

# Nuclear, Missile & Space Digest

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A Fortnightly Newsletter from the Indian Pugwash Society

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- US and South Korea begin biggest military training in years amid growing North Korean nuclear threat

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## A. India

### **Raksha Mantri hands over indigenously-developed equipment & systems to Indian Army in New Delhi**

*PIB, August 16, 2022*

Raksha Mantri Shri Rajnath Singh handed over indigenously-developed equipment and systems to the Indian Army in New Delhi on August 16, 2022. These include Future Infantry Soldier as a System (F-INSAS), new generation anti-personnel mine 'Nipun', rugged and automatic communication system with enhanced capabilities, upgraded sights system for tanks and advanced thermal imagers. State-of-the-art high mobility Infantry Protected Vehicles and Assault Boats were virtually handed over by Raksha Mantri enabling the troops deployed along the borders to respond to any challenge in a befitting manner. The equipment/systems have been jointly developed by Indian Army in collaboration with Defence Public Sector Undertakings, Defence Research & Development Organisation (DRDO) and the Industry, in line with the Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi's vision to modernise the Armed Forces, under the 'Aatmanirbhar Bharat Abhiyan'.

<https://pib.gov.in/PressReleasePage.aspx?PRID=1852259>

### **PM Modi, French President Macron discuss geopolitical challenges, cooperation in civil nuclear energy**

*The Hindu, August 16, 2022*

Prime Minister Narendra Modi and French President Emmanuel Macron on August 16, 2022 reviewed ongoing bilateral initiatives, including defence collaboration projects and cooperation in civil nuclear energy. During their telephonic conversation, they also discussed important geopolitical challenges, including those related to global food security, a statement issued by the Prime Minister's Office said. The PMO statement also said the leaders reviewed ongoing bilateral initiatives, including defence

cooperation projects and cooperation in civil nuclear energy.

<https://www.thehindu.com/news/national/pm-modi-french-president-macron-discuss-geopolitical-challenges-cooperation-in-civil-nuclear-energy/article65776749.ece>

### **Doval discusses high-tech cooperation, outer space in Moscow**

*The Hindu, August 18, 2022*

National Security Advisor Ajit Doval met with Russia's Deputy Prime Minister Denis Manturov, who is in charge of Russia's weapons industry, on Thursday in Moscow. The second day of official engagements saw Mr. Doval exchange ideas on a wide variety of issues, including bilateral trade, technological collaboration, and cultural cooperation. A press release from the Russian side stated: "Mr Manturov participated in the meeting in his capacity as Chair of the Russian part of the Intergovernmental Russian-Indian Commission for Trade, Economic, Scientific, Technological and Cultural Cooperation. The parties discussed the development of trade and economic ties and current issues related to cooperation in other spheres of mutual interest."

<https://www.thehindu.com/news/national/doval-discusses-high-tech-cooperation-outer-space-in-moscow/article65784916.ece>

### **'Soon government will release India's space policy with focus on private sector participation'**

*The Indian Express, August 19, 2022*

Two-and-a-half years ago, when Lieutenant General (retd) A K Bhatt retired as the Military Secretary in the army, he had made up his mind that his next frontier was space. Just about a year later, he became the first Director General of the new Indian Space Association (ISpA) formed in October 2021. He had previously served a year as the commander of the Srinagar-based XV Corps and was the Director General of Military Operations (DGMO) at the time

of the India-China Doklam stand-off. Today, as the head of a fledgling organisation that seeks to bridge the government and its space programme with the private sector, Lt Gen Bhatt is upbeat that the Modi regime will “soon” unveil the space policy.

<https://www.newindianexpress.com/nation/2022/aug/19/soon-government-will-release-indias-space-policy-with-focus-on-private-sector-participation-2489205.html>

### **India’s first observatory to monitor space activity to come up in Uttarakhand**

*The Hindu, August 22, 2022*

India’s first commercial space situational awareness observatory, to track objects as small as 10 cm in size orbiting the earth, will be set up in the Garhwal region of Uttarakhand by Digantara, a space sector start-up. The space situational awareness (SSA) observatory will help India track any activity in space including that of space debris and military satellites hovering over the region. Currently, the United States is a dominant player in monitoring space debris with observatories in multiple locations and commercial companies providing additional inputs from across the world.

<https://www.thehindu.com/news/national/indias-first-observatory-to-monitor-space-activity-to-come-up-in-uttarakhand/article65797181.ece>

### **DRDO & Indian Navy successfully flight-test Vertical Launch Short Range Surface-to-Air Missile off Odisha coast**

*PIB, August 23, 2022*

Defence Research & Development Organisation (DRDO) and Indian Navy successfully flight-tested Vertical Launch Short Range Surface-to-Air Missile (VL-SRSAM) from the Integrated Test Range (ITR), Chandipur off the coast of Odisha on August 23, 2022. The flight test was carried out from an Indian Naval Ship against a high-speed unmanned aerial target for demonstration of vertical launch capability. The missiles, equipped with indigenous

Radio Frequency (RF) seeker, intercepted the target with high accuracy. The VL-SRSAM system has been indigenously designed and developed by DRDO.

<https://pib.gov.in/PressReleasePage.aspx?PRID=1853841>

### **Modi’s Nuclear Push Gains Traction With New Plants on Way**

*Bloomberg, August 24, 2022*

India’s largest power producer is looking to develop another massive nuclear project just weeks after announcing its entry into the sector, a sign that Prime Minister Narendra Modi’s expansion into atomic energy is gaining momentum. A venture between NTPC Ltd., which relies mostly on coal to supply energy to the world’s fastest growing population, and India’s monopoly nuclear developer is in advanced talks with the government to develop two 700-megawatt reactors in the central state of Madhya Pradesh, according to people familiar with the matter, who asked not to be identified as the discussions aren’t public.

<https://www.bloomberg.com/news/articles/2022-08-23/modi-s-nuclear-power-push-gains-traction-with-new-plants-on-way>

### **1700 km ‘Chain Reaction’ Cyclothon India gate to Mumbai to promote nuclear energy**

*The Print, August 24, 2022*

Senior scientists of Bhabha Atomic Research Center (BARC) cycled for 1700 km starting from India Gate in Delhi on August 13, 2022. The campaign was to spread awareness about nuclear energy as clean, green and safe energy resource. The Cyclothon crisscrossed five states – Delhi, Rajasthan, Madhya Pradesh, Gujarat and Maharashtra and concluded at the iconic Gateway of India today on August 23, 2022. On the way, the cyclists met the vibrant mix of people and spread awareness about the uses of Atomic Energy in nation building. They interacted with several organisations including police



and hospitals and made the audience aware about several societal and healthcare technologies developed by the Department of Atomic Energy. The team received an overwhelming welcome with top nuclear scientists in the city cycled with the team showing their solidarity for the cause and message of atomic energy.

<https://theprint.in/ani-press-releases/1700-km-chain-reaction-cyclothion-india-gate-to-mumbai-to-promote-nuclear-energy/1098011/>

### **Pakistan calls India's action over missile incident 'inadequate', redemands joint probe**

*The Hindu, August 25, 2022*

Pakistan has rejected India's action over the March 9 accidental firing of a supersonic missile that landed in its territory and demanded a joint probe. The services of three officers of the Indian Air Force were terminated on August 23 after a Court of Inquiry (CoI) found that deviation from the Standard Operating Procedures (SOPs) by them led to the accidental firing of the missile. The Foreign Office in a late Wednesday night statement said Pakistan has seen India's announcement of the findings of an internal CoI regarding the "incident of firing of a rogue supersonic missile" into its territory and the decision to terminate the services of three IAF officers reportedly found responsible for the reckless incident.

<https://www.thehindu.com/news/national/pakistan-calls-indias-action-over-missile-incident-inadequate-redemands-joint-probe/article65808554.ece>

### **Chinese missile tracker ship prospecting Indian Ocean bed south of Sri Lanka**

*Hindustan Times, August 26, 2022*

After leaving Hambantota Port on August 22, the Chinese satellite and ballistic missile tracking ship Yuan Wang 5 is currently mapping ocean bed 400 nautical miles (741 kilometers) south-southeast of Dondra Head, the southernmost tip of Sri Lanka.

According to available information, the military ship is expected to head towards its home port Jiangyin near Shanghai as per details provided at Hambantota. However, it is not clear whether the ship will make another port call while on the way back to China.

<https://www.hindustantimes.com/world-news/chinese-missile-tracker-ship-prospecting-indian-ocean-bed-south-of-sri-lanka-101661506780189.html>

### **Raksha Mantri Shri Rajnath Singh approves 3rd Positive Indigenisation List of 780 strategically important Line Replacement Units/Sub-systems/Components to minimise imports by DPSUs & achieve 'Aatmanirbharta' in defence**

*PIB, August 28, 2022*

In continuous pursuit of self-reliance in defence manufacturing and to minimise imports by Defence Public Sector Undertakings (DPSUs) under 'Aatmanirbhar Bharat Abhiyan', Raksha Mantri Shri Rajnath Singh has approved the third Positive Indigenisation List (PIL) of 780 strategically important Line Replacement Units (LRUs)/Sub-systems/Components with a timeline beyond which they will only be procured from the domestic industry. Details of these items are available on SRIJAN Portal ([www.srijandefence.gov.in](http://www.srijandefence.gov.in)). They will only be procured from Indian Industry after the timelines indicated in the list. This list is in continuation to the two PILs of LRUs/Sub-systems/Assemblies/Sub-assemblies/Components that were published in December 2021 and March 2022. These lists contain 2,500 items which are already indigenised and 458 (351+107) items which will be indigenised within the given timelines. Out of 458, 167 items (1<sup>st</sup> PIL -163, 2<sup>nd</sup> PIL - 4) have been indigenised, so far.

<https://pib.gov.in/PressReleasePage.aspx?PRID=1854936>

## Steel Cutting of BY 528 and BY 529 for ASW SWC Project being constructed at CSL, Kochi

*PIB, August 31, 2022*

Steel Cutting of 6<sup>th</sup> and 7<sup>th</sup> ships (BY 528 and BY 529) of Anti-Submarine Warfare Shallow Craft (ASW SWC) project under construction by Cochin Shipyard Limited (CSL), Kochi, was undertaken on 30 Aug 22. The steel cutting event and commencement of fabrication of any warship signifies an important milestone, as this occasion is a culmination of preparatory process and kick starts the construction phase of the ships. The construction of these vessels at CSL, Kochi, is a major boost for the 'Aatma Nirbhar Bharat' and accentuates our national objective of 'Make in India'.

<https://pib.gov.in/PressReleasePage.aspx?PRID=1855652>

## Keel laid for first warship of ASW SWC Project being constructed at CSL, Kochi

*PIB, August 31, 2022*

Keel laying of the first warship (BY 523, Mahe) of Anti-Submarine Warfare Shallow Craft (ASW SWC) project under construction by CSL, Kochi, was undertaken on 30 Aug 22 by VAdm Kiran Deshmukh, CWP&A in presence of Shri Madhu S Nair, CMD, CSL, Commodore V Ganapathy, WPS (Koc), CSL, Directors and other senior officials of CSL and Indian Navy.

<https://pib.gov.in/PressReleasePage.aspx?PRID=1855654>

### **B. Russia**

## Putin backs IAEA mission at Zaporizhzhia plant after call with Macron

*Euractiv, August 19, 2022*

Russian President Vladimir Putin said he backs the idea of sending a mission of the International Atomic Agency (IAEA) to the disputed Zaporizhzhia nuclear plant in southeastern Ukraine following a call with

French counterpart Emmanuel Macron on Friday (19 August).

<https://www.euractiv.com/section/europe-s-east/news/putin-backs-iaea-mission-at-zaporizhzhia-plant-after-call-with-macron/>

## Putin bets winter gas chokehold will yield Ukraine peace - on his terms

*Euractiv, August 24, 2022*

Cold winters helped Moscow defeat Napoleon and Hitler. President Vladimir Putin is now betting that sky-rocketing energy prices and possible shortages this winter will persuade Europe to strong arm Ukraine into a truce – on Russia's terms.

<https://www.euractiv.com/section/global-europe/news/analysis-putin-bets-winter-gas-chokehold-will-yield-ukraine-peace-on-his-terms/>

## UN must condemn Russia's nuclear threat at non-proliferation conference

*Euractiv, August 25, 2022*

Nuclear weapons are killing people in Ukraine even when they are not used as Russia is utilizing nuclear deterrence as a shield to protect its atrocities, write Valeriia Hesse and Liza Khodorovska.

<https://www.euractiv.com/section/defence-and-security/opinion/un-must-condemn-russias-nuclear-threat-at-non-proliferation-conference/>

## Russian defense ministry introducing AI technologies in army

*TASS, August 25, 2022*

Artificial Intelligence (AI) technologies are used in Russian high-precision weapons, however much attention is still paid to personal training of Russian servicemen, Vasily Yelistratov, chief of the Russian defense ministry's AI technologies directorate, told TASS on the sidelines of the Army-2022 forum. "Intelligent technologies, artificial intelligence is a cross-cutting technology. It is present in all weapons, especially high-precision ones

and ground-, air-, and sea-based weapons systems," he said.

<https://tass.com/defense/1497995>

### **Russia to build two nuclear reactors in Hungary**

*BBC news, August 27, 2022*

Russian nuclear power giant Rosatom will begin constructing two new nuclear reactors in Hungary in the coming weeks, Hungary's foreign minister said.

<https://www.bbc.com/news/world-europe-62695938>

### **Over 20,400 hectares cleared of mines by Russian specialists in Donbass – defense ministry**

*TASS, August 27, 2022*

Russian mine disposal specialists have cleared of mines an area of more than 20,400 hectares in the Donetsk and Lugansk People's Republics (DPR and LPR), Mikhail Mizintsev, chief of Russia's National Defense Management Center, said on Friday. According to Mizintsev, who also heads the Russian Joint Coordination Headquarters for Humanitarian Response in Ukraine, Russian specialists continue mine clearance operations in the DPR and LPR. "A total of 20,437.7 hectares, 1,556 buildings, including 13 socially important facilities, four bridges and 208.26 kilometers of motorways have been surveyed. As many as 591,124 explosive objects have been spotted and destroyed," he said.

<https://tass.com/defense/1498881>

### **Russia says Russian-made air defenses in Syria shot down some Israeli missiles, bombs**

*TASS, August 27, 2022*

When four fighter jets of the Israeli Air Force struck the Scientific Studies and Research Center in the city of Masyaf, the Russian-made air defense systems of Syria destroyed some of the munitions, Major General Oleg Yegorov, deputy head of the Russian

Reconciliation Center in Syria, said on Friday.

<https://tass.com/defense/1498887>

### **Russia says Ukraine shelled ZNPP twice in past day, barely missing nuclear fuel unit**

*TASS, August 28, 2022*

Russian Defense Ministry Spokesman Lieutenant General Igor Konashenkov on Sunday said the armed forces of Ukraine shelled the Zaporozhye nuclear power plant twice over the past day, and three shells fell in the area near the special unit containing nuclear fuel and radioactive waste.

<https://tass.com/defense/1499075>

### **Russia says its air defenses shot down 28 Olkha, HIMARS rockets in past day**

*TASS, August 28, 2022*

Russian Defense Ministry Spokesman Lieutenant General Igor Konashenkov on Sunday said Russian air defenses shot down 28 Olkha, HIMARS rockets and intercepted a Tochka-U ballistic missile. "Twenty-eight projectiles of the Olkha and HIMARS multiple launch rocket systems were intercepted in the areas of the settlements of Olginka, Novotroitskoye of the Donetsk People's Republic, Chernobayevka of the Kherson Region, Antonovsky and Daryevsky bridges, as well as over the Kakhovka hydroelectric power station. In addition, one Tochka-U ballistic missile was shot down in midair in the area of Novaya Kakhovka of the Kherson Region," he said.

<https://tass.com/defense/1499087>

### **Drone downed by air defense system over sea near Sevastopol**

*TASS, August 28, 2022*

An unmanned aerial vehicle was downed by the Russian air defense system over the sea near Sevastopol, the city's governor, Mikhail Razvozhayev, said on Sunday.

“Air defense systems were activated in Sevastopol again. According to preliminary data, a drone was downed near Cape Khersones,” he wrote on his Telegram channel.

<https://tass.com/defense/1499145>

### **Russian air defenses down two Su-25 planes, intercept 53 rockets in Ukraine operation**

*TASS, August 30, 2022*

Russian air defense forces shot down two Ukrainian Su-25 combat planes, intercepted three Tochka-U ballistic missiles and 53 rockets in the past day in their special military operation in Ukraine, Defense Ministry Spokesman Lieutenant-General Igor Konashenkov reported on Tuesday.

<https://tass.com/defense/1499931>

### **Russia’s Occupation of Nuclear Plant Gives Moscow a New Way to Intimidate**

*The New York Times, Aug. 30, 2022*

As international nuclear inspectors head toward Ukraine’s Zaporizhzhia power plant, they face a situation that few had ever envisioned: a vast nuclear power plant that could be deliberately turned into a potential dirty bomb, with Russia using it to intimidate its enemy and the world.

<https://www.nytimes.com/2022/08/30/us/politics/russia-ukraine-nuclear-plant.html>

### **Crimea’s air defense is being reconfigured to counter Ukraine’s drones – authorities**

*TASS, August 31, 2022*

Russia’s air defense system in Crimea is being reconfigured to be able to neutralize Ukraine’s drones, the speaker of the region’s single-house legislature, the State Council, Vladimir Konstantinov, said on the Solovyov Live channel on Wednesday.

<https://tass.com/defense/1500473>

## **C. China**

### **Chinese defense minister addresses tenth Moscow Conference on International Security**

*China Military Online, August 16, 2022*

Chinese State Councilor and Defense Minister Wei Fenghe delivered a speech on August 16 at the 10th Moscow Conference on International Security via video link upon invitation. Gen. Wei said that as the world enters a new period of turbulence and transformation, the right choice is to join hands to build a community with a shared future for mankind. Countries in the world must strengthen solidarity and coordination, uphold fairness and justice, safeguard peace and stability, join hands to reject act of hegemony, highhandedness and bullying, and work together to safeguard regional and global peace and tranquility. Amid the profound changes in the global situation and rampaging COVID-19 pandemic, China has been courageous to shoulder the mission of a responsible major country and made great efforts to add stability and inject positive energy to the cause of peace and development of mankind, Wei said.

[http://eng.chinamil.com.cn/view/2022-08/16/content\\_10178641.htm](http://eng.chinamil.com.cn/view/2022-08/16/content_10178641.htm)

### **Over 2 billion would die in an India-Pakistan nuclear conflict. 5 billion in a US- Russia one, study finds**

*South China Morning Post, August 16, 2022*

As escalating tensions among the United States, Russia and China revive old fears of nuclear war, some researchers are warning that even a limited-scale exchange between such nations as India and Pakistan could have catastrophic consequences for global food supplies and trigger mass death worldwide. A nuclear conflict involving less than 3 per cent of the world’s stockpiles could kill one-third



of the world's population within two years, according to a new international study led by scientists at Rutgers University. A larger nuclear conflict between Russia and the US could kill three-fourths of the world's population in the same time frame, according to the research published in Nature Food. "It's really a cautionary tale that any use of nuclear weapons could be a catastrophe for the world," said climate scientist and study author Alan Robock, a distinguished professor in Rutgers' Department of Environmental Sciences.

<https://www.scmp.com/news/asia/article/3189013/over-2-billion-would-die-india-pakistan-nuclear-conflict-5-billion-us>

### **Nuclear Energy: China is building world's 1st commercial land-based SMR**

*CGTN, August 16, 2022*

The world's first commercial land-based small modular reactor, or SMR, is under construction in southern China's Hainan Province. China's building the demonstration project of the "Linglong-1," a small modular reactor in the country's southern island province of Hainan. It's the world's first such type of nuclear reactor approved by the IAEA, hoping to serve the region's diverse power needs, including remote towns. According to Qu Yong, Chief engineer of Linglong-1 Hainan Nuclear Power, "we believe that it will be a trend of nuclear energy because it could be close to the load centers and based on customization. We call it SMR (small modular reactor). Each standard module of SMR could provide the load of 100 megawatts, and it could be perfectly coupled with user's needs."

<https://news.cgtn.com/news/2022-08-16/VHJhbnNjcmlwdDY3ODgy/index.html>

### **Chinese troops to take part in Vostok-2022 strategic drills in Russia**

*China Military Online, August 17, 2022*

According to the annual China-Russia military cooperation plan and consensus reached by the two sides, the Chinese

People's Liberation Army will send some troops to Russia to take part in the Vostok (East)- 2022 strategic exercise. Countries including India, Belarus, Tajikistan, and Mongolia will also send troops for the exercise. The Chinese military's participation in the exercise is unrelated to the current international and regional situation, but designed to deepen practical and friendly cooperation with the militaries of participating countries, enhance the level of strategic coordination and strengthen the ability to cope with various security threats.

[http://eng.chinamil.com.cn/view/2022-08/17/content\\_10178936.htm?yikikata=7593b487-e571aa197f9a58947e98a2458a2124be&yikikata=df6fa307-cbff25b49a7eb32750acc1f3cae9e461](http://eng.chinamil.com.cn/view/2022-08/17/content_10178936.htm?yikikata=7593b487-e571aa197f9a58947e98a2458a2124be&yikikata=df6fa307-cbff25b49a7eb32750acc1f3cae9e461)

### **If Biden Wants to Talk Nuclear Weapons, China Says U.S. Needs Less of Them**

*Newsweek, August 17, 2022*

As tensions over Taiwan continue to rage with the second visit by U.S. lawmakers in as many weeks to the disputed island, the United States and China remain at odds over Washington's efforts to add limits to Beijing's growing nuclear weapons arsenal, officials from both sides told Newsweek. The People's Republic said that if President Joe Biden's administration wants to engage in nuclear talks in good faith, he must first take steps to reduce his own country's far larger arsenal. The U.S. push for China to join in arms control measures began under former President Donald Trump, whose administration nearly allowed the last remaining bilateral non-proliferation treaty with Russia to expire over Chinese refusals. Biden renewed the pact, known as the New Strategic Arms Reduction Treaty (New START), shortly after taking office and days before it would have collapsed, but he too has called for Beijing to enter into discussions as the Tenth NPT Review Conference continued in New York.

<https://www.newsweek.com/if-biden-wants-talk-nuclear-weapons-china-says-us-needs-less-them-1734277>



## US bid to impede China's technological advancement is doomed

*Global Times, August 17, 2022*

The US government, following a year's meticulous planning, has crafted a new law to heavily subsidize America's private semiconductor manufacturers. Billed as the CHIPS and Science Act which US President Joe Biden signed a week ago, the law would provide a total of \$52.7 billion for American semiconductor research, development, manufacturing and workforce development. The White House, in a statement, boasts the new law will help lower American production costs, strengthen its own supply chain, as well as counter China's rise. A key provision of the act imposes limits on advanced semiconductor production in China for subsidy recipients. Like all recent US legislation meant to address its supply chain anxiety, the most prominent behind-the-scenes driver of the act is China. Or more precisely, fear of China.

<https://www.globaltimes.cn/page/202208/1273224.shtml>

## Chinese space-tracking ship docks at Sri Lanka's Hambantota port

*Global Times, August 18, 2022*

China's space-tracking ship Yuanwang-5 has docked at Sri Lanka's Hambantota International Port (HIP) for replenishment purposes. Chinese Ambassador to Sri Lanka Qi Zhenhong, Sri Lankan government officials and representatives of Chinese enterprises greeted the ship at the pier. Qi told the welcoming ceremony that the Hambantota port is a key cooperation project between China and Sri Lanka under the Belt and Road Initiative. The visit of Yuanwang-5 after sailing for more than 30 days shows that the traditional friendship between China and Sri Lanka is deep-rooted and everlasting, said the ambassador. The Sri Lankan president's representative Sarath Weerasekera said that the relationship between Sri Lanka and China has a long history and he believes that the call of Yuanwang-5 on Sri Lanka would help

consolidate and strengthen the traditional friendly relations between the two countries.

<https://www.globaltimes.cn/page/202208/1273272.shtml>

## CSIS' inflammatory games expose it has no clue how core China's sovereignty is to its 1.4 billion citizens

*Global Times, August 18, 2022*

The Center for Strategic and International Studies (CSIS) is ranked as the world's top defense and national security think tank. It was therefore a surprise when it was reported in the open press that CSIS-hosted war games which permitted players to exercise a ground invasion of sovereign China. Eager to demonstrate the value in fighting China, the Marine Corps have been marketing a dubious new doctrine to stake out and service turf in defense of Taiwan Island. In exercising their doctrine, retired Marine players liberally simulated numerous scenarios with only one prohibition, namely no nuclear weapons. One of the selected courses of action was the amphibious assault of a Marine Littoral Regiment on Taiwan, and subsequent combat with Chinese ashore. A US ground invasion of Taiwan was consistent with the US' new strategy for the 1st Island Chain. But CSIS' permitting that inflammatory game move and then cavalierly broadcasting it in the open press was disastrous.

<https://www.globaltimes.cn/page/202208/1273287.shtml>

## Domestic combat drone gets upgrade

*China Military Online, August 18, 2022*

The Caihong-4, China's top-selling unmanned combat aircraft, will soon have a more powerful engine that is expected to greatly improve its operational capability, according to its maker. The China Academy of Aerospace Aerodynamics in Beijing, a subsidiary of China Aerospace Science and Technology

Corp, said in a news release that a prototype equipped with a new type of heavy-fuel piston engine has recently completed all required tests to verify the drone's autonomous take-off and landing, load capacity, flight ceiling and radius, as well as other functions. The successful completion of the test flights confirmed that the upgraded drone is ready for operational deployment. The new version can be deployed on plateaus and islands and will also prove useful in civilian operations such as providing a signal relay in emergencies, extinguishing forest fires and obtaining data for city authorities, the academy said.

[http://eng.chinamil.com.cn/view/2022-08/18/content\\_10179086.htm](http://eng.chinamil.com.cn/view/2022-08/18/content_10179086.htm)

### **US, Australia lead joint drills to flex muscles, upend regional stability amid tensions in Taiwan Straits**

*Global Times, August 19, 2022*

Exercise Pitch Black, a military drill participated in by the US, Australia and other 15 countries, reportedly started on August 19 with the US' purpose being to pull more countries into an anti-China united frontline and show the "unity" of the West to pressure China over the Taiwan question. However, analysts noted that it is impossible for the US to form an alliance through one military exercise as participants have no shared goal and frequent US-led military drills will destabilize the regional environment. This year's Exercise Pitch Black will run from August 19 to September 8, and over 100 aircraft and 2,500 personnel from Australia, Canada, France, Germany, Indonesia, India, Japan, Malaysia, the Netherlands, New Zealand, the Philippines, South Korea, Singapore, Thailand, the UAE, US and UK will take part, in an effort to "enhance interoperability and develop strong relations between participating military forces," according to the Australian air force. According to information from Australia, the exercise will include day and night flying. It will be conducted in the Northern Territory of Australia, with forces primarily based from RAAF Base Darwin and RAAF Base Tindal.

<https://www.globaltimes.cn/page/202208/1273420.shtml>

### **World's 1st Hualong-1 nuclear power units operating smoothly in SE China**

*CGTN, August 20, 2022*

China's first power unit using the country's self-developed third-generation Hualong-1 technology has completed the very first phase of its commercial operation in Fuqing, southeast China's Fujian Province. The advanced unit, the fifth in the plant, began construction in 2015, went into commercial operation in January 2021 and offers important experiences for quantity production. The third-generation technology features both active and passive safety measures to avoid potential accidents like what happened to the 2nd-generation units of the Fukushima power plant. With a design life of 60 years, the Hualong-1 reactor has 177 reactor cores that need refuelling every 18 months. It meets the strictest safety standards in the world, according to the China National Nuclear Corporation.

<https://news.cgtn.com/news/2022-08-20/World-s-1st-Hualong-1-power-units-operating-smoothly-in-SE-China-1cEFnGXuDHw/index.html>

### **China's top space contractor CASC reveals new launch vehicle able to send Chinese to Moon by around 2030**

*Global Times, August 21, 2022*

China's new-generation manned rocket, which is currently under development, will possess the capability to send taikonauts to the Moon by around 2030, Global Times has learned from China's state-owned space giant China Aerospace Science and Technology Corporation (CASC). A CASC spokesperson made the remarks to the media after the Long March 2D carrier rocket smoothly sent the remote sensing Yaogan-35 04 group of satellites, which saw the country's Long March rocket series breaking its own record with 103 consecutive successful space launch missions. According to the CASC spokesperson, the country's super heavy-lift launch vehicle, which is also under

development, will receive further strengthening to become capable of sending payloads of 50 tons to the Earth-Moon transfer orbit on completion, in order to support future lunar activity.

<https://www.globaltimes.cn/page/202208/1273481.shtml>

### **Japan's plan to amass 1,000 long-range missiles against China 'has nothing to do with situation across Taiwan Straits, exposes Japan's peace-breaking ambitions'**

*Global Times, August 21, 2022*

Japan is considering amassing an arsenal of more than 1,000 long-range missiles capable of reaching foreign soil in a move to close the "missile gap" with China, Japanese media reported. An observer said such a decision to mass-produce such missiles, if confirmed, marks Japan's path to flexing its military muscles and a start for Tokyo to break the pacifist constitution of developing more weapons that the constitution forbids, and the country's further walking away from the pacifism after its defeat in World War II. Japan is considering amassing an arsenal of more than 1,000 of its planned long-range missiles, the Yomiuri newspaper reported, citing unidentified people with knowledge of the plans. The projectiles will be deployed mainly across the Nansei Islands and Kyushu, according to the article. By doing so, Japan is seeking to close the "missile gap" with China, Bloomberg reported.

<https://www.globaltimes.cn/page/202208/1273521.shtml>

### **PLA adopts nuclear deterrence to stop foreign intervention on Taiwan: analysts**

*South China Morning Post, August 21, 2022*

The People's Liberation Army (PLA) has adopted nuclear deterrence to try to stop the United States and Japan from directly intervening in a possible clash over Taiwan, but would exercise caution to avoid full-blown conflict, according to analysts. Days

before Beijing kicked off unprecedented war games near Taiwan in the wake of US House Speaker Nancy Pelosi's Taipei tour earlier this month, video footage of two vehicles carrying the two-stage liquid-fuel Dongfeng 5B intercontinental ballistic missile (ICBM) circulated on mainland social media platforms Weibo and WeChat. Videos showed other Dongfeng nuclear-capable missiles - including the road-mobile DF-27, DF-16 and DF-15B - moving through city streets.

<https://www.scmp.com/news/china/military/article/3189597/pla-adopts-nuclear-deterrence-stop-foreign-intervention-taiwan>

### **China begins mass production of its Hualong-1 nuclear power units**

*CGTN, August 21, 2022*

China's self-developed third-generation nuclear power unit Hualong-1 has entered the quantity production phase after the unit's first commercial operation in January last year. Two new Hualong-1 units are under construction at the Changjiang Nuclear Power Plant in China's southern island province of Hainan where some 30 percent of energy is created by nuclear power. More than 9,000 workers and 1,000 management staff are working at the construction site, according to the constructors. "We hope the new units at the Changjiang power plant can get connected to the grid as soon as possible," said Zhang Daqian, a senior engineer at the China Nuclear Industry 22nd Construction Company.

<https://news.cgtn.com/news/2022-08-21/China-begins-mass-production-of-its-Hualong-1-nuclear-power-units-1cGxVqQkplS/index.html>

### **China's space tracking ship Yuanwang-3 sails for maritime tracking, monitoring tasks**

*Global Times, August 22, 2022*

On August 22, China's space tracking ship Yuanwang-3 left a dock, bounding for the mission area to carry out maritime tracking and monitoring tasks. Since the beginning of the year, the ship has sailed



for more than 70 days and completed three sea tracking and monitoring missions including the launch of Shenzhou-14 manned mission, making it the first single ship mission in the history of Yuanwang series to break 100. Before the departure, the scientific and technical personnel have conducted the comprehensive overhaul and test of the onboard tracking and monitoring equipment, and carried out the practical operation drills. "On this voyage, we will be faced with practical tests such as long sailing time, great changes in time zones, aging equipment performance and variable weather conditions in the targeted area," said Sun Jiangping, director of Yuanwang-3's planning department.

<https://www.globaltimes.cn/page/202208/1273549.shtml>

### **China is building world's first commercial land-based SMR**

*CGTN, August 23, 2022*

China is building the "Linglong-1," a small modular reactor (SMR) in the country's southern island province of Hainan. It's the world's first of this type of reactor to be approved by the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA), and it intends to serve the region's diverse power needs. "We believe that there will be a trend of nuclear energy because it can be close to the load centers and based on customization," said Qu Yong, deputy chief engineer at Hainan Nuclear Power Co., Ltd.

<https://news.cgtn.com/news/2022-08-22/China-is-building-world-s-first-commercial-land-based-SMR-1c18GclqAuY/index.html>

### **China restarts mass production of Type 052D destroyers, media reports say**

*Global Times, August 23, 2022*

With five Type 052D destroyers allegedly spotted under construction at the Dalian Shipyard, China is said to have restarted the mass production of this type of warship, with

foreign media hyping that the fast pace of China's shipbuilding makes the Chinese People's Liberation Army (PLA) Navy "the largest navy in the world," a claim that Chinese analysts slammed as being the rhetoric of the "China threat" theory. An unverified picture recently circulating on social media showed what seemed to be five Type 052D destroyers at various stages of completion at the Dalian Shipyard in Northeast China's Liaoning Province, Paris-based media outlet Naval News reported. In addition to these five, at least one more is being built at the Jiangnan Changxing Shipyard in Shanghai, and they will soon join the 25 warships of the same class currently in service with the PLA Navy, Naval News said, citing observers. China has not officially announced its warship construction plan.

<https://www.globaltimes.cn/page/202208/1273665.shtml>

### **China's heat-seeking radar with 300km range boosts anti-stealth tech, say defence scientists**

*South China Morning Post, August 23, 2022*

Defence industry engineers in southwestern China have built a small infrared search-and-track system that can pick up the heat signature of a fast-moving aircraft from an unusually long distance, the team says. The medium-wave infrared system has detected and tracked civil aircraft from a distance of 285km (177 miles), according to a paper published in the peer-reviewed Chinese journal *Infrared and Laser Engineering*. "The outline of the target, the rotor, the tail and the number of engines can be clearly identified from the infrared spectrum image," said the team led by Liu Zhihui, an electrooptics engineer with defence contractor Sichuan Jiuzhou Electric Group Company.

<https://www.scmp.com/news/china/science/article/3189835/chinas-heat-seeking-radar-300km-range-boosts-anti-stealth-tech>

## Remarks by Ambassador Geng Shuang at the UN Security Council Briefing on the Situation Related to Zaporizhzhia Power Plant

*CGTN, August 24, 2022*

There is no room for trial and error when it comes to the safety and security of nuclear facilities," said Chinese Ambassador Geng Shuang at a United Nations Security Council Briefing on the situation. Geng adds, China supports the IAEA and encourages they conduct a visit to Zaporizhzhia nuclear power plant as soon as possible. Read Ambassador Geng Shuang's full remarks here: "I thank Under-Secretary-General DiCarlo for her briefing. When the Council last time considered the issue of the safety of Ukraine's nuclear facilities, members expressed concerns about the safety of the Zaporizhzhia nuclear power plant..."

<https://newsus.cgtn.com/news/2022-08-24/Remarks-by-Ambassador-Geng-Shuang-at-the-UN-Security-Council-Briefing-1cKpTXYNEdy/index.html>

## US, Australia discuss possibility of B-21 bomber deal, 'posing serious threats to China'

*Global Times, August 24, 2022*

Following the AUKUS nuclear-powered submarine deal, a senior US official reportedly said recently that the US would consider providing Australia with B-21 bombers, the in-development successor to the B-2 stealth bomber that experts said would enable Australia to launch long-range strikes against China, thus posing serious threats to China. US Air Force Secretary Frank Kendall made the remark at a media briefing after meeting with newly minted Royal Australian Air Force chief Air Marshal Robert Chipman on August 22 in Canberra, The Strategist, a website affiliated with the Australian Strategic Policy Institute, reported. Kendall again hyped the "China threat" theory, claiming the US and its allies were "concerned about Chinese behavior" in the South China Sea as well as China's military modernization program. "We are in what I consider to be a race for military

technological superiority with the Chinese," Kendall said.

<https://www.globaltimes.cn/page/202208/1273753.shtml>

## CSIS' war games, designed for cognitive warfare against China, will have little influence

*Global Times, August 24, 2022*

US politicians' provocative visits to Taiwan island, especially the one led by House Speaker Nancy Pelosi, have triggered a new round of escalation of tensions in the Taiwan Straits. Western media is hyping the possibility of a conflict accidentally being sparked. Against this backdrop, not only the US military, but also private think tanks have been focusing on research and predictions on regional military situations and war scenarios. Recently, the Center for Strategic and International Studies (CSIS), a US think tank, has conducted scenario planning for a possible war in the Taiwan Straits. In terms of such war games, unlike those carried out by officials and military, which tries to provide sufficient conditions to pursue secret simulations that are close to reality, the public simulations of private think tanks have a clear purpose: to express their established academic views and find reasons through military simulation, they always need to limit conditions, manipulate the simulation process and come to the conclusions they already held.

<https://www.globaltimes.cn/page/202208/1273757.shtml>

## Chinese defense chief delivers video speech at SCO defense ministers meeting

*China Military Online, August 24, 2022*

The 19th meeting of the Council of Defense Ministers of the Member States of the Shanghai Cooperation Organization (SCO) is held in Tashkent, Uzbekistan, on August 24, 2022. Chinese State Councilor and Defense Minister Wei Fenghe attended and addressed the meeting via video link. Wei said that the human society is facing



multiple crises and severe challenges rarely seen in history. The more in the times of difficulties and crisis, the more we must work together to overcome difficulties. The Global Security Initiative (GSI) proposed by the Chinese President Xi Jinping has provided a right solution to international security challenges. China is willing to work with other countries to uphold international fairness, justice and world peace and tranquility.

[http://eng.chinamil.com.cn/view/2022-08/24/content\\_10180255.htm](http://eng.chinamil.com.cn/view/2022-08/24/content_10180255.htm)

### **How hypersonic bullets could threaten the human body: a Chinese military team investigates**

*South China Morning Post, August 25, 2022*

Hypersonic bullets leave large craterlike wounds in flesh, but do not penetrate the skin and flesh as a solid substance like traditional shots, according to a live animal study by military researchers in China. The researchers from an army medical centre in the southwestern municipality of Chongqing fired high-speed 5mm steel bullets at sedated young male pigs to assess the potential impact of hypersonic weapons on the human body. Hypersonic weapons are an intense area of military research, with Russian defence contractor Lobaev Arms saying in 2019 that it was developing a hypersonic rifle that could accelerate a bullet to nearly Mach 6.

<https://www.scmp.com/news/china/science/article/3190043/how-hypersonic-bullets-could-threaten-human-body-chinese>

### **PLA aircraft carrier Shandong holds drills in South China Sea in full combat group**

*Global Times, August 25, 2022*

The Shandong, the Chinese People's Liberation Army (PLA) Navy's second aircraft carrier and the first domestically built, recently held comprehensive drills in the South China Sea in a group consisting of full combat elements, which analysts said showed the carrier is becoming ready for far sea operations. The aircraft carrier Shandong

conducted realistic combat-oriented exercises in an undisclosed area in the South China Sea in early autumn to comprehensively test the force's combat capabilities, the PLA South Sea Fleet said in a press release. During the drills, the Shandong hosted takeoff and landing operations of J-15 carrier-based fighter jets, and practiced replenishment-at-sea operations, according to the press release.

<https://www.globaltimes.cn/page/202208/1273881.shtml>

### **China urges U.S., Britain, Australia to reverse decisions on nuclear submarine cooperation**

*Xinhua, August 25, 2022*

A Chinese defense spokesperson urged the United States, Britain and Australia to fulfill their obligations concerning nuclear non-proliferation and revoke their decisions on nuclear submarine cooperation. Nuclear submarine cooperation among these three countries poses severe nuclear proliferation risks, challenges the international framework for nuclear non-proliferation, escalates the arms race and undermines regional peace and stability, said Tan Kefei, spokesperson for the Ministry of National Defense, at a press conference. The United States and Britain would openly violate the purposes and principles of the Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons (NPT) if they transfer weapons-grade nuclear materials to non-nuclear-weapon states, Tan said. Tan called on the international community to jointly defend the NPT-based international nuclear non-proliferation regime.

<https://english.news.cn/20220825/4d546af9b82e4bb785a2d2cb2a0ebfdc/c.html>

### **Plasma detector, a watcher on China's space station**

*Xinhua, August 25, 2022*

A plasma in-situ imaging detector will be installed on the Wentian lab module's extravehicular platform to measure various plasma parameters in the orbit of

China's space station, said the China Manned Space Agency. Wentian, the first lab module of China's space station, was sent to space on July 24 and has operated in orbit for nearly a month. In addition to the scientific experiment cabinets, Wentian also carries two extravehicular detectors. They include the plasma in-situ imaging detector and an energy particle detector, to be installed on the extravehicular platform as planned.

<https://english.news.cn/20220825/15f6e344c78242a5ace3a53ced45ea0a/c.html>

### **Int'l counter-terrorism forum "Great Wall-2022" to be held in Beijing**

*China Military Online, August 25, 2022*

"Chinese People's Armed Police Force (PAP) is to host the International Forum on Counter-terrorism 'Great Wall-2022' in Beijing from August 30 to 31," said Senior Colonel Tan Kefei, a spokesperson for China's Ministry of National Defense, at a regular press conference. The forum, with the theme of counter-terrorism, has two topics, namely, "research on international cooperation against terrorism by military police forces" and "research on counter-terrorism operations via unmanned and intelligent weapon platforms in cities, mountains and other environments". According to the spokesperson, the forum is to be held both online and offline, with Chinese personnel and military attachés (or representatives of the military police forces) in China attending the event offline, and overseas personnel online.

[http://eng.chinamil.com.cn/view/2022-08/25/content\\_10180474.htm](http://eng.chinamil.com.cn/view/2022-08/25/content_10180474.htm)

### **China opposes any third party meddling in China-India border issue: Defense Spokesperson**

*China Military Online, August 25, 2022*

"We firmly oppose any third party to meddle in the China-India border issue in any form,"

said Senior Colonel Tan Kefei, a spokesperson for China's Ministry of National Defense (MND) at a regular press conference in Beijing when being asked about his comments on the ongoing and future US-India joint military exercises near the China-India border. The spokesperson made it clear that China has always stressed that military cooperation of relevant countries, especially on exercises and training activities, should not be targeted at any third party, but rather serve to help maintain regional peace and stability. As the spokesperson said, the China-India border issue is a matter between the two countries. Both sides have maintained effective communications at all levels and agreed to properly handle the situation through bilateral dialogues. In light of the relevant agreements signed by China and India in 1993 and 1996, neither side is allowed to conduct military exercise against the other in areas near the Line of Actual Control, Tan stressed.

[http://eng.chinamil.com.cn/view/2022-08/25/content\\_10180490.htm](http://eng.chinamil.com.cn/view/2022-08/25/content_10180490.htm)

### **Chinese scientists create a 'plasma shower' to improve stealth bomber performance**

*South China Morning Post, August 26, 2022*

Chinese researchers say they have developed a plasma device that could significantly improve the aerodynamic performance of stealth bombers. The device is a strip of thin membrane covering the front area of a flying wing aircraft. When the speed of air flowing on top of the wings slows to a point that could lead to a stall, the membrane senses danger in advance and ionises air molecules with high-voltage electricity, generating a shower of plasma – or electrically charged particles – over the wings.

<https://www.scmp.com/news/china/science/article/3190239/chinese-scientists-create-plasma-shower-improve-stealth-bomber>

## **China's sub-orbital carrier makes 1st successful repeated-use flight, a great step forward in reusable space transportation technologies**

*Global Times, August 26, 2022*

China's reusable sub-orbital space carrier made its first successful repeated-use experiment flight, the developer China Aerospace Science and Technology Corp (CASC) announced. This is a great step forward of China's development in reusable space transportation technologies, the corporation said. The vehicle, a lifting-body sub-orbital carrier, was reused and launched vertically in the Jiuquan Satellite Launch Center in Northwest China's Gansu Province after receiving inspection and maintenance, the China Central Television reported citing an announcement of the CASC. It landed stably at an airport in Alxa Right Banner in North China's Inner Mongolia Autonomous Region after finishing a flight in the sub-orbit as planned, according to the announcement.

<https://www.globaltimes.cn/page/202208/1273944.shtml>

## **China completes test of reusable, sub-orbital vehicle**

*China Military Online, August 26, 2022*

China successfully completed the test of a self-developed, reusable, sub-orbital vehicle. The vehicle was launched "vertically" from the Jiuquan Satellite Launch Center in the northwest of the country, according to the China Academy of Launch Vehicle Technology, the developer of the vehicle. The vehicle was lifted off after inspection and maintenance. It was its second launch. The vehicle then completed the sub-orbital flight in accordance with the set procedure and landed "stably and horizontally" on the Alxa Right Banner airport. It marks China's first successful reusable flight of a sub-orbital vehicle.

[http://eng.chinamil.com.cn/view/2022-08/26/content\\_10181133.htm](http://eng.chinamil.com.cn/view/2022-08/26/content_10181133.htm)

## **Chinese commercial satellite firms attract renewed financing, as huge market potential of over 100b yuan gains momentum**

*Global Times, August 29, 2022*

China's aerospace companies took the leap to make great progress in satellite launch, with the country's reusable sub-orbital space carrier made its first successful repeated-use experiment flight, which experts said has boosted the morale of private aerospace firms as the huge market potential of over 100 billion yuan (\$14.45 billion) in the country's commercial aerospace sector gains pace. As China's commercial space sector has entered a fast-development track after several years of high-speed development, domestic investors are shifting their focus to the commercial satellite sector, with start-ups recently attracting more financing along with their robust growth.

<https://www.globaltimes.cn/page/202208/1274132.shtml>

## **China upholds NPT despite recent Review Conference results**

*CGTN, August 29, 2022*

The Chinese Foreign Ministry said on Monday that China will keep defending the Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons (NPT) despite the recent disappointment of the NPT review conference results. A spokesperson Zhao Lijian made the remarks in a regular press conference in response to China's take on the results of the 10th Review Conference of the Parties to the NPT. "China showed deep regret that the conference was not able to reach consensus, but again it proved that treaty mechanism isn't running in vacuum", said Zhao, adding that the conference wasn't a failure though the final document wasn't agreed upon.

<https://news.cgtn.com/news/2022-08-29/China-upholds-NPT-despite-recent-Review-Conference-results-1cTxXH6qdyw/index.html>

## Japan should learn from history, win intl trust, Chinese FM says amid Tokyo's ambition in hypersonic weapons

*Global Times, August 30, 2022*

Japan should learn from history and be cautious in words and deeds concerning military and security issues, so that it can win the trust of its neighboring countries and the international society, a Chinese Foreign Ministry spokesperson said after Japanese defense chief Yasukazu Hamada stated that Japan needs to improve its missile interceptor and counterattack capabilities. Hamada made the remarks during a Monday interview per discussions on hypersonic weapons. Some observers believed the declaration is targeted toward China, Russia and North Korea. Chinese Foreign Ministry spokesperson Zhao Lijian said at routine press briefing that Japan has gone further and further on the road of military expansion in recent years, including greatly increasing military budgets, vigorously developing anti-missile, outer space, hypersonic weapons and other military technologies, strengthening US-Japan military cooperation, and seeking to develop its so-called counterattack capability. Some people even advocated for "nuclear sharing" with the US, allowing the deployment of American nuclear weapons to Japanese territory.

<https://www.globaltimes.cn/page/202208/1274214.shtml>

## Chinese team claims 'highly reliable' communications during hypersonic flight

*South China Morning Post, August 30, 2022*

A team of scientists in Beijing claim they have achieved "highly reliable" ground communications during hypersonic weapon test flights. The system could allow ground control to stay in constant contact with a hypersonic vehicle as it travelled at more than 20 times the speed of sound at high altitudes, researchers from the Science and Technology on Space Physics Laboratory said. Lead scientist Li Bin and the team called it a "major breakthrough" in a paper

on their findings in Chinese peer-reviewed journal Missiles and Space Vehicles on August 10.

<https://www.scmp.com/news/china/science/article/3190695/chinese-team-claims-highly-reliable-communications-during>

## US' plan to sell missiles to Taiwan island after Pelosi's visit slammed as provocative, futile

*Global Times, August 30, 2022*

The US is reportedly planning to sell an arms package involving anti-ship and air-to-air missiles worth \$1.1 billion to the island of Taiwan only weeks after US House Speaker Nancy Pelosi's provocative visit to the island, a move analysts said is yet another ill-intended provocation that will only escalate tensions in the region. While the arms sale will be futile in changing the absolute superiority of the Chinese People's Liberation Army (PLA) over Taiwan's armed forces, the PLA will be well-ready to deal with them, experts said. The Biden administration plans to formally ask Congress to approve an estimated \$1.1 billion arms sale to Taiwan, US news outlet Politico reported, citing sources with direct knowledge of the package.

<https://www.globaltimes.cn/page/202208/1274194.shtml>

## China's Sun-probing satellite achieves 5 historic 'firsts,' data shared globally: developer

*Global Times, August 30, 2022*

China's first solar probing satellite released its observation results in Beijing, setting five "world's firsts" which are of great significance to solar exploration missions and will boost China's influence in the field of space science. Since its launch in October 2021, the satellite has collected and transmitted some 50 terabits (Tb) of observation data and 300 Tb of scientific data, all of it open for world players to share, and these observations have already been widely applied by scholars in the US, France and Germany, the Global Times



learned from the project developer. The satellite, named Xihe, was launched into orbit on October 14, 2021. Weighing 510 kilograms, it operates at an altitude of 517 kilometers in a dusk-dawn Sun-synchronous orbit.

<https://www.globaltimes.cn/page/202208/1274243.shtml>

### **Thailand cooperates with China to pursue fusion energy**

*Global Times, August 31, 2022*

A group of scientists and engineers from Thailand are currently conducting research and experiments related to fusion energy with their Chinese colleagues in Hefei, the capital of east China's Anhui Province. This is a part of the Thailand Tokamak 1 (TT-1) cooperation project between the two countries. A tokamak is an experimental machine in which an ultra-high temperature plasma can be created and maintained to simulate the necessary conditions for fusion reaction. "We are here to learn how to operate the tokamak machine, which was donated to Thailand under the witness of Thai Princess Maha Chakri Sirindhorn in 2018. The machine will be disassembled and then shipped to Thailand," said Dr. Nopporn Poolyarat, head of Fusion and Plasma Division of Thailand Institute of Nuclear Technology (TINT).

<https://www.globaltimes.cn/page/202208/1274290.shtml>

### **D. Pakistan**

#### **Pakistan PM Shehbaz Sharif seeks 'permanent peace' with India, says 'war not an option'**

*Livemint, August 20, 2022*

'We want permanent peace with India through dialogue', Pakistan's Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif was quoted by *The News International*. The Prime Minister was talking to a group of students from Harvard University when he mentioned that 'war is not an option' for either India or

Pakistan. "We want permanent peace with India through dialogue as war is not an option for either of the countries," he was quoted saying by the news media house. Notably, the PM also added a hint of the Kashmir controversy, wherein he mentioned that sustainable peace in South Asia was linked to the resolution of Pakistan-occupied Kashmir (PoK).

<https://www.livemint.com/news/world/pakistan-prime-minister-shehbaz-sharif-seeks-permanent-peace-with-india-says-war-not-an-option-11660990808700.html>

#### **India sacks 3 for accidentally launching missile into Pakistan in March**

*Reuters, August 23, 2022*

The Indian Air Force said on Tuesday the government had sacked three officers for accidentally firing a missile into Pakistan in March, an incident that the two nuclear-armed rivals handled calmly as there were no casualties. Military experts have in the past warned of the risk of accidents or miscalculations by the neighbours, which have fought three wars and engaged in numerous smaller armed clashes. The BrahMos missile – a nuclear-capable, land-attack cruise missile jointly developed by Russia and India – was fired on March 9, prompting Pakistan to seek answers from New Delhi on the safety mechanisms in place to prevent accidental launches.

<https://www.dawn.com/news/1706415/india-sacks-3-for-accidentally-launching-missile-into-pakistan-in-march>

#### **Pakistan rejects India's closure of missile firing incident**

*Al Jazeera, August 24, 2022*

Pakistan has rejected India's closure of the incident of the firing of a supersonic missile into Pakistani territory on March 9, and reiterated a demand for a joint probe, the Ministry of Foreign Affairs said on Wednesday. The Indian Air Force on Tuesday said at the end of its inquiry that



the government had sacked three officers for accidentally firing a missile into Pakistan in March. The BrahMos missile, a nuclear-capable, land-attack cruise missile jointly developed by Russia and India – was fired on March 9, prompting Pakistan to seek answers from New Delhi on the safety mechanisms in place to prevent accidental launches. “Pakistan categorically rejects India’s purported closure of the highly irresponsible incident and reiterates its demand for a joint probe,” a foreign office statement said.

<https://www.aljazeera.com/news/2022/8/24/pakistan-rejects-indias-closure-of-missile-firing-incident>

### **Pakistan dismisses Afghan Minister’s allegation about allowing use of its airspace by U.S. for drone attacks**

*The Hindu, August 29, 2022*

Pakistan has rejected allegations by the Taliban’s acting Defence Minister about the use of its airspace by the U.S. for drone attacks in Afghanistan, saying his remarks were “highly regrettable” and defied the “norms of responsible diplomatic conduct.” The allegations were made by Mohammad Yaqoob on Sunday, nearly a month after al-Qaeda leader Ayman al-Zawahiri was killed by a missile fired from a CIA drone against his hideout in central Kabul on July 31. The attack was the first known strike by the U.S. on a target in Afghanistan since Washington withdrew its forces from the war-torn country on August 31 last year.

<https://www.thehindu.com/news/international/pakistan-dismisses-afghan-ministers-allegation-about-allowing-use-of-its-airspace-by-us-for-drone-attacks/article65825633.ece>

### **E. Europe**

#### **A culture of civil defence is key to Europe’s resilience**

*Euractiv, August 25, 2022*

Europe’s strategic turning point in reaction to the war in Ukraine has been, at least in

public perception, dominated by the discussion on military budgets, rearmament, and more effective procurement and deployment of European military capabilities.

<https://www.euractiv.com/section/defence-and-security/opinion/a-culture-of-civil-defence-is-key-to-europes-resilience/>

### **F. Ukraine**

#### **‘The war has come to Crimea as well, and Ukraine will liberate it’**

*EURACTIV, August 24, 2022*

The US statements that Crimea is Ukraine and that American weapons donated to Ukraine can be used to attack this territory became the final argument that war has come to Crimea as well, writes Roman Rukomeda.

<https://www.euractiv.com/section/global-europe/opinion/the-war-has-come-to-crimea-as-well-and-ukraine-will-liberate-it/>

#### **How to Avoid a Nuclear Disaster in Ukraine**

*The New York Times, Aug. 27, 2022*

There were reports on Saturday that the International Atomic Energy Agency has a team of experts ready to visit Ukraine’s Zaporizhzhia Nuclear Power Plant within days. It would not be a minute too soon: Artillery shells are landing with chilling regularity in and around the facility, Europe’s largest nuclear power station.

<https://www.nytimes.com/2022/08/27/opinion/nuclear-plant-ukraine-russia-zaporizhzhia.html?searchResultPosition=1>

#### **With Disaster Looming, Inspectors Set to Visit Ukraine Nuclear Plant**

*The New York Times, Aug. 27, 2022*

As renewed shelling intensified fears about a nuclear accident at the Zaporizhzhia power plant, the Ukrainian authorities stepped up emergency drills on Saturday and rushed to hand out potassium iodide, a drug that can protect

people from radiation-induced thyroid cancer to tens of thousands of people living near the facility.

<https://www.nytimes.com/2022/08/27/world/europe/inspectors-ukraine-nuclear-zaporizhzhia.html?searchResultPosition=4>

### **Zaporizhzhia nuclear plant power supply is back**

*CNN News, Aug. 29, 2022*

The power supply from the Russian-controlled nuclear plant in Zaporizhzhia, Ukraine, is now back online and reconnected to the country's power grid. The plant lost connection on Thursday after fires damaged a key power line.

<https://edition.cnn.com/videos/world/2022/08/27/zaporizhzhia-ukraine-nuclear-plant-power-supply-reconnected-kiley-pkg-intl-ndwknd-vpx.cnn/video/playlists/russia-ukraine-military-conflict/>

### **Ukraine Launches Southern Offensive, as Inspectors Head to Nuclear Plant**

*The New York Times, Aug. 29, 2022*

Ukrainian forces launched ground assaults on Monday in multiple areas along the front in the Kherson region of southern Ukraine, apparently stepping up a counteroffensive aimed at recapturing territory seized by Russia.

<https://www.nytimes.com/2022/08/29/world/europe/ukraine-russia-counteroffensive.html?searchResultPosition=3>

### **Ukraine narrowly escapes nuclear catastrophe as plant loses power, Zelenskyy says**

*EURACTIV, August 26, 2022*

Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelenskyy said the world narrowly avoided a radiation disaster as electricity to Ukraine's Zaporizhzhia nuclear power plant was cut for hours due to Russian shelling in the area, allegations that Moscow denied.

<https://www.euractiv.com/section/europe-s-east/news/ukraine-narrowly-escapes-nuclear-catastrophe-as-plant-loses-power-zelenskyy-says/>

### **Zelenskyy says danger remains after nuclear plant resumes power supply**

*EURACTIV, August 27, 2022*

Ukraine's president on Friday (26 August) said the situation at the Zaporizhzhia nuclear power plant remains "very risky" after two of its six reactors were reconnected to the grid following shelling that caused Europe's largest nuclear power plant to be disconnected for the first time in its history.

<https://www.euractiv.com/section/global-europe/news/zelenskyy-says-danger-remains-after-nuclear-plant-resumes-power-supply/>

### **G. Estonia**

#### **Russian visa bans a matter of national security and EU credibility, says Estonia's PM**

*EURACTIV, August 25, 2022*

To protect national security and the integrity of EU sanctions, the bloc must impose a travel ban on tourism on Russian citizens until Moscow ends its invasion of Ukraine, Estonia's Prime Minister Kaja Kallas told EURACTIV.

<https://www.euractiv.com/section/global-europe/interview/russian-visa-ban-a-matter-of-national-security-and-eu-credibility-says-estonias-pm/>

### **H. France**

#### **French President Macron Reiterates Support for IAEA Mission to Ukraine's Zaporizhzhya Nuclear Power Plant**

*IAEA, August 26, 2022*

IAEA Director General Rafael Mariano Grossi met with President Emmanuel Macron yesterday in Paris, in an important step to the IAEA's imminent mission to Ukraine's Zaporizhzhya Nuclear Power Plant. President Macron, who reiterated his support of the IAEA's

activities, has played key role in facilitating the mission.

<https://www.iaea.org/newscenter/news/president-macron-reiterates-support-for-iaea-mission-to-ukraines-zaporizhzhya-nuclear-power-plant>

### **French President Macron wraps up visit to Algeria**

*DW.com, August 27, 2022*

The French and Algerian presidents Saturday resolved to mend relations after a series of disputes. While their agreements were thin on specifics, the trip concluded on cordial terms. Turkey, however, was less pleased

<https://www.dw.com/en/french-president-macron-wraps-up-visit-to-algeria/a-62952967>

## **I. Germany**

### **Leaders of US, UK, France, Germany discuss Iran nuclear issue**

*EURACTIV, August 22, 2022*

The leaders of the United States, Britain, France and Germany discussed efforts to revive the 2015 Iran nuclear deal, the White House said on Sunday (21 August) in a statement largely focused on Ukraine.

<https://www.euractiv.com/section/global-europe/news/leaders-of-us-uk-france-germany-discuss-iran-nuclear-issue/>

### **Scholz's SPD lawmakers demand an end to Ukraine war, negotiations with Russia**

*EURACTIV, August 26, 2022*

German Chancellor Olaf Scholz, who is steering his pacifist SPD party through precedent-breaking arms shipments for Ukraine after Russia's invasion, has been called on to engage in a diplomatic offensive by lawmakers.

<https://www.euractiv.com/section/politics/news/scholzs-spd-lawmakers-demand-an-end-to-ukraine-war-negotiations-with-russia/>

## **J. IAEA**

### **IAEA Director General Statement on Situation in Ukraine**

*IAEA, August 19, 2022*

The Director General of the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA), Rafael Mariano Grossi, today renewed his urgent appeal for maximum military restraint in the area of Ukraine's Zaporizhzhya Nuclear Power Plant (ZNPP) following new signs of rising tension over Europe's largest such facility.

<https://www.iaea.org/newscenter/pressreleases/update-92-iaea-director-general-statement-on-situation-in-ukraine>

### **IAEA Director General Statement on Situation in Ukraine**

*IAEA, August 23, 2022*

Ukraine has informed the International Atomic Energy Agency that renewed shelling in recent days caused additional damage in the area of the country's Zaporizhzhya Nuclear Power Plant (ZNPP), once again highlighting the serious nuclear safety and security risks facing the facility and underlining the urgent need for an IAEA expert mission to go there, Director General Rafael Mariano Grossi said today.

<https://www.iaea.org/newscenter/pressreleases/update-93-iaea-director-general-statement-on-situation-in-ukraine>

### **IAEA Director General Statement on Situation in Ukraine**

*IAEA, August 25, 2022*

Ukraine has informed the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA) that the country's Zaporizhzhya Nuclear Power Plant (ZNPP) today temporarily lost connection to its last remaining operational 750 kilovolt (kV) external power line, Director General Rafael Mariano Grossi said, further underlining

the urgent need for an IAEA expert mission to travel to the facility.

<https://www.iaea.org/newscenter/pressreleases/update-94-iaea-director-general-statement-on-situation-in-ukraine>

### **IAEA Director General Statement on Situation in Ukraine**

*IAEA, August 26, 2022*

Ukraine informed the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA) today that the country's Zaporizhzhya Nuclear Power Plant (ZNPP) continued to have access to off-site electrical power for cooling and other safety functions and that one of its reactor units had been reconnected to the national grid, a day after the plant temporarily lost connection to a vital power line, Director General Rafael Mariano Grossi said.

<https://www.iaea.org/newscenter/pressreleases/update-95-iaea-director-general-statement-on-situation-in-ukraine-0>

### **K. Montenegro**

#### **Cyberattack hits Montenegro government, defence minister points at Russia**

*EURACTIV, August 28, 2022*

A major cyberattack has targeted government institutions in Montenegro, Prime Minister Dritan Abazovic announced, with Russia the chief suspect.

<https://www.euractiv.com/section/global-europe/news/cyberattack-hits-montenegro-government-defence-minister-points-at-russia/>

### **L. NATO**

#### **NATO ready to step up forces if Serbia-Kosovo tensions escalate**

*EURACTIV, August 18, 2022*

NATO will increase its peacekeeping force in Kosovo if there is an escalation of tensions with neighbouring Serbia, the alliance's chief said on Wednesday (17 August), on

the eve of EU-facilitated talks between the estranged western Balkan neighbours.

<https://www.euractiv.com/section/defence-and-security/news/nato-ready-to-step-up-forces-if-serbia-kosovo-tensions-escalate/>

### **NATO: Sweden, Finland, Turkey meet over accession bids**

*DW.com, August 26, 2022*

Envoys of the three countries were meeting for the first time since their key agreement in June. Ankara's opposition has continued to work as an obstacle for Finnish and Swedish NATO accession

<https://www.dw.com/en/nato-sweden-finland-turkey-meet-over-accession-bids/a-62942517>

### **M. Netherlands**

#### **Dutch city of The Hague seeks exemption from EU sanctions against Russia**

*EURACTIV, August 26, 2022*

The Dutch city of The Hague on Thursday (25 August) said it would ask for a temporary exemption of EU sanctions against Russia, as it struggles to find a replacement for its contract with Russian gas supplier Gazprom in time.

<https://www.euractiv.com/section/energy-environment/news/dutch-city-of-the-hague-seeks-exemption-from-eu-sanctions-against-russia/>

#### **Thorizon raises funds for MSR development**

*World Nuclear News, August 23, 2022*

Thorizon of the Netherlands has raised EUR12.5 million (USD12.4 million) for the development of a thorium molten salt reactor (MSR). Thorizon is a spin-off from the Nuclear Research and Consultancy Group (NRG), the organisation that operates the High Flux Reactor in Petten. Thorizon said the investors "are a strong team of private and public sector parties".



The private investors are venture capital fund Positron Ventures (lead investor), impact investor Invest-NL, one private investor, and the company Huisman which not only invests but will also become an industrial supplier. The public sector investors are the two provincial funds PDENH (lead investor) and Impuls Zeeland. The company said it has been working on a thorium molten salt reactor “for several years”. Its design uses a mixture of existing long-lived waste and the abundant metal thorium, whereby “a large amount of the long-lived waste can be turned into short-lived waste and CO<sub>2</sub>-free energy”.

<https://www.world-nuclear-news.org/Articles/Thorizon-raises-funds-for-MSR-development>

### **N. Poland**

#### **Poland, Czechia to protect Slovak airspace as Soviet-made jets retired**

*DW.com, August 27, 2022*

Slovakia will have Polish and Czech fighter jets protect its airspace as it gives up its old Soviet-made MiGs. The NATO allies are chiming in to uphold the eastern flank until Slovakia receives new jets in 2024.

<https://www.dw.com/en/poland-czechia-to-protect-slovak-airspace-as-soviet-made-jets-retired/a-62952215>

#### **Poland amends laws to speed investment in nuclear energy**

*World Nuclear News, August 18, 2022*

Poland’s Council of Ministers has adopted a draft act amending the act on the preparation and implementation of investments in nuclear power facilities and associated investments, the country’s National Atomic Energy Agency (*Państwowa Agencja Atomistyki*) announced. The main goal of the changes is to shorten the time of investment implementation. In September last year, it was announced that six large pressurised water reactors with a combined installed capacity of 6-9 GWe could be built by 2040 as part of Poland’s plan to reduce its historic heavy reliance on coal. According to the adopted schedule, the construction of the first nuclear power plant in Poland will

start in 2026, with the first reactor, with a capacity of 1-1.6 GWe, being commissioned in 2033. Subsequent units will be implemented every 2-3 years.

The investment required for this is estimated at PLN150 billion (USD32 billion).

<https://www.world-nuclear-news.org/Articles/Poland-amends-laws-to-speed-investment-in-nuclear>

### **O. United Kingdom**

#### **UK spy chief says Putin is losing information war in Ukraine**

*EURACTIV, August 19, 2022*

Russia has failed to gain ground in cyberspace against Ukraine almost six months after its invasion of the country, the head of Britain’s GCHQ intelligence service said on Friday (19 August).

<https://www.euractiv.com/section/global-europe/news/uk-spy-chief-says-putin-is-losing-information-war-in-ukraine/>

#### **PM address to Crimea Platform summit: 23 August 2022**

*GOV.uk, August 23, 2022*

I want to congratulate President Volodymyr Zelenskyy particularly for bringing us together and focusing our attention on Russia’s illegal annexation of Crimea because that land grab in 2014 was the direct precursor to today’s war, and we should have the humility to acknowledge that not everyone realised the sheer enormity of what was happening at the time.

<https://www.gov.uk/government/speeches/pm-address-to-crimea-platform-summit-23-august-2022>

#### **Prime Minister tells Ukraine “they will win” as he marks Independence Day: 24 August 2022**

*GOV.uk, August 24, 2022*

The Prime Minister has travelled to Kyiv today in a show of strength and solidarity

with Ukraine as he tells President Zelenskyy his country 'can and will win the war'.

<https://www.gov.uk/government/news/prime-minister-tells-ukraine-they-will-win-as-he-marks-independence-day-24-august-2022>

### **UK donating undersea minehunter drones to help Ukraine clear coastline**

*GOV.uk, August 27, 2022*

Dozens of Ukrainian personnel will be taught to use the autonomous minehunting vehicles by the Royal Navy and our US partners over the coming months

<https://www.gov.uk/government/news/uk-donating-undersea-minehunter-drones-to-help-ukraine-clear-coastline>

### **Cyber Co-operation with Germany Strengthens**

*GOV.uk, August 27, 2022*

Lieutenant General Tom Copinger-Symes, Deputy Commander Strategic Command, has visited the German Cyber and Information Domain Service (CIDS) as part of a co-operation programme between the two organisations.

<https://www.gov.uk/government/news/cyber-co-operation-with-germany-strengthens>

## ***P. United States***

### **US Air Force conducts nuclear missile test delayed amid China tension**

*Defense News, August 16, 2022*

The U.S. Air Force early carried out a test of an unarmed intercontinental ballistic missile, which was already delayed 12 days to avoid inflaming tension with China. Air Force Global Strike Command said in a release that the Minuteman III missile was launched from Vandenberg Space Force Base in California by the 576th Flight Test Squadron a little before 1 a.m. Pacific Standard Time. The ICBM was equipped with a test re-entry vehicle, the release said,

which splashed down about 4,200 miles from its original launch point in the Kwajalein Atoll in the Marshall Islands, the command said. The command added the test verified the Minuteman III is accurate and reliable, and produced data that will help ensure the nation's nuclear deterrent is safe, secure and effective. Squadron commander Col. Chris Cruise said in the release that the test shows the nuclear triad – which also includes the ability to launch nuclear weapons from submarines and drop them from nuclear-capable bombers such as the B-2 Spirit stealth bomber – is the “cornerstone” of national security for the U.S. and its allies.

<https://www.defensenews.com/air/2022/08/16/us-air-force-conducts-nuclear-missile-test-delayed-amid-china-tension/>

### **US Air Force tests nuclear-capable long-range missile**

*CNN News, August 16, 2022*

The US Air Force on Tuesday tested an unarmed nuclear-capable long-range missile, according to the Air Force Global Strike Command. The unarmed Minuteman III intercontinental ballistic missile, equipped with a test reentry vehicle, was launched from Vandenberg Air Force Base in California and traveled 4,200 miles to a test range near the Marshall Islands.

<https://edition.cnn.com/2022/08/16/politics/us-air-force-nuclear-capable-missile/index.html>

### **Inside the Making of New York City's Bizarre Nuclear War P.S.A.**

*The New York Times, Aug. 23, 2022*

The 90-second public service announcement, which instructed New Yorkers about what to do during a nuclear attack, was released by the city's Department of Emergency Management in July.

<https://www.nytimes.com/2022/08/23/nyregion/nuclear-attack-video-psa.html?searchResultPosition=8>

## After the Rushdie Attack, Can the Iran Nuclear Deal Be Saved?

*The New York Times, Aug. 23, 2022*

During his campaign for the presidency, Joe Biden vowed to restore U.S. participation in the Iran nuclear deal, which he said Donald Trump had “recklessly tossed away.” And after more than a year of negotiations hobbled by deadlocks and delays, there appeared on Monday to be signs of progress when Iran responded to what European Union officials described as the “final text” of an updated agreement.

<https://www.nytimes.com/2022/08/17/opinion/rushdie-iran-nuclear-deal.html?searchResultPosition=16>

## One U.S. Service Member Suffers Minor Injury in Syria Attack, U.S. Says

*US News, August 24, 2022*

One U.S. military service member suffered a minor injury and two others are being evaluated for minor injuries following rocket attacks in Syria on Wednesday by suspected Iran-backed militants, the U.S. military said.

<https://www.usnews.com/news/world/articles/2022-08-24/one-u-s-service-member-suffers-minor-injury-in-syria-attack-u-s-says>

## US Says Airstrikes in Syria Intended to Send Message to Iran

*US News, August 25, 2022*

The Pentagon says U.S. military airstrikes in eastern Syria this week were a message to Iran and Tehran-backed militias that targeted American troops this month and several other times over the past year.

<https://www.usnews.com/news/politics/articles/2022-08-24/us-says-airstrikes-in-syria-intended-to-send-message-to-iran>

## Drone Detection Technology Tested at Los Angeles Airport

*US News, August 25, 2022*

Drone detection technology is now being tested at Los Angeles International

Airport, federal and local officials said Thursday.

<https://www.usnews.com/news/best-states/california/articles/2022-08-25/drone-detection-technology-tested-at-los-angeles-airport>

## Fighting Between U.S. and Iran-Backed Militias Escalates in Syria

*The New York Times, Aug. 26, 2022*

Militias backed by Iran’s Revolutionary Guards force attacked a U.S. military base in southern Syria with drones recently and on the same day, a different base used by the U.S.-led coalition near Syria’s eastern border with Iraq came under rocket fire.

<https://www.nytimes.com/2022/08/26/world/middleeast/iran-backed-syria-united-states.html?searchResultPosition=6>

## US Navy is developing directed energy systems to counter hypersonic missile threats from China and Russia

*CNN News, Aug. 26, 2022*

The US Navy is developing directed energy systems as a potential defense against hypersonic missiles, the Navy’s top admiral said, calling advances Russia and China have made in hypersonic weapon technology “a significant concern.”

<https://edition.cnn.com/2022/08/26/politics/us-navy-hypersonic/index.html>

## How Ukraine is using resistance warfare developed by the US to fight back against Russia

*CNN News, Aug. 27, 2022*

As the war in Ukraine has passed the six-month mark, US and European officials say Ukraine has successfully used a method of resistance warfare developed by US special operations forces to fight back against Russia and bog down its vastly superior military.

<https://edition.cnn.com/2022/08/27/politics/russia-ukraine-resistance-warfare/index.html>

## Taliban Accuses Pakistan of Allowing U.S. Drones to Use Its Airspace

*US News, August 28, 2022*

The Taliban's acting defence minister said on Sunday that Pakistan had allowed U.S. drones to use its airspace to access Afghanistan, which Pakistan's foreign minister denied.

<https://www.usnews.com/news/world/articles/2022-08-28/taliban-accuses-pakistan-of-allowing-u-s-drones-to-use-its-airspace>

## US assesses Russia now in possession of Iranian drones, sources say

*CNN News, Aug. 30, 2022*

The US assesses Russia is now in possession of weapons-capable Iranian drones that they will likely deploy on the battlefield in Ukraine, Biden administration officials tell CNN. The Russians picked up the drones from an Iranian airfield earlier this month and transported them back to Russia in cargo planes in mid-August, the officials said.

<https://edition.cnn.com/2022/08/29/politics/russia-iranian-drones/index.html>

## U.S., S.Korean troops practice war with eye on N.Korea and 'near-peer' enemies

*Reuters, August 31, 2022*

Tanks and howitzers sent smoke and shockwaves through the air less than 20 miles from the fortified border with North Korea on Wednesday, as more than 1,000 South Korean and U.S. troops held a major live-fire exercise in stepped up practice for war.

<https://www.reuters.com/world/asia-pacific/us-south-korea-stage-largest-combined-military-drills-years-2022-08-31/>

## These Nations Hold the World's Nearly 15,000 Nukes

*US News, August 31, 2022*

The global nuclear arsenal is comprised of some 14,925 nuclear warheads, and that's a conservative number. The Stockholm International Peace Research Institute, an independent international research institute with a focus on global security, estimates those more than 14,000 nuclear arms are scattered across nine nations, according to its latest global weapons estimate from January 2017.

<https://www.usnews.com/news/best-countries/articles/2017-08-22/these-countries-house-the-most-nuclear-weapons>

## US Navy prevents Iranian attempt to capture American maritime drone in Persian Gulf

*CNN News, Aug. 31, 2022*

The US Navy prevented an Iranian ship from capturing an American maritime drone in the Persian gulf overnight Monday into Tuesday local time in what a senior US commander called a "flagrant" and "unwarranted" incident.

<https://edition.cnn.com/2022/08/30/politics/iran-us-maritime-drone/index.html>

## U.S. frees unmanned sea-based drone from Iranian control after four-hour standoff

*CNBC, August 31, 2022*

The U.S. freed a Sairdrone Explorer from Iranian control after a four-hour standoff. A U.S. patrol ship demanded the drone's release at least five times but got no response, a defense official said.

<https://www.cNBC.com/video/2022/08/30/us-frees-unmanned-sea-based-drone-from-iranian-control-after-four-hour-standoff.html?&qsearchterm=drone>



## West Asia

### Q. Iran

#### **AEOI Chief Stresses All Countries' Right to Peaceful Nuclear Technology**

*Fars News Agency, August 16, 2022*

Head of the Atomic Energy Organization of Iran (AEOI) Mohammad Eslami renewed support for the basic right of all nations to use atomic energy for peaceful purposes, and said that Tehran is entitled to use nuclear technology despite the pressures and hostilities from world powers. Eslami stated on Monday that acquiring nuclear technology is a legitimate source of power for any country. The nuclear chief argued that all countries, including Iran, are entitled to use nuclear technology for peaceful purposes and that Iran intends to use that right. However, certain powers have abused their veto right at the UN Security Council to prevent Iran from developing its peaceful nuclear program, he added. "Numerous allegations have been leveled against the country over the years and its nuclear dossier has been sent to the Board of Governors of the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA) and the United Nation Security Council (UNSC)," the official said.

<https://www.farsnews.ir/en/news/14010525000361/AEOI-Chief-Stresses-All-Cnries'-Righ-Peacefl-Nclear-Technlgy>

#### **Iranian DM: Defense Equipment Production Rises by 125%**

*Fars News Agency, August 20, 2022*

Iran's Defense Minister Brigadier General Mohammad Reza Ashtiani said that the country's progress in the defense and industrial sectors has made enemies worried and surprised, and added that the production of defense equipment has grown by 125%. "Iran's tremendous progress in the industrial and defense fields is quite evident and has made the enemies surprised and worried," the defense minister stated on Friday. Brig. Gen. Ashtiani noted that the country has witnessed a 125 percent

increase in its defense equipment production last year, 25 percent ahead of the schedule. "Building various types of equipment for the army, navy, and air forces, ballistic missiles, offensive drones, surface and subsurface vessels, electronic warfare, smart and precision strike ammunition, and cognitive warfare are some of the achievements by the indigenous knowledge-based defense companies," the minister continued.

<https://www.farsnews.ir/en/news/14010529000430/Iranian-DM-Defense-Eipmen-Prdcin-Rises-by-25-İÑÖİ>

#### **Iran's president denies making concessions in nuclear talks**

*Al-Monitor, August 22, 2022*

Iran's President Ebrahim Raisi has denied that his country has made major concessions in talks to revive the 2015 nuclear deal, the Joint Comprehensive Plan of Action (JCPOA). During a speech on Sunday, Raisi said that Iran has been able to get "a considerable amount of its demands" from other countries since his administration came to office. "In no meeting or negotiation did we sell the rights of the people short," he said, adding that his administration did not "tie the lives of the people to foreign factors." Foreign Ministry spokesperson Nasser Kanani said that in its latest proposal Iran had shown "flexibility" and also responded to the European proposal in a "timely manner." He added that what is important now is the "American delay" in responding to Iran's offer. He did not go into any details.

<https://www.al-monitor.com/originals/2022/08/irans-president-denies-making-concessions-nuclear-talks#ixzz7dx3xwpRC>

#### **IRGC Aerospace Commander: Iran Exporting Drones**

*Fars News Agency, August 22, 2022*

Commander of the Islamic Revolution Guards Corps (IRGC) Aerospace Force Brigadier General Amir Ali Hajizadeh lauded the country's astonishing progress

in production of different types of unmanned aerial vehicles (UAVs), and said that Tehran has become self-sufficient in drone industry and turned to an exporter. Brigadier General Hajizadeh stated that Iran used to import everything such as barbed wire but it's now exporting drones. "There is no doubt that Iran has reached this point through linking the knowledge-based companies, universities and elites together," he added. The military official noted that in the aerospace sector, Iran initially made investment in research work in order to remove obstacles on its way toward progress, saying that this gave Iran air superiority. The commander of the IRGC Aerospace Force cited Iran's edge as the reason why the Western countries push for limiting the country's drones and missile might.

<https://www.farsnews.ir/en/news/14010531000860/IRGC-Aerspace-Cmmander-Iran-Expring-Drnes>

### **Iran's Envoy Voices Doubt About US Seriousness on Nuclear Disarmament**

*Fars News Agency, August 23, 2022*

Iran's Ambassador to the United Nations Majid Takht Ravanchi expressed his doubts about US political determination to adhere to nuclear disarmament commitments, and accused Washington of turning a blind eye to the nuclear arsenals of the Israeli regime. Speaking at the Tenth NPT Review Conference on Tuesday, Takht Ravanchi share Iran's deep concern of the NNWS regarding the lack of progress in the implementation of nuclear disarmament obligations and commitments. "My delegation has contributed constructively to the discussions and draft reports. However, regrettably due to some imbalanced contents of draft reports, none of them garnered consensus," he noted.

<https://www.farsnews.ir/en/news/14010601000201/Iran's-Envoy-Vices-Db-Ab-US-Serisness-n-Nclear-Disarmamen>

### **Nuclear Chief Stresses Iran's Tough Stance Against IAEA's Israeli-Driven Attitude**

*Fars News Agency, August 23, 2022*

Head of the Atomic Energy Organization of Iran (AEOI) Mohammad Eslami on Wednesday called on International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA) Chief Rafael Grossi to stop Israeli-influenced approach, and emphasized that Tehran would never surrender to the political behavior of the United Nations nuclear watchdog that is affected by the Zionist pressures. Eslami rejected as "uproar" comments by Grossi over "unexplained traces of uranium" amid efforts to restore the 2015 nuclear deal, officialy known as the Joint Comprehensive Plan of Action (JCPOA). The nuclear chief advised the IAEA director general not to raise accusations against Iran based on claims made by the Tel Aviv regime and anti-Tehran groups.

"We will never accept that the Zionist regime's positions and pressures will be followed upon as an agenda for the director general of the UN agency," Eslami stressed.

<https://www.farsnews.ir/en/news/14010601000667/Nclear-Chief-Sresses-Iran's-Tgh-Sance-Agains-IAEA's-Israeli-Driven>

### **Iranian Drones Annihilate Mock-Up Targets on Second Day of Drills**

*Fars News Agency, August 25, 2022*

Iranian drones practiced destroying sensitive and vital enemy points using state-of-the-art weapons with pinpoint accuracy on the second day of large-scale wargames.

Spokesman for the drone exercises Vice Admiral Seyed Mahmoud Mousavi said on Thursday that the second day of the maneuvers witnessed "combat training using actual weapons". He added that a considerable part of the designated targets

have so far been destroyed and the mission will be concluded in the hours to come. Mousavi noted that various types of combat drones operated by the four units of the Army, namely the Ground Force, Navy, Air Force and Air Defense Force, hit the pre-determined targets in the general area of the exercises – which cover almost all Iranian territory and strategic Southern waters – with precision and high-accuracy weapons in the major operational phase of the maneuvers.

<https://www.farsnews.ir/en/news/14010603000419/Iranian-Drnes-Annihilae-Mck-Up-Targes-n-Secnd-Day-f-Drills>

### **Nuclear Chief: Iran to Turn into Nuclear Power Plant Construction Hub in Coming Years**

*Fars News Agency, August 25, 2022*

Head of the Atomic Energy Organization of Iran (AEOI) Mohammad Eslami said on Thursday that his country plans to become a hub for designing and constructing nuclear power plants in the near future.

Speaking on the sidelines of an event to launch the production line of a domestically designed, portable gamma radiation device to be used in the agriculture sector, Eslami stated that an ongoing global fuel crisis had made the use of nuclear energy more relevant. "Today, the world is facing a fuel crisis, and almost all countries, European states in particular, have all turned to constructing nuclear plants. We lag behind by several years in that area," the official noted. He added Iran had a 20-year plan related to the use of nuclear energy to produce electricity. "What is of very high importance to us is to be able to increase the uses of nuclear technology in the country by the day," the nuclear chief continued.

"With the implementation of that plan, Iran should become a hub for designing and building nuclear plants," Eslami stressed.

<https://www.farsnews.ir/en/news/14010603000622/Nclear-Chief-Iran-Trn-in-Nclear-Pwer-Plan-Cnsrcin-Hb-in-Cming-Years>

### **Nuclear Chief Reiterates Iran's Firm Stance on Complete Removal of Sanctions**

*Fars News Agency, August 27, 2022*

Head of the Atomic Energy Organization of Iran (AEOI) Mohammad Eslami said that Tehran's approach in negotiations with the world powers entails a complete removal of all sanctions imposed by Washington, and underlined the Iranian negotiating team's firm stand on the country's redlines. In a meeting in the Southern Iranian city of Bushehr on Friday night, Eslami stated the Iranian negotiating team in the Vienna talks "has stood up against the other side and, while maintaining the red lines, has put canceling the sanctions as its priority". Efforts to salvage the the Joint Comprehensive Plan of Action (JCPOA) should put Iran in the path of trade exchanges, progress and development without the current disturbances, the AEOI head noted. "If we will not take long stride and not aim at great goals, relying on precise plans and strong will, the enemy will definitely proceed faster, and the stronger we will move towards advancement, their speed in moves against us will naturally decrease every day," he said.

<https://www.farsnews.ir/en/news/14010605000533/Nclear-Chief-Reieraes-Iran's-Firm-Sance-n-Cmplee-Removal-f-Sancins>

### **Senior Commander: All Movements of Enemies within Range of Iranian Radar System**

*Fars News Agency, August 27, 2022*

Commander of the Iranian Army Air Defense Force Brigadier General Alireza Sabahifard underlined the country's high military capabilities and deterrence power, and said that the country's Air Defense Force is able to monitor even the slightest movements of enemies within the range of 3,000km. "The Air Defense Force of the Islamic Republic of Iran has taken important measures in recent years to

increase national security," Brigadier General Sabahifard stated. "Today, the Air Defense Force is equipped with detection and identification systems such as radars with a range of 3,000 kilometers, which is rare in the world," he noted. "Now we have reached a point where we proudly announce that all the equipment and systems used in the Air Defense Force of the Islamic Iranian Army are made by genius Iranian youths and we do not use any foreign equipment," the top commander added.

<https://www.farsnews.ir/en/news/14010605000387/Senir-Cmmander-All-Mvemens-f-Enemies-wihin-Range-f-Iranian-Radar>

## Iran to Produce 10,000 Megawatts of Nuclear Power

*Fars News Agency, August 27, 2022*

Head of the Atomic Energy Organization of Iran Mohammad Eslami announced that 10,000 megawatts of electricity generation is on AEOI's agenda. "We have predicted producing a total of 10,000 new megawatts in the Southern coasts, and wherever we build a power plant, apart from using seawater for the process inside the power plant, we are planning to build a desalination complex next to it so that we can provide water and electricity for the areas determined," Eslami said. "The desalination project with a capacity of 70,000 cubic meters will be completed within 2 to 2.5 years, and we should be able to connect it to a consumption network," he added. Bushehr desalination plant is vital in solving the southern county's water shortage.

<https://www.farsnews.ir/en/news/14010605000836/Iran-Prdce-0-000-Megawas-f-Nclear-Pwer>

## Iran Showcases New Precision-Striking Drone

*Fars News Agency, August 28, 2022*

The Iranian Defense Ministry unveiled a new state-of-the-art precision-striking combat

drone named Ababil (Flock of Birds) days after the country's Armed Forces put its drone power on display in large-scale drills. The new drone was unveiled during a visit by Parliament Speaker Mohammad Baqer Qalibaf to an exhibition held by the defense ministry on Saturday. The Iranian Armed Forces' latest achievement in the field of the unmanned aircraft is a cruise missile carrying drone with high destructive power. The aircraft has been outfitted with an optical seeker and a warhead capable of detecting targets. It is also able to capture and relaying live images of the targets, lock on terrestrial targets and destroying them with precision.

<https://www.farsnews.ir/en/news/14010606000138/Iran-Shwcases-New-Precisin-Sriking-Drne>

## Iran to Continue Supporting Integrity of NPT

*Fars News Agency, August 28, 2022*

A senior Iranian foreign ministry official referred to the 10th Nuclear Non-Proliferation Treaty Review Conference in New York, and said that Tehran will continue support for upholding the integrity of the NPT in all three pillars. Director General for International Peace and Security Asadollah Eshraq Jahromi made the remarks in the closing ceremony of the 10th Nuclear Non-Proliferation Treaty Review Conference in New York. He underlined that the Islamic Republic of Iran remains steadfast in its support for upholding the integrity of the NPT in all three pillars. The full text of Eshraq Jahromi statement is as follows: Mr. President, I would like to begin by sincerely appreciating your hard efforts, diligence and serenity in steering the work of this Review Conference. I would also like to associate with the statement made by Indonesia on behalf of the Non Aligned Movement.

<https://www.farsnews.ir/en/news/14010606000478/Iran-Cnine-Sppring-Inegriy-f-NPT>



## Iran wants IAEA probe closed before nuclear agreement implemented

*Al-Monitor, August 29, 2022*

Iranian President Ebrahim Raisi spoke today about the negotiations to revive the nuclear deal. Iran is currently reviewing a proposal by the United States regarding a revived deal that came in response to an Iranian proposal. The details of the proposals, which originated as a European “final offer” to resolve the dispute between Iran and the United States, have not been shared publicly, but officials and media leaks have offered insights to some of the sticking points. In a press conference today, Raisi said addressed the International Atomic Energy Agency’s ongoing probe concerning previous nuclear activities by Iran. “When we talk about negotiations,” Raisi said, “all of the issues of additional protocols must be resolved.”

<https://www.al-monitor.com/originals/2022/08/iran-wants-iaea-probe-closed-nuclear-agreement-implemented#ixzz7dx4PJBDV>

## As US awaits Iran deal response, new Vienna round unlikely

*Al-Monitor, August 29, 2022*

A deal is taking shape that would revive the landmark Iranian nuclear agreement, but US and Iranian negotiators are unlikely to return to Vienna to hash out their remaining differences, a European Union source told Al-Monitor. Asked whether further talks could be held to bridge the gaps between the two sides, an EU source said “there will be no new round of any kind. Next time in Vienna will be a ministerial [meeting] to adopt the agreement – if there is an agreement.” In recent weeks, the United States and Iran have indirectly exchanged views on what the EU described as a “final” proposal to revive the 2015 nuclear accord known as the Joint Comprehensive Plan of Action (JCPOA). EU foreign policy chief Josep Borrell has called both the US and Iranian responses “reasonable.”

<https://www.al-monitor.com/originals/2022/08/us-awaits-iran-deal-response-new-vienna-round-unlikely#ixzz7dx4kQ1FW>

## AEOI Spokesperson Blames IAEA for Raising Excessive Demands from Iran

*Fars News Agency, August 30, 2022*

Atomic Energy Organization of Iran (AEOI) Spokesman Behrouz Kamalvandi criticized the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA) for making excessive demands beyond the scope of the Safeguards agreement from Tehran, saying that the UN nuclear agency’s requests cannot be accomplished due to the sanctions. In a radio interview on Tuesday, Kamalvandi noted the IAEA’s current “demands are considered to be excessive since they cannot be fulfilled to the sanctions”, which the US imposed on Iran after exiting the 2015 nuclear deal. “Of course, if the Westerners remove the sanctions and return to their obligations, Iran will likewise return to its commitments under the nuclear deal,” he added. Kamalvandi explained that the Safeguards agreement revolves around nuclear materials, and under that agreement, Iran is required to inform the IAEA of the amount of the nuclear materials it has, where they are located and how they are put to use. As part of the Additional Protocol, countries, including Iran, place their uranium enrichment equipment under the nuclear agency’s monitoring, he continued.

<https://www.farsnews.ir/en/news/14010608000869/AEOI-Spkespersn-Blames-IAEA-fr-Raising-Excessive-Demands-frm-Iran>

## US Navy thwarts Iran’s attempt to capture sea drone in Gulf

*Al-Monitor, August 30, 2022*

The crew of a ship affiliated with Iran’s Islamic Revolutionary Guard Corps (IRGC) attached a cable to a US Navy unmanned maritime drone in the Persian Gulf on Monday night and attempted to tow it away, the US military said. The IRGC Navy support ship Shahid Baziar later released the Sairdrone after the US Navy coastal patrol ship USS Thunderbolt, an MH-60S Sea Hawk Helicopter and an inflatable US boat approached on the

Iranian vessel in response. Officers aboard the Thunderbolt made bridge-to-bridge contact with the IRGC Navy ship via radio, prompting its crew to untether the Sairdrone, Cdr. Timothy Hawkins, a spokesperson for the US Navy's Fifth Fleet, told Al-Monitor.

<https://www.al-monitor.com/originals/2022/08/us-navy-thwarts-irans-attempt-capture-sea-drone-gulf#ixzz7dx5CSqLx>

### **Nuclear Chief: No Deal Before Safeguards Issues Closed**

*Fars News Agency, August 31, 2022*

Head of the Atomic Energy Organization of Iran (AEOI) Mohammad Eslami warned on Wednesday that a deal in the Vienna talks will be impossible unless the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA) drops its false allegations against Tehran's nuclear program. Eslami said that there would be no "re-implementation day" for the 2015 nuclear deal, despite the diplomatic efforts being made to restore the multilateral accord, if the United Nations nuclear watchdog fails to drop its baseless claims against Tehran's nuclear work. "The IAEA's demands from Iran had no basis under the Safeguards agreement between the two sides and were part of the so-called possible military dimension (PMD) dossier, which had been closed under the 2015 agreement," he added.

<https://www.farsnews.ir/en/news/14010609000356/Nclear-Chief-N-Deal-Befre-Safeguards-Isses-Clsed>

### **R. Iraq**

### **Weapons warehouse blasts frighten Iraqis**

*Al-Monitor, August 16, 2022*

As extreme heat and power outages continue to weigh heavily on Iraqis' lives, explosions reported on Aug. 11 near Baghdad at sites hosting Iran-linked, government-salaried armed groups raised questions once again about the safety of munitions and those in control of them. Daytime temperatures hover near 50 degrees Celsius, overheating phones,

spoiling food and blasting faces as if a furnace door had been opened when leaving air-conditioned spaces. Allergy-provoking dust storms, meanwhile, continue to choke and stultify, as long-neglected environmental conditions worsen and hit Iraq especially hard.

<https://www.al-monitor.com/originals/2022/08/weapons-warehouse-blasts-frighten-iraqis#ixzz7dxDIUNFM>

### **Four missiles target the Green Zone, SMC reports**

*Iraqi News Agency, August 30, 2022*

The Security Media Cell-SMC announced on Tuesday, that the Green Zone was targeted with four missiles. SMC stated in a statement received by the Iraqi News Agency (INA), that "the Green Zone in Baghdad was targeted by four missiles that landed in the residential complex, causing damages." "The missiles was launched from the areas of Al-Habibiya and Al-Baladiyat, east of the capital, Baghdad," the statement added.

<https://ina.iq/eng/21583-four-missiles-target-the-green-zone-smc-reports.html>

### **S. Syria**

### **Sabbagh: The concluding Document of the 10<sup>th</sup> Conference of the Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons (NPT) ignores worry about Israel's arsenal**

*Syrian Arab News Agency, August 27, 2022*

Syria said that what has been included in the draft document of the conference/ review of the 10th Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons 2020/ on the Middle East is weak and does not meet the concerns of the countries of the region, especially since it did not include any article to oblige Israel to join it and subject all its nuclear facilities to the comprehensive safeguards agreement of the International Atomic Energy Agency,

stressing that the 1995 Middle East resolution remains in force until its goals and objectives are fully achieved and implemented. Syria's permanent representative to the United Nations, head of the delegation of the Syrian Arab Republic, Ambassador Bassam Sabbagh, said during the concluding session of the conference held at the UN building in New York that Syria had hoped a successful outcome of this conference which would open a new page in the process of reviewing the treaty, but the political selfishness of the Western countries and their preference for its geopolitical interests over those of the treaty parties led to this regretful outcome.

<https://sana.sy/en/?p=282049>

### *T. Saudi Arabia*

#### **Hercules-2 joint training kicks off in Egypt with Saudi Arabia, UAE, Greece, Cyprus**

*Alarabiya, August 22, 2022*

The Hercules-2 joint military training kicked off in Egypt with the participation of special units from the Royal Saudi Land Forces, the UAE, Greece and Cyprus, the Egyptian Ministry of Defense said in a statement Sunday. The training, which is set to last for several days, started at the Mohamed Naguib Military Base in the Marsa Matrouh governorate and is expected to expand to military exercises areas in the northern military district, the statement said. It added that Jordan, the US, Democratic Republic of Congo and Bahrain have participated in the exercises as observers. Hercules-21 was held in September 2021 in Greece with the participation of forces from Egypt, Saudi Arabia, Greece and the UAE.

<https://english.alarabiya.net/News/middle-east/2022/08/22/Hercules-2-joint-training-kicks-off-in-Egypt-with-Saudi-Arabia-UAE-Greece-Cyprus->

#### **Saudi, Emirati Concerns Regarding West's Nuclear Deal With Iran: It Disregards Iran's Threat To Region,**

#### **Support Of Terror; Due To U.S. Hesitancy, Iran Is Greatest Winner In Negotiations**

*MEMRI, August 24, 2022*

Amid reports in the global media that Iran and the superpowers, headed by the U.S., are close to renewing the nuclear deal, many articles in the Saudi and Emirati press express concern regarding the emerging agreement. They note that, like the deal of 2015, the renewed one does not address the demand of the Gulf states to restrain Iran's problematic conduct in the region, and does not include firm restrictions on Iran's missile program or the terrorist militias it deploys in Arab countries. The articles warn that dismissing these concerns will exacerbate the tension and violence in the region and in the world. The articles also accuse the Biden administration of conducting the negotiations in haste out of a desire to reach an agreement, which can be presented as an achievement to the American voter, before the U.S. Midterm Congressional Elections in November. The Biden administration, they say, was excessively weak and hesitant in the negotiations, whereas Russia and China firmly supported Iran, as a result of which Iran received many concessions and emerged as the big winner in the negotiations.

<https://www.memri.org/reports/saudi-emirati-concerns-regarding-wests-nuclear-deal-iran-it-disregards-irans-threat-region>

### *U. United Arab Emirates*

#### **UAE returns ambassador to Iran as region prepares for potential nuclear deal**

*The Times of Israel, August 21, 2022*

The United Arab Emirates planned to reinstate its ambassador to Iran for the first time in six years, the Emirati Foreign Ministry announced Sunday, as the Gulf Arab federation accelerated efforts to

improve ties with the nation it has long viewed as a regional threat. The Emirates' ambassador to Iran, Saif Mohammed Al Zaabi, will return to Tehran in the coming days to "continue pushing bilateral relations forward to achieve the common interests of the two neighbors and the region," the UAE's state-run WAM news agency reported. The move comes as American and Iranian diplomats now seek to end 16 months of negotiations over the revival of Tehran's landmark nuclear deal with world powers.

<https://www.timesofisrael.com/uae-returns-ambassador-to-iran-as-region-prepares-for-potential-nuclear-deal/>

### **UAE's space exploration to reach new heights in 2023**

*The National News, August 23, 2022*

From landing a rover on the Moon to sending an Emirati astronaut for a six-month trip to the space station, 2023 is set to be the UAE's busiest year for space exploration. The Emirates will etch its name in history books many times next year if its space missions go as planned. Astronaut Sultan Al Neyadi will take on the Arab world's first long-duration mission, while the Rashid rover could become the first Arab spacecraft to reach the Moon. The impending missions follow a string of achievements by the UAE, including reaching Mars with its Hope probe in 2021 and launching Hazza Al Mansouri, the first Emirati astronaut, into space in 2019. But a number of advanced missions are lined up to take place in the same year for the first time, all being carried out by the Mohammed bin Rashid Space Centre (MBRSC).

<https://www.thenationalnews.com/uae/2022/08/23/uaes-space-exploration-to-reach-new-heights-in-2023/>

## **East Asia**

### **V. Japan**

### **Japanese support for a nuclear restart is at its highest since Fukushima disaster, says former IEA executive director**

*CNBC, August 17, 2022*

In a first for Japan since the Fukushima nuclear disaster in 2011, public support for a nuclear restart is now at more than 60%, said a former executive director of the International Energy Agency, citing a possible energy shortage and a "very cold winter" as reasons. "Japanese public support's more than 60%, and it was the first time ever that support of nuclear power is starting to come over 50% after (the) Fukushima accident," said Nobuo Tanaka, now the chair of the Innovation for Cool Earth Forum. He was speaking at the 2022 Global Supertrends Conference.

Japanese Prime Minister Fumio Kishida announced in May that the country will take firm steps to restart idled nuclear power plants to stabilize energy supply and prices. In 2011, the Fukushima Daiichi nuclear power plant was hit by a massive earthquake and tsunami, which killed nearly 16,000 people and caused the world's worst nuclear disaster since Chernobyl in 1986.

<https://www.cnbcm.com/2022/08/17/japan-support-for-nuclear-restart-is-highest-since-fukushima-disaster.html>

### **Japan turns back to nuclear power in post-Fukushima shift**

*Financial Times, August 24, 2022*

Prime Minister Fumio Kishida has moved to restore Japan's status as a nuclear-



powered nation for the first time since the 2011 Fukushima crisis, accelerating the restart of reactors and signalling the construction of new plants. Kishida's decision to throw his political weight behind the nuclear power sector is intended to rein in soaring energy costs for households and companies and to support Japan's nuclear technology manufacturers. "As a result of Russia's invasion of Ukraine, the global energy situation has drastically changed," Kishida said on Wednesday. "Whatever happens globally, we need to prepare every possible measure in advance to minimise the impact on people's lives," he said, adding that the government would aim to come up with concrete plans for the nuclear sector by the end of the year. The plan to research the construction of new nuclear reactors, which experts say could be safer than those using existing technologies, marks a U-turn in government policy since the Fukushima crisis.

<https://www.ft.com/content/b380cb74-7b2e-493f-be99-281bd0dd478f>

### **Kishida blames Russia for breakdown of nuclear nonproliferation conference**

*The Japan Times, August 28, 2022*

Prime Minister Fumio Kishida on Saturday expressed disappointment after a Nuclear Non-Proliferation Treaty review conference ended without a joint declaration, saying Russia should take the blame for the breakdown. Kishida said maintaining and strengthening the NPT is "the only realistic approach" to nuclear disarmament. The Japanese leader, who represents a constituency in atomic-bombed Hiroshima, has been pushing for a world without nuclear weapons.

<https://www.japantimes.co.jp/news/2022/08/28/national/politics-diplomacy/fumio-kishida-disappointment-npt/>

### **W. North Korea**

#### **North Korea Fires 2 Cruise Missiles Toward Yellow Sea**

*The Diplomat, August 17, 2022*

North Korea fired two cruise missiles from Onchon country toward the Yellow Sea to the west of the Korean Peninsula, South Korea's Joint Chiefs of Staff (JCS) said on Wednesday. The JCS said that the U.S. and South Korean intelligence officials are analyzing the performance of the missiles.

North Korea is banned from developing and testing ballistic missiles United Nations Security Council resolutions. Unlike the North's ballistic missiles, its cruise missile program is not in violation of UNSC resolutions. Wednesday's missile test came hours before South Korean President Yoon Suk-yeol held a press conference to mark his first 100 days in office. It is the first missile test Pyongyang has conducted following up on North Korean leader Kim Jong Un's provocative remarks vis-à-vis Yoon last month.

<https://thediplomat.com/2022/08/north-korea-fires-2-cruise-missiles-toward-yellow-sea/>

#### **U.S. warns it will deploy 'strategic assets' to South Korea if Pyongyang conducts nuke test**

*The Japan Times, August 18, 2022*

Faced with the growing prospect of a fresh nuclear test by Pyongyang, Washington has said it will consider deploying to the Korean Peninsula strategic assets — which could mean anything from nuclear-powered submarines, strategic bombers or even tactical nuclear weapons — should that come to fruition. The U.S. warning, which is part of a joint deterrence strategy by Washington and Seoul, follows a two-day session held this week of the Korea-

U.S. Integrated Defense Dialogue (KIDD). "The two sides affirmed that, should the DPRK (North Korea) conduct a nuclear test, the ROK (South Korea) and the U.S. will engage in a strong and firm bilateral response, to include options to deploy U.S. strategic assets to the region," said the Pentagon and South Korea's Defense Ministry in a joint statement issued Wednesday, the same day Pyongyang launched two cruise missiles into the Yellow Sea.

<https://www.japantimes.co.jp/news/2022/08/18/asia-pacific/us-weapons-pyongyang-nuke-test/>

### **'Absurd': N Korea slams South's offer of aid for denuclearisation**

*BBC, August 19, 2022*

Kim Yo-jong, North Korean leader Kim Jong-un's powerful sister, has slammed Seoul's offer of economic aid in return for denuclearisation steps, calling it the "height of absurdity". "No-one barter their destiny for corn cake," she said in a statement.

South Korea's president Yoon Suk-yeol had Wednesday reiterated the plan, which he first mentioned in May. But Ms Kim said on Friday that Mr Yoon should "shut his mouth" and called him "simple and still childish". South Korea's presidential office said it regretted her "rude" remarks, but that the offer still stands - the office was responding to Ms Kim's statement, released by state news agency KCNA on Friday. "North Korea's attitude is in no way helpful to the peace and prosperity of the Korean peninsula, as well as its own future," it said.

<https://www.bbc.com/news/world-asia-62600788>

### **US and South Korea begin biggest military training in years amid growing North Korean nuclear threat**

*Sky News, August 22, 2022*

The US and South Korea have begun their biggest combined military training in years as they heighten their defence posturing

against a growing North Korean nuclear threat. The drills could draw anger from Pyongyang, which has pushed its weapons testing activity to a record pace this year while repeatedly threatening conflicts with Seoul and Washington amid a prolonged stalemate in diplomacy. The Ulchi Freedom Shield exercises will continue through 1 September in South Korea and include field exercises involving aircraft, warships, tanks and potentially tens of thousands of troops. But North Korea portrays the exercises as rehearsals for an invasion.

Cho Joong-hoon, a spokesperson of South Korea's Unification Ministry, which handles inter-Korean affairs, said the South has not immediately detected any unusual activities or signs from the North.

<https://news.sky.com/story/us-and-south-korea-begin-biggest-military-training-in-years-amid-growing-north-korean-nuclear-threat-12678970>

## **X. South Korea**

### **South Korea Signs \$2.25 Billion Deal With Russian Nuclear Company**

*The Diplomat, August 25, 2022*

South Korea landed a 3 trillion won (\$2.25 billion) contract with a Russian state-run nuclear energy company to provide components and construct a turbine building for Egypt's first nuclear power plant, officials said Thursday. The South Koreans hailed the deal as a triumph for their nuclear power industry, although it made for awkward optics as their American allies push an economic pressure campaign to isolate Russia over its war on Ukraine. South Korean officials said the United States was consulted in advance about the deal and that the technologies being supplied by Seoul for the project would not clash with international sanctions against Russia.

<https://thediplomat.com/2022/08/south-korea-signs-2-25-billion-deal-with-russian-nuclear-company/>

## Y. Australia

### Prepare for warp speed: Albanese and Marles must take radical defence action

*The Australian, August 26, 2022*

The Albanese Government must move fast, by March at latest, on fundamental defence change. Stephen Smith and Angus Houston have three key tasks in their strategic review - and they must be ruthless.

[https://www.theaustralian.com.au/subscribe/news/1/?sourceCode=TAWEB\\_WRE170\\_a&dest=https%3A%2F%2Fwww.theaustralian.com.au%2Ffinquirer%2Fprepare-for-warp-speed-in-aid-of-the-nations-defence%2Fnews-story%2F224f558d262e68104793cec87f7354e4&mentype=anonymous&mode=premium&v21=dynamic-groupb-test-noscore&V21spcbehaviour=append](https://www.theaustralian.com.au/subscribe/news/1/?sourceCode=TAWEB_WRE170_a&dest=https%3A%2F%2Fwww.theaustralian.com.au%2Ffinquirer%2Fprepare-for-warp-speed-in-aid-of-the-nations-defence%2Fnews-story%2F224f558d262e68104793cec87f7354e4&mentype=anonymous&mode=premium&v21=dynamic-groupb-test-noscore&V21spcbehaviour=append)

### Timeline for Defence Force review accelerated by circumstance

*The Australian, August 26, 2022*

The head of the Albanese government's strategic review has outlined an accelerated timeline for delivering its final report, dictated by the darkening circumstances Australia is confronting.

[https://www.theaustralian.com.au/subscribe/news/1/?sourceCode=TAWEB\\_WRE170\\_a&dest=https%3A%2F%2Fwww.theaustralian.com.au%2Fnation%2Fdefence%2Ftimeline-for-defence-force-review-accelerated-by-circumstance%2Fnews-story%2F5ef46fccfd542f6a44a6a2d904ff6664f&mentype=anonymous&mode=premium&v21=dynamic-groupb-test-noscore&V21spcbehaviour=append](https://www.theaustralian.com.au/subscribe/news/1/?sourceCode=TAWEB_WRE170_a&dest=https%3A%2F%2Fwww.theaustralian.com.au%2Fnation%2Fdefence%2Ftimeline-for-defence-force-review-accelerated-by-circumstance%2Fnews-story%2F5ef46fccfd542f6a44a6a2d904ff6664f&mentype=anonymous&mode=premium&v21=dynamic-groupb-test-noscore&V21spcbehaviour=append)

### Australia could 'go small and go nuke' by 2030

*The Australian, August 29, 2022*

Australia could have competitively priced electricity generated by nuclear power well before 2030 after the US government approved the first small modular nuclear reactor for commercial use.

[https://www.theaustralian.com.au/subscribe/news/1/?sourceCode=TAWEB\\_WRE170\\_a&dest=https%3A%2F%2Fwww.theaustralian.com.au%2Fnation%2Faustralia-could-go-nuclear-before-2030-and-](https://www.theaustralian.com.au/subscribe/news/1/?sourceCode=TAWEB_WRE170_a&dest=https%3A%2F%2Fwww.theaustralian.com.au%2Fnation%2Faustralia-could-go-nuclear-before-2030-and-)

[bring-down-power-prices-with-us-small-reactors%2Fnews-story%2F10afc6600a4e61b003cef0a69c7cb166&mentype=anonymous&mode=premium&v21=dynamic-groupb-test-noscore&V21spcbehaviour=append](https://www.theaustralian.com.au/subscribe/news/1/?sourceCode=TAWEB_WRE170_a&dest=https%3A%2F%2Fwww.theaustralian.com.au%2Fnation%2Fdefence%2Fdefence-cant-afford-local-build-restrictions%2Fnews-story%2F54b47e19c47a88ee88a138b3867ed0e&mentype=anonymous&mode=premium&v21=dynamic-groupb-test-noscore&V21spcbehaviour=append)

### Defence 'can't afford local build restrictions'

*The Australian, August 29, 2022*

A former Defence economic adviser says Australia will struggle to afford many of the new weapons and military platforms being considered, and needs to slash costs.

[https://www.theaustralian.com.au/subscribe/news/1/?sourceCode=TAWEB\\_WRE170\\_a&dest=https%3A%2F%2Fwww.theaustralian.com.au%2Fnation%2Fdefence%2Fdefence-cant-afford-local-build-restrictions%2Fnews-story%2F54b47e19c47a88ee88a138b3867ed0e&mentype=anonymous&mode=premium&v21=dynamic-groupb-test-noscore&V21spcbehaviour=append](https://www.theaustralian.com.au/subscribe/news/1/?sourceCode=TAWEB_WRE170_a&dest=https%3A%2F%2Fwww.theaustralian.com.au%2Fnation%2Fdefence%2Fdefence-cant-afford-local-build-restrictions%2Fnews-story%2F54b47e19c47a88ee88a138b3867ed0e&mentype=anonymous&mode=premium&v21=dynamic-groupb-test-noscore&V21spcbehaviour=append)

### Plan to build a national defence industry still wanting, Nova says

*The Australian, August 30, 2022*

Nova Systems wants more small businesses to graduate to the next level in the defence realm, but chief executive Jim McDowell says Australia needs to up its game to make it happen.

[https://www.theaustralian.com.au/subscribe/news/1/?sourceCode=TAWEB\\_WRE170\\_a&dest=https%3A%2F%2Fwww.theaustralian.com.au%2Fbusiness%2Fcompanies%2Fa-strategy-to-turn-small-businesses-into-big-ones-through-defence-spending-is-needed%2Fnews-story%2F3c015d893754c72692d112a0f2dd14b9&mentype=anonymous&mode=premium&v21=dynamic-groupb-test-noscore&V21spcbehaviour=append](https://www.theaustralian.com.au/subscribe/news/1/?sourceCode=TAWEB_WRE170_a&dest=https%3A%2F%2Fwww.theaustralian.com.au%2Fbusiness%2Fcompanies%2Fa-strategy-to-turn-small-businesses-into-big-ones-through-defence-spending-is-needed%2Fnews-story%2F3c015d893754c72692d112a0f2dd14b9&mentype=anonymous&mode=premium&v21=dynamic-groupb-test-noscore&V21spcbehaviour=append)

### Aussie sailors training on nuclear submarines

*The Australian, August 31, 2022*

Australian submariners are being granted access to previously prohibited areas near the nuclear reactors of US and British sub-marines.

[https://www.theaustralian.com.au/subscribe/news/1/?sourceCode=TAWEB\\_W](https://www.theaustralian.com.au/subscribe/news/1/?sourceCode=TAWEB_W)

RE170\_a&dest=https%3A%2F%2Fwww.theaustralian.com.au%2Fnation%2Fdefence%2Faussie-sailors-training-on-nuclear-submarines%2Fnews-story%2Fa10b702d415a0e5661ddc5ca653cc24b&mentype=anonymous&mode=premium&v21=dynamic-groupb-test-noscore&V21spcbehaviour=append

## Gusmao stirs 'regional arms race' fears

*The Australian, August 31, 2022*

East Timor's independence father Xanana Gusmao has accused Australia of 'wilfully ignoring international law' in negotiations over maritime boundaries.

[https://www.theaustralian.com.au/subscribe/news/1/?sourceCode=TAWEB\\_WRE170\\_a&dest=https%3A%2F%2Fwww.theaustralian.com.au%2Fnation%2Fpolitics%2Fxxanana-gusmao-stirs-regional-arms-race-fears%2Fnews-story%2Fb81f33a83eaeac588baea57819062505&mentype=anonymous&mode=premium&v21=dynamic-groupb-test-noscore&V21spcbehaviour=append](https://www.theaustralian.com.au/subscribe/news/1/?sourceCode=TAWEB_WRE170_a&dest=https%3A%2F%2Fwww.theaustralian.com.au%2Fnation%2Fpolitics%2Fxxanana-gusmao-stirs-regional-arms-race-fears%2Fnews-story%2Fb81f33a83eaeac588baea57819062505&mentype=anonymous&mode=premium&v21=dynamic-groupb-test-noscore&V21spcbehaviour=append)

## Z. Miscellaneous

### Is NZ inching toward AUKUS – and away from its nuclear ban?

*The Australian, August 17, 2022*

As the US holds the AUKUS door ajar for NZ, Wellington suggests it might sign up to elements of it, arguably turning a blind eye to its own nuclear proliferation concerns.

[https://www.theaustralian.com.au/subscribe/news/1/?sourceCode=TAWEB\\_WRE170\\_a&dest=https%3A%2F%2Fwww.theaustralian.com.au%2Fcommentary%2Fis-nz-inching-toward-aukus-and-away-from-its-nuclear-ban%2Fnews-story%2Fc4db8c9d15e97da229f177bb06b8ef1a&mentype=anonymous&mode=premium&v21=dynamic-groupb-test-noscore&V21spcbehaviour=append](https://www.theaustralian.com.au/subscribe/news/1/?sourceCode=TAWEB_WRE170_a&dest=https%3A%2F%2Fwww.theaustralian.com.au%2Fcommentary%2Fis-nz-inching-toward-aukus-and-away-from-its-nuclear-ban%2Fnews-story%2Fc4db8c9d15e97da229f177bb06b8ef1a&mentype=anonymous&mode=premium&v21=dynamic-groupb-test-noscore&V21spcbehaviour=append)

### Special Military Cell Flows Weapons and Equipment Into Ukraine

*The New York Times, Aug. 27, 2022*

Consider a recent shipment of 105-millimeter howitzers. Britain donated the weapons, and New Zealand trained

Ukrainian soldiers how to use them and provided spare parts. The United States supplied the ammunition and the vehicles to tow them and flew the load to a base near Ukraine's border.

<https://www.nytimes.com/2022/07/27/us/politics/ukraine-weapons-center.html?searchResultPosition=10>

### Argentina adds dry fuel storage at Atucha I

*World Nuclear News, August 30, 2022*

A new dry fuel storage facility at the Atucha nuclear power plant will store fuel assemblies the pressurised heavy water reactor has used over its 48 years of operation as the unit undergoes refurbishment. The facility was built by an Argentine supply chain. Situated about 100 kilometres northwest of Buenos Aires, the Atucha nuclear power plant has been generating electricity since 1974. The fuel bundles used by unit 1 of the plant have been stored within the reactor building since that time, but a decision was made to increase the storage space available as part of a project to increase its service life.

It has become common for pressurised heavy water reactors (PHWRs) like Atucha 1 to undergo refurbishment, which typically involves replacing pressure tubes and fuel channels. The plant owner Nucleoeléctrica SA (NA-SA) plans to do this work from 2024-6 and then bring the reactor back on line for a further 20 years of service.

<https://www.world-nuclear-news.org/Articles/Argentina-adds-dry-fuel-storage-at-Atucha-I>

### NPT 'remains vital', fresh push on sharing nuclear tech for peaceful uses

*World Nuclear News, August 31, 2022*

United Nations Secretary General António Guterres has expressed his disappointment at the inability of the Tenth Review Conference of the Parties to the Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons (NPT) to reach



consensus but welcomed the fact that the conference recognised the NPT as the “cornerstone” of the global disarmament and non-proliferation regime. Meanwhile more than 30 countries are establishing a Sustained Dialogue on expanding access to peaceful uses of nuclear technology. Coming into force in 1970 and made permanent in 1995, the NPT is a deal by which countries that held nuclear weapons before 1968 promised to take steps towards permanent disarmament, while nations without atomic weapons promised not to develop them. It also seeks to promote the safe sharing of nuclear technology for peaceful purposes. A total of 191 states have joined the NPT, including the five nuclear-weapon states (China, France, Russia, the UK and the USA). The International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA) is charged with the responsibility of verifying the compliance of the non-weapons states, as well as aiding them in the peaceful uses of nuclear energy.

<https://www.world-nuclear-news.org/Articles/NPT-remains-vital-fresh-push-on%2%A0sharing-nuclear-te>

### Opinion

#### C. Raja Mohan writes: The return of nuclear weapons on the global platform

*C Raja Mohan*

*The Indian Express, August 30, 2022*

An international conference to review the Nuclear Nonproliferation Treaty concluded at the United Nations in New York last week without a consensus document. Given the growing great power conflict today, that was not unexpected. Surprisingly, though, the NPT review elicited little interest in Delhi. India, one of the world’s nuclