world-leading maritime nation is secured by a new

strategy that will enhance capabilities in technology, innovation and cyber security.

<https://www.gov.uk/government/news/new-maritime-security-strategy-to-target-latest-physical-and-cyber-threats>

G. France

AI-Qaeda: France welcomes the neutralization of Ayman Al-Zawahiri

Ministry of the armed forces, August 2, 2022

The France has always fought against terrorism. For more than two decades, its armed forces have been engaged in a relentless fight against terrorist groups, some of which claim to be part of this organization.

<https://www.defense.gouv.fr/actualites/al-qaida-france-salue-neutralisation-dayman-al-zawahiri>

The limits of Macron's 'shirt-sleeve' diplomacy in Lebanon

Le Monde, August 3, 2022

In the aftermath of the explosion in Beirut on August 6, 2020, the French president had promised much to the Lebanese people. Two years later, his fiery rhetoric has run aground on the resistance of local bigwigs and the weakness of the resources allocated to sanction them.

https://www.lemonde.fr/en/opinion/article/2022/08/03/the-limits-of-macron-s-shirt-sleeve-diplomacy-in-lebanon_5992359_23.html

French government orders laser weapon prototype for Paris Olympics

The CNN, August 03, 2022

Beach volleyball against the backdrop of the Eiffel Tower, equestrian disciplines in the magnificent Versailles Palace garden, and the Opening Ceremony on the Seine – France plans to charm visitors from around the world with everything that Paris has to offer during the 2024 Summer Olympics.

<https://edition.cnn.com/2022/08/03/sport/paris-olympics-lasers-france-spt-intl/index.html>

Jean-Luc Mélenchon calls Nancy Pelosi's Taiwan visit an American 'provocation'

Le Monde, August 5, 2022

Amid tensions between Taipei and Beijing, La France Insoumise (LFI) leader Jean-Luc Mélenchon called the US House Speaker's trip to Taiwan a "provocation," saying in a blog post published on Wednesday, August 3 that "there is only one China."

https://www.lemonde.fr/en/international/article/2022/08/05/jean-luc-melenchon-calls-nancy-pelosi-s-taiwan-visit-an-american-provocation_5992591_4.html

France tweaks rules to keep nuclear plants running during heatwave

Reuters, August 8, 2022

France's nuclear power regulator has extended temporary waivers allowing five power stations to continue discharging hot water into rivers as the country contends with a fourth heatwave of the summer and an energy crisis.

<https://www.reuters.com/world/europe/frances-asn-nuclear-regulator-adapts-hot-water-discharge-rules-light-heatwave-2022-08-08/>

France completes military pullout from Mali

Le Monde, August 15, 2022

The last soldiers belonging to France's Barkhane operation in Mali have now left the African country, the French chiefs of staff said on Monday, August 15.

https://www.lemonde.fr/en/politics/article/2022/08/15/france-completes-military-pullout-from-mali_5993649_5.html

H. Germany

Schools opens door to extend nuclear as Russia squeezes gas supply

Euractiv, August 4, 2022

German Chancellor Olaf Scholz on Wednesday (3 August) raised the

possibility of keeping nuclear plants going as he accused Russia of blocking the delivery of a key turbine to throttle gas supplies to Europe.

<https://www.euractiv.com/section/energy/news/scholz-opens-door-to-extend-nuclear-as-russia-squeezes-gas-supply/>

Germany's love-hate relationship with nuclear power

DW, August 7, 2022

It all began with an "egg": Germany's first nuclear reactor went online in October 1957, in Garching, near Munich. Given its shape, it was nicknamed the "atom egg" and belonged to Munich's Technical University. It was a landmark in nuclear research and a symbol of a new beginning after WWII. The research reactor operated until 2000.

<https://www.dw.com/en/germanys-love-hate-relationship-with-nuclear-power/a-62712589>

I. United States of America

U.S. Drone Strike Kills Ayman al-Zawahri, Top Qaeda Leader

The New York Times, August 01, 2022

An American drone strike killed Ayman al-Zawahri, a key plotter of the Sept. 11, 2001, terrorist attacks who took over as the leader of Al Qaeda after Osama bin Laden's death, at an urban safe house in Afghanistan, President Biden announced on Monday night.

<https://www.nytimes.com/2022/08/01/us/politics/al-qaeda-strike-afghanistan.html?searchResultPosition=3>

As China Plans Drills Circling Taiwan, U.S. Officials Fear a Squeeze Play

The New York Times, August 01, 2022

For years the deliberate "strategic ambiguity" in Washington's China policy has left unclear how the United States would respond to a full-scale, amphibious invasion of Taiwan.

<https://www.nytimes.com/2022/08/03/us/politics/>

<china-exercises-taiwan-fears.html?searchResultPosition=5>

Biden reveals drone strike killed al-Qaeda leader al-Zawahiri, warns terrorists we will 'take you out'

CNBC, August 01, 2022

President Joe Biden said Monday evening that the U.S. conducted a drone strike that killed al-Qaeda leader Ayman al-Zawahiri in Afghanistan, a revelation expected to degrade the terror group's ability to operate.

<https://www.cnn.com/2022/08/01/biden-set-to-speak-after-us-hits-significant-al-qaeda-target-in-afghanistan.html>

U.S. to resupply Saudi and UAE missile defense systems

FINANCIAL POST, August 02, 2022

The U.S. State Department approved the potential sale of Terminal High Altitude Area Defense (THAAD) missile interceptors to the United Arab Emirates and Patriot missile interceptors to Saudi Arabia in separate deals worth as much as \$5.3 billion, the Pentagon said on Tuesday.

<https://financialpost.com/pm/business-pmn/us-to-resupply-saudi-and-uae-missile-defense-systems>

World is 'one miscalculation away from nuclear annihilation,' U.N. says

The Washington post, August 02, 2022

The world is just "one misunderstanding, one miscalculation away from nuclear annihilation." That was the dire warning from U.N. Secretary General António Guterres at a global meeting Monday on nuclear weapons.

<https://www.washingtonpost.com/world/2022/08/02/nuclear-annihilation-world-warning-united-nations/>

Iran nuclear talks resume in last-ditch effort to secure deal

The Washington post, August 03, 2022

Negotiations over a return to the Iran nuclear deal will resume Thursday in Vienna, with participants expressing little optimism that agreement can be reached on what the European Union facilitator of the talks indicated is a last-chance attempt to finalize a new accord.

<https://www.washingtonpost.com/national-security/2022/08/03/iran-nuclear-talks/>

U.S. delays Minuteman III missile test over Taiwan tensions

FINANCIAL POST, August 04, 2022

The Biden administration postponed a routine test launch of an Air Force Minuteman III intercontinental ballistic missile to avoid escalating tensions with Beijing during China's show of force near Taiwan, national security spokesperson John Kirby told a briefing on Thursday.

<https://financialpost.com/pmnl/business-pmnl/u-s-delays-minuteman-iii-missile-test-over-taiwan-tensions>

As Iran Talks of Nuclear Advances, Negotiations With U.S. Restart

The New York Times, August 04, 2022

With Iran announcing this week that it now has the technical ability to produce a nuclear warhead, though denying that it plans to, negotiators from the United States and Iran arrived on Thursday in Vienna for one more — and perhaps the last — effort to restore the 2015 nuclear deal that limited Tehran's nuclear program.

<https://www.nytimes.com/2022/08/04/world/middleeast/us-iran-nuclear-deal.html?searchResultPosition=4>

Air Force explosives expert charged in suspected insider attack

The Washington post, August 04, 2022

An Air Force explosives expert has been charged in connection with a suspected

insider attack that wounded four other U.S. troops at an austere outpost in Syria earlier this year, a highly unusual case of alleged betrayal in an organization that prizes fidelity above all else.

<https://www.washingtonpost.com/national-security/2022/08/04/syria-insider-attack-david-dezwaan/>

Ukraine Live Briefing: U.S. to send \$1 billion in weapons to Ukraine; U.N. demands access to targeted nuclear plant

The Washington post, August 08, 2022

The United States is sending Ukraine another \$1 billion in weapons and ammunition, the Pentagon said Monday, providing Kyiv with its largest military assistance package yet as Ukrainian forces prepare to mount a counteroffensive in the country's south.

<https://www.washingtonpost.com/world/2022/08/08/russia-ukraine-war-latest-updates/>

Russia halts US inspections of nuclear arsenal under New START treaty

BBC, August 08, 2022

Russia has told the US it has "temporarily" suspended on-site inspections of its strategic nuclear weapons, under an arms control treaty known as New START.

<https://www.bbc.com/news/world-europe-62466998>

U.S. and Iran Weighing 'Final' E.U. Offer on Nuclear Deal

The New York Times, August 09, 2022

Seventeen months after the United States and Iran began negotiating a possible return to the 2015 Iran nuclear deal abandoned by President Donald J. Trump, the European Union has presented a "final" proposal for the two sides to consider before the talks collapse for good, Western officials said.

<https://www.nytimes.com/2022/08/09/us/politics/iran-nuclear-deal-eu.html?searchResultPosition=3>

First on CNN: Russians have begun training on Iranian drones, US believes

The CNN, August 10, 2022

The US believes Russian officials have begun training on drones in Iran over the last several weeks, the latest sign that Russia intends to purchase the systems as the war in Ukraine continues.

<https://edition.cnn.com/2022/08/09/politics/russia-training-drones-iran/index.html>

US Military 'Furiously' Rewriting Nuclear Deterrence to Address Russia and China, STRATCOM Chief Says

Tara Copp

Defense One, August 11, 2022

The United States is "furiously" writing a new nuclear deterrence theory that simultaneously faces Russia and China, said the top commander of America's nuclear arsenal—and needs more Americans working on how to prevent nuclear war. Officials at U.S. Strategic Command have been responding to how threats from Moscow and Beijing have changed this year, said STRATCOM chief Navy Adm. Chas Richard. As Russian forces crossed deep into Ukraine this spring, Richard said he delivered the first-ever real-world commander's assessment on what it was going to take to avoid nuclear war. But China has further complicated the threat, and the admiral made an unusual request to experts assembled at the Space and Missile Defense Symposium in Huntsville, Alabama: "We have to account for three-party [threats]," Richard said. "That is unprecedented in this nation's history. We have never faced two peer nuclear-capable opponents at the same time, who have to be deterred differently."

<https://www.defenseone.com/threats/2022/08/us-military-furiously-rewriting-nuclear-deterrence-address-russia-and-china-stratcom-chief-says/375725/>

Russian officials trained in Iran as part of drone deal, U.S. says

Reuters, August 12, 2022

Russian officials trained in Iran in recent weeks as part of an agreement on the transfer of drones between the two countries, the U.S. State Department said on Thursday.

<https://www.reuters.com/world/russian-officials-trained-iran-part-drone-deal-says-us-state-dept-2022-08-11/>

House GOP stands by Trump despite revelation FBI searched for nuclear documents

The Washington post, August 12, 2022

House Republicans stood by former president Donald Trump on Friday despite the revelation that FBI agents sought classified documents relating to nuclear weapons in their search of his Mar-a-Lago estate this week, underscoring Trump's viselike grip on the GOP.

<https://www.washingtonpost.com/politics/2022/08/12/trump-fbi-search-house-republicans-nuclear-documents/>

Rev. Carl Kabat, nuclear arms opponent with Plowshares Eight, dies at 88

The Washington post, August 12, 2022

The Rev. Carl Kabat, a tireless opponent of nuclear weapons whose decades of protests included damaging warhead nose cones with a group known as the Plowshares Eight that gave new focus to the disarmament movement, died Aug. 4 in San Antonio. He was 88.

<https://www.washingtonpost.com/obituaries/2022/08/11/carl-kabat-nuclear-cleric-dies/>

FBI searched Trump's home to look for nuclear documents and other items, sources say

The Washington post, August 12, 2022

Classified documents relating to nuclear weapons were among the items FBI agents

sought in a search of former president Donald Trump's Florida residence on Monday, according to people familiar with the investigation.

<https://www.washingtonpost.com/national-security/2022/08/11/garland-trump-mar-a-lago/>

U.S. allies most vulnerable to Russia press for more troops, weapons

The Washington post, August 13, 2022

As the United States and NATO inject personnel and equipment into Eastern Europe in response to Russia's invasion of Ukraine, vulnerable allies such as Latvia are scrambling to scale up their defenses for fear they will be next to come under attack.

<https://www.washingtonpost.com/national-security/2022/08/13/us-military-baltics-russia/>

US-led coalition forces repel drone attack near base in Syria

The CNN, August 15, 2022

US-led coalition forces repelled multiple drones near the US-led coalition At-Tanf base in Syria Monday, according to a press release from the coalition. The attempted attack did not result in casualties or damage, a release from Combined Joint Task Force — Operation Inherent Resolve, the global coalition to defeat what remains of the ISIS caliphate in Iraq and Syria, said.

<https://edition.cnn.com/2022/08/15/politics/drone-at-tanf-syria/index.html>

Surviving Relatives of U.S. Drone Strike Victims Remain Stranded in Afghanistan

The New York Times, August 15, 2022

Soon after the U.S. military mistakenly killed 10 civilians, including seven children, last August in the final U.S. drone strike before American troops withdrew from Afghanistan, the Biden administration pledged to help surviving members of the

family relocate to the United States for their safety.

<https://www.nytimes.com/2022/08/15/us/politics/us-drone-strike-afghanistan-relatives.html?searchResultPosition=1>

U.S. says a drone attack targeted its Syria base, no casualties

Reuters, August 15, 2022

A drone attack hit a compound run by U.S. troops and U.S.-backed Syrian opposition fighters in eastern Syria on Monday, with no casualties, the United States military said.

<https://www.reuters.com/world/middle-east/us-says-drone-attack-targeted-its-syria-base-no-casualties-2022-08-15/>

Iran submits a 'written response' in nuclear deal talks

TORONTO STAR, August 15, 2022

Iran said Tuesday it submitted a "written response" to what has been described as a final roadmap to restore its tattered nuclear deal with world powers.

<https://www.thestar.com/news/world/middleeast/2022/08/16/iran-submits-a-written-response-in-nuclear-deal-talks.html>

China announces new military drills as U.S. delegation visits Taiwan

THE GLOBE AND THE MAIL August 15, 2022

China announced more military drills around Taiwan as the self-governing island's President met with members of a new U.S. congressional delegation on Monday, threatening to renew tensions between Beijing and Washington after a similar recent visit by U.S. House Speaker Nancy Pelosi angered China.

<https://www.theglobeandmail.com/world/article-china-announces-new-military-drills-as-us-delegation-visits-taiwan/>

West Asia

J. Iran

Iran's N. Chief: MPs Emphasize on Legalization of Nuclear Roadmap

Fars News Agency, August 1, 2022

Head of the Atomic Energy Organization of Iran (AEOI) Mohammad Eslami said that Iranian lawmakers are pushing to line up a roadmap for the development of the country's nuclear industry in order that the change of administrations would not have an impact on Tehran's nuclear program. "The lawmakers are seeking to turn the 50-year roadmap for nuclear industry into law so nuclear development would be shielded from decisions by the next administrations," Eslami stated after a meeting with the parliament's Energy Committee on Sunday evening. He added the AEOI has planned to develop nuclear energy, including use of radiations and radiopharmaceuticals, so the nuclear technology would be more tangible in people's lives.

<https://www.farsnews.ir/en/news/14010510000323/Iran's-N-Chief-MPs-Emphasize-n-Legalizain-f-Nclear-Radmap>

AEOI Chief Underlines Iran's Opposition to Military N. Drive Despite Capability

Fars News Agency, August 1, 2022

Head of the Atomic Energy Organization of Iran (AEOI) Mohammad Eslami on Monday said Tehran enjoys the capability to develop a military nuclear program, but has no intention to do so. "As Mr. [Seyed Kamal] Kharazi [Head of Iran's Strategic Foreign Relations Council] stated, Iran has the technical ability to build an atomic bomb, but such a program is not on agenda," Eslami told FNA. The nuclear chief highlighted that these accusations are being raised by "the Zionist regime to deceive the public opinion". Tehran says it is refining uranium only for civilian energy uses, adding all nuclear activities of Iran are under the supervision of the International Atomic Energy Agency, and the IAEA's verification activities and reports have proved the

peaceful nature of the country's nuclear program.

<https://www.farsnews.ir/en/news/14010510000611/AEOI-Chief-Underlines-Iran's-Oppsiin-Miliary-N-Drive-Despie-Capability>

AEOI Spokesman: Iran Starts Injecting Gas into Hundreds More IR6 Centrifuges

Fars News Agency, August 2, 2022

The Atomic Energy Organization of Iran has started injecting gas into hundreds of new centrifuge machines, (AEOI) Spokesman Behrouz Kamalvandi said. Kamalvandi said that the order to launch and inject gas to hundreds of centrifuges including IR1 and IR6 advanced machines was issued on Monday evening. He also added that the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA) has already been informed of the measure. "The order is in line with the implementation of the Law on Strategic Action on Removing Sanctions and Safeguarding the Interests of the Iranian nation," the official continued. The official stated that "the order also aims to fulfil the target of enrichment using 190,000 separative work units (SWUs), which is the least amount that the country needs".

<https://www.farsnews.ir/en/news/14010511000110/AEOI-Spkesman-Iran-Sars-Injecing-Gas-in-Hndreds-Mre-IR6-Cenrifges>

Feeding gas to centrifuges a response to U.S. sanctions: nuclear chief

Tehran Times, August 3, 2022

The head of the Atomic Energy Organization of Iran (AEOI), Mohammad Eslami, said on Wednesday that Iran's move to inject gas into a new batch of advanced centrifuges was a response to recent U.S. sanctions against Iran. Speaking to reporters on the sidelines of a cabinet session, Eslami said the move came within the framework of a nuclear law known as the strategic action law and a response to the recent oil sanctions

imposed by the U.S. "Americans regularly admit the failure of the policy of maximum pressure and have no hope for this policy. However, we are witnessing the dual and multiple behaviors of America and the false accusation that they attribute to the country for 20 years," he said, according to IRNA. Eslami said that the West used allegations made by Israel and anti-revolutionary forces to exert pressure on Iran.

<https://www.tehrantimes.com/news/475366/Feeding-gas-to-centrifuges-a-response-to-U-S-sanctions-nuclear>

Nuclear chief: Iran will turn on IAEA cameras if accusations dropped

Tehran Times, August 5, 2022

Mohammad Eslami, the head of the Atomic Energy Organization of Iran (AEOI), said on Thursday that Iran will turn on the International Atomic Energy Agency's surveillance cameras provided that all accusations levelled against the Islamic Republic are withdrawn. Eslami made the comment in an interview with IRNA on whether Iran would turn on the cameras if an agreement is reached over the revival of the 2015 nuclear deal, officially called the Joint Comprehensive Plan of Action, or the JCPOA. The official explained that the cameras will be switched on again only after all anti-Iran allegations are withdrawn and they return to their commitments under the JCPOA. The cameras, that were switched off, were beyond Safeguards agreement installed under the JCPOA, Eslami explained.

<https://www.tehrantimes.com/news/475377/Nuclear-chief-Iran-will-turn-on-IAEA-cameras-if-accusations>

AEOI Spokesman: Safeguard-Related Issues Discussed During Vienna Talks

Fars News Agency, August 7, 2022

Atomic Energy Organization of Iran (AEOI) Spokesman Behrouz Kamalvandi said that safeguard-related issues are being argued

during the ongoing negotiations in Vienna. The AEOI spokesman is in Austria's Vienna for talks on the differences with the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA) over the safeguard-related issues. "We are yet talking about that," Kamalvandi told reporters, speaking about the settlement of the issue. He made the remark on the sidelines of a meeting between the Iranian negotiating team and EU Coordinator of the Joint Comprehensive Plan of Action (JCPOA) talks, Enrique Mora. In response to a question on how the talks are going on, Kamalvandi noted, "It's not bad."

<https://www.farsnews.ir/en/news/14010516000146/AEOI-Spokesman-Safeguard-Related-Issues-Discussed-Dring-Vienna-Talks>

Vienna talks end with proposal on table

Tehran Times, August 8, 2022

The latest round of nuclear talks in Vienna to revive the Joint Comprehensive Plan of Action (JCPOA) ended on Monday with a modified text on the table. An Iranian foreign ministry official told IRNA that on Monday that Enrique Mora, the EU coordinator for the talks, presented some ideas on the remaining issues to the parties. "We conveyed our initial response and reservations as soon as we received them. But these items require a comprehensive review and we'll convey our additional views to the coordinator and others," the official said. The official also said that progress was achieved on some subjects. "Undoubtedly, the principled policy for us is to protect the rights and interests of the Iranian nation. Realizing these rights and providing benefits and ensuring the sustainable implementation of the other party's commitments and preventing the repetition of illegal U.S. behavior are the serious concerns of the negotiating team," the official reiterated.

<https://www.tehrantimes.com/news/475443/Vienna-talks-end-with-proposal-on-table>

Khayyam: The sky is the limit

Tehran Times, August 9, 2022

According to Russia's State Space Corporation Roscosmos, a Fregat booster delivered the Iranian Khayyam satellite launched from the Baikonur spaceport in Kazakhstan into orbit on Tuesday, marking a landmark moment in Iranian history. "A Russian Soyuz-2.1b carrier rocket launched from the Baikonur Cosmodrome and a Fregat booster successfully delivered the Iranian Khayyam Earth's remote sensing satellite into the designated orbit," Roscosmos reported. It was launched at 08:52 a.m. Moscow time. The launch of the satellite marks a watershed moment in Russia-Iran collaboration, according to Roscosmos chief Yury Borisov. "The successful launch of the satellite for and an order from Iran has become a landmark event in the Russia-Iran bilateral cooperation that paves the way for implementing new and more dimensional projects," he said.

<https://www.tehrantimes.com/news/475480/Khayyam-The-sky-is-the-limit>

Iran to Inaugurate Major Water Desalination Project at Bushehr Power Plant

Fars News Agency, August 15, 2022

Governor of Bushehr Province Ahmad Mohammadzadeh said that Iran will begin construction works for a major water desalination project at Bushehr nuclear power plant within weeks. Mohammadzadeh stated on Sunday that works for Iran's first nuclear-powered desalination plant will start in late August concurrent with ceremonies to mark the Administration Week in the country. "The Atomic Energy Organization of Iran (AEOI) will contribute to the construction of the desalination plant in Bushehr which will have a capacity of 70,000 cubic meters per day," he added. "The nuclear power can solve the water crisis and this project has become final ... the execution phase will begin during the Administration Week and it will come on line based on the schedule," he was quoted as saying by the semi-official Fars news agency. The governor added that

nuclear reactors in the two planned power plant units in Bushehr will be used to operate two desalination projects with a combined capacity of 150,000 cubic meters per day.

<https://www.farsnews.ir/en/news/14010524000177/Iran-Inagrae-Majr-Waer-Desalinain-Prjec-a-Bshehr-Pwer-Plan>

Nuclear deal can be reached if Iran's red lines are respected, foreign ministry says

Reuters, August 15, 2022.

Iran's Foreign Ministry Spokesperson Nasser Kanaani said on Monday there is an opportunity to revive the 2015 nuclear deal with world powers if Tehran's red lines are respected.

<https://www.reuters.com/world/middle-east/nuclear-deal-can-be-reached-if-irans-red-lines-are-respected-foreign-ministry-2022-08-15/>

K. Israel

PM Lapid at Atomic Energy ceremony: 'Other capabilities' keep Israel alive

The Jerusalem Post, August 1, 2022

"The operational arena in the transparent dome above us is made up of defense capabilities and attack capabilities and what is commonly called in the foreign media 'other capabilities,'" he said at a ceremony for the new head of the Israel Atomic Energy Commission. "These other capabilities keep us alive and will keep us alive as long as we and our children are here."

<https://www.jpost.com/israel-news/article-713642>

Foreign interest rises as Israel's Iron Dome shows improved success rate

i24, August 8, 2022

Israel's recent Operation "Breaking Dawn" in the Gaza Strip highlighted Iron Dome's improved interception rate saving

the country's economy billions of dollars and prompting interest among foreign buyers.

<https://www.i24news.tv/en/news/israel/defense/1659958754-foreign-interest-rises-as-israel-s-iron-dome-shows-improved-success-rate>

Iran Unlikely to Sign Nuclear Deal, Israeli Officials Say, Despite Reported Progress in Talks

Haaretz, August 9, 2022

Western and Iranian diplomats returned home after the EU circulated a final text of the nuclear agreement. Iran is expected to give an answer in the coming days, but Israel is convinced Khamenei will block the move.

<https://www.haaretz.com/middle-east-news/iran/2022-08-09/ty-article/.premium/iran-unlikely-to-sign-nuclear-deal-israeli-officials-say-despite-reported-progress/00000182-83ad-df6b-a5de-d3ede3760000>

New Iran satellite presents significant challenge to Israel, US and allies

The Times of Israel, August 10, 2022

Though touted for agriculture and water planning, Khayyam said able to monitor sites in Israel and Mideast; Iran scoffs at claims, calls spying allegations 'childish'.

<https://www.timesofisrael.com/new-iran-satellite-presents-significant-challenge-to-israel-us-and-allies-experts/>

Israeli airstrikes in Syria said to hit Iranian targets near Russian naval base

The Times of Israel, August 15, 2022

Israeli airstrikes near Russia's main navy base in the coastal Syrian city of Tartus on Sunday night targeted Iranian sites, an unidentified Syrian officer told the Reuters news agency on Monday.

<https://www.timesofisrael.com/israeli-airstrikes-in-syria-said-to-hit-iranian-targets-near-russian-naval-base/>

L. Saudi Arabia

US approves sale of 300 Patriot missiles, costing \$3.05 billion, to Saudi Arabia

Saudi Gazette, August 3, 2022

The State Department of United States has approved the sale of 300 Patriot missiles to Saudi Arabia in a deal worth \$3.05 billion, the Pentagon said on Tuesday. In a statement released by the Pentagon, the US said Riyadh requested PATRIOT MIM-104E Guidance Enhanced Missile-Tactical Ballistic missiles (GEM-T). The sale will include other tools and test equipment. The principal contractor will be US-based Raytheon. "This proposed sale will support the foreign policy goals and national security objectives of the United States by improving the security of a partner country that is a force for political stability and economic progress in the Gulf region," the Pentagon said. This sale would improve Saudi Arabia's ability to meet current and future threats by "replenishing its dwindling stock of PATRIOT GEM-T missiles," the Pentagon said while citing "persistent Houthi cross-border" drone and ballistic missile attacks on civilian sites and critical infrastructure in Saudi Arabia.

[https://saudigazette.com.sa/article/623601/SAUDI-ARABIA/US-approves-sale-of-300-Patriot-missiles-costing-\\$305-billion-to-Saudi-Arabia](https://saudigazette.com.sa/article/623601/SAUDI-ARABIA/US-approves-sale-of-300-Patriot-missiles-costing-$305-billion-to-Saudi-Arabia)

Saudi Arabia: Israel's refusal to join UN treaty a 'grave obstacle' to nuclear disarmament

Middle East Eye, August 4, 2022

Saudi Arabia has raised about Israel's refusal to join Nations nuclear non-proliferation treaty, saying it was an obstacle to achieving peace in the region. The warning was a rare moment of Saudi criticism of Israel, with Riyadh and other Gulf countries recently working together, along with Israel, to combat Iran's nuclear programme. Saudi Arabia's new

permanent representative to the United Nations, Abdulaziz al-Wasil, made the comments on Wednesday during a conference to review the UN's Non-Proliferation Treaty. "There is Israel's continuing refusal to accede to the [Non-Proliferation Treaty] and this is a grave obstacle" for nuclear disarmament, Wasil said.

<https://www.middleeasteye.net/news/saudi-arabia-israels-refusal-join-un-treaty-grave-obstacle-nuclear-disarmament>

Korea Needs U.S. Cooperation to Win Saudi Nuclear Power Plant Project

Business Korea, August 11, 2022

South Korean President Yoon Suk-yeol is planning to have summit talks with Saudi Arabian Crown Prince Mohammed Bin Salman in November this year. Attention is focusing on the outcome of the meeting in the nuclear power industry as South Korea is aiming to export at least 10 nuclear power plants by 2030 and Saudi Arabia is resuming nuclear power generation projects adding up to 12 trillion won. In May this year, Saudi Arabia sent its bid invitation to South Korea, China, France and Russia regarding the construction of two nuclear power plants, 1.4 GW each. According to experts, South Korea and Russia have comparative advantages in the project in that France's supply price is very high and China has no experience in desert-area nuclear power plant construction. South Korea's biggest risk in the project is the fact that Saudi Arabia is against IAEA inspections, which may cause the United States to block South Korea's project in Saudi Arabia. According to the U.S. Atomic Energy Act of 1954, a country using U.S. nuclear power technology cannot conduct, for example, uranium enrichment without U.S. consent. South Korea's export model APR1400 was developed based on Westinghouse's technology.

<http://www.businesskorea.co.kr/news/articleView.html?idxno=98243>

Trump Admin-Saudi Nuclear Probe Resurfaces Ahead of Warrant Unseal

Newsweek, August 12, 2022

A probe into Donald Trump's interactions with Saudi Arabia has resurfaced following a report FBI agents who raided the former president's Florida residence were seeking documents related to nuclear weapons. That House of Representatives report highlighted whistleblowers' concerns with the Trump Administration's "efforts to transfer sensitive nuclear technology to Saudi Arabia," and was tweeted on Thursday by Judd Legum, who runs the Popular Information newsletter. "We don't know why Trump took classified nuclear docs," Legum said in a follow-up tweet. "But certain nuclear information would have very high economic value to Saudi Arabia and other governments." That committee report made a number of accusations against the Trump administration, including that it tried "to rush the transfer of highly sensitive U.S. nuclear technology to Saudi Arabia." This was without congressional review and in potential violation of the Atomic Energy Act that restricts the export of U.S. nuclear technology.

<https://www.newsweek.com/donald-trump-saudi-arabia-nuclear-mar-lago-raid-washington-post-1733182>

M. Turkey

Erdogan Navigates Between Ukrainian Wheat, Russian Nukes and Israeli Gas

Haaretz, August 4, 2022

A Russian-owned nuclear power plant is under construction in Turkey, one explanation for why Moscow is letting Ukraine export grain through the Bosphorus.

<https://www.haaretz.com/israel-news/2022-08-04/ty-article-magazine/premium/erdogan-navigates-between-ukrainian-wheat-russian->

[nukes-and-israeli-gas/00000182-689e-d2f5-a3e6-ed9f32420000](https://www.dailysabah.com/business/defense/turkish-army-receives-1st-domestic-multi-rotor-mini-uav)

Turkish army receives 1st domestic multi-rotor mini UAV

Daily Sabah, August 7, 2022

Head of the Presidency of Defense Industries, Ismail Demir, said the initial deliveries of the mini-spotter unmanned aerial system (UAS), TOGAN, developed domestically, were made to the security forces.

<https://www.dailysabah.com/business/defense/turkish-army-receives-1st-domestic-multi-rotor-mini-uav>

Mass production of Turkiye's 1st unmanned marine craft begins

Daily Sabah, August 11, 2022

Mass production of Turkiye's first armored unmanned surface vessel (AUSV), the first marine craft within the scope of the ULAQ project, has started, according to a company official Thursday.

<https://www.dailysabah.com/business/defense/mass-production-of-turkiyes-1st-unmanned-marine-craft-begins>

N. United Arab Emirates

US State Department approves billions of dollars' worth of arms sales to Saudi Arabia, UAE

Middle East Monitor, August 3, 2022

The US State Department announced, Tuesday, that it has approved the potential sale of arms to two of its key Middle East partners in separate deals with a total value of more than \$5 billion, Anadolu News Agency reports. The United Arab Emirates would buy \$2.25 billion worth of Terminal High Altitude Area Defence (THAAD) system missiles. The UAE would receive two THAAD launch control stations, two THAAD tactical operations stations and 96 missile rounds under the proposed deal.

<https://www.middleeastmonitor.com/20220803-us-state-department-approves-billions-of-dollars-worth-of-arms-sales-to-saudi-arabia-uae/>

East Asia

O. Taiwan

Taiwan says it fired flares to drive away suspected drones near Kinmen

Reuters, August 04, 2022

Taiwan's defence ministry said on Thursday that unidentified aircraft, probably drones, had flown on Wednesday night above the area of its Kinmen islands and that it had fired flares to drive them away.

<https://www.reuters.com/world/asia-pacific/taiwan-says-fired-flares-drive-away-suspected-drones-near-kinmen-2022-08-04/>

China launches long-range airstrike drills around Taiwan on fourth day of military exercises

The CNN, August 08, 2022

Chinese forces took part in drills focused on land attacks and long-range airstrikes around Taiwan on Sunday, its military said, on what was expected to be the final day of extensive exercises rolled out in response to a visit to the island by US House Speaker Nancy Pelosi.

<https://edition.cnn.com/2022/08/07/asia/taiwan-china-military-drills-intl-hnk/index.html>

As China Vows More Military Exercises, Taiwan Is Undeterred

The New York Times, August 11, 2022

If China's show of force over Speaker Nancy Pelosi's trip was meant as a deterrent, it has not had the intended effect in Taiwan, where the military drills have reinforced a careful two-pronged strategy of shoring up international support, while avoiding overt confrontation.

<https://www.nytimes.com/2022/08/11/world/asia/china-taiwan-drills-economy-military.html?searchResultPosition=2>

P. South Korea

South Korea condemns North for 'abusing' NPT regime, urges to cease provocations

The Korea Herald, August 2, 2022

South Korea strongly condemned the North for "abusing" the Non-Proliferation Treaty to openly develop nuclear weapons and urged the regime to return to dialogue for complete, verifiable and irreversible denuclearization during international nuclear arms talks. Addressing the 10th NPT Review Conference held at the UN headquarters in New York on Monday, Korean Deputy Minister for Multilateral and Global Affairs of Foreign Ministry Ham Sang-wook said the nonproliferation goal is being challenged amid growing threats from nonmember states and delivered Seoul's unwavering commitment to strengthening the NPT regime.

<https://www.koreaherald.com/view.php?ud=20220802000566>

Agreement to bolster Korean nuclear industry

World Nuclear News, August 11, 2022

South Korea's Ministry of Trade, Industry and Energy (MOTIE) has signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) with Korea Hydro & Nuclear Power (KHNP), Doosan Enerbility and nuclear energy equipment and materials manufacturers with the aim of revitalising the country's nuclear industry. The MoU was signed on 10 August at a conference in Changwon, South Gyeongsang Province, to discuss business support measures for revitalising the industry ecosystem. The *Nuclear Energy Industry Business Conference* was presided by Trade, Industry and Energy Minister Lee Chang-yang and was attended by various representatives, including Gyeongsangnam-do Economy Deputy Governor Kim Byung-gyu, KHNP Vice President Choi Nam-woo, Doosan Enerbility Vice President Na Ki-yong and PK Valve CEO Chun Young-chan.

<https://www.world-nuclear-news.org/Articles/Agreement-to-bolster-Korean-nuclear-industry>

South Korea's SK invests \$250 million in Bill Gates' Terra Power for nuclear power tech

Reuters, August 15, 2022.

South Korea's SK Inc (034730.KS) said on Monday it and an affiliate invested \$250 million in TerraPower, a U.S. venture founded by billionaire Bill Gates that develops small-sized nuclear power reactors, called small modular reactors.

<https://www.reuters.com/business/sustainable-business/south-koreas-sk-invests-250-mln-bill-gates-terrapower-nuclear-power-tech-2022-08-15/>

South Korea offering large-scale aid package for North's nukes

France 24, August 15, 2022

South Korean President Yoon Suk-yeol said Monday he will offer a wide-ranging aid package to the North in return for denuclearisation, a deal long seen as a non-starter for Pyongyang. The proposal comes days after the North threatened to "wipe out" Seoul authorities over a recent Covid-19 outbreak and less than a month after leader Kim Jong Un said his country was "ready to mobilise" its nuclear capability in any war with the United States and the South. But calling denuclearisation "essential" for lasting peace on the peninsula, Yoon on Monday detailed a large-scale aid plan that would include food and energy as well as help in modernising infrastructure such as ports, airports and hospitals.

<https://www.france24.com/en/live-news/20220815-south-korea-offering-large-scale-aid-package-for-north-s-nukes>

Q. North Korea

North Korea criticises U.N. chief's support for the North's denuclearisation

Reuters, August 14, 2022

North Korea's foreign ministry on Sunday criticised the United Nations Secretary-General's recent comment on his supports

for the North's complete denuclearisation, calling the remarks lack impartiality and fairness.

<https://www.reuters.com/world/asia-pacific/nkorea-criticises-un-chiefs-support-norths-denuclearisation-2022-08-13/>

North Korea 'paves the way' for more nuclear tests, U.N. report says

Reuters, August 5, 2022

North Korea made preparations for a nuclear test during the first six months of this year, according to an excerpt of a confidential United Nations report seen by Reuters on Thursday. "Work at the Punggye-ri nuclear test site paves the way for additional nuclear tests for the development of nuclear weapons," independent sanctions monitors reported to the U.N. Security Council North Korea sanctions committee. "The DPRK continued to develop its capability for the production of fissile material at the Yongbyon site," the monitors wrote, referring to North Korea's formal name - the Democratic People's Republic of Korea. Yongbyon is North Korea's major nuclear facility, operating its first nuclear reactors.

<https://www.reuters.com/world/asia-pacific/north-korea-paves-way-more-nuclear-tests-un-report-2022-08-04/>

Kim Jong Un says he is ready to use his nuclear weapons

Sky News, August 15, 2022

North Korea is ready to mobilise its nuclear war deterrent "accurately and promptly", leader Kim Jong Un has claimed. He said the country was ready for any potential military conflicts with the United States as well as South Korea, criticising its new president Yoon Suk-yeol for the first time and warning Seoul was pushing towards the brink of war. In a speech on the 69th anniversary of the end of the 1950-53 Korean War, he said: "Our armed forces are thoroughly prepared to respond to any crisis, and our nation's nuclear war deterrence is also fully ready to mobilise its

absolute strength faithfully, accurately and promptly to its mission."

<https://news.sky.com/story/kim-jong-un-says-he-is-ready-to-use-his-nuclear-weapons-12660403>

R. Australia

Opposition calls for Australia to develop missiles, warning 'lucky country' era is over

Paul Karp

The Guardian, August 07, 2022

The shadow defence minister, Andrew Hastie, has called for Australia to develop and operate its own missiles, warning the era of the "lucky country" is over. On August 7, Hastie argued Australia needs greater deterrents given the "very bleak" strategic outlook, with a "rising China" displaying "revisionist and expansionist ambitions". The comments come after the foreign minister, Penny Wong, expressed deep concern about China's launch of ballistic missiles into waters around Taiwan's coastline, and the climate change minister, Chris Bowen, said Australia would not shy away from calling China out.

<https://www.theguardian.com/australia-news/2022/aug/07/opposition-calls-for-australia-to-develop-missiles-warning-lucky-country-era-is-over>

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Indian Pugwash Society welcomes research articles from students, researchers and faculties on Space, Missile, nuclear technology, WMD proliferation, arms control, disarmament, export controls and other related issues. Articles should be crisply written and should address contemporary debates in the policy arena. Manuscripts submitted for the consideration of the Indian Pugwash Society should be original contributions and should not have been submitted for consideration anywhere else. For further assistance, please contact us at : indianpugwashsociety@gmail.com

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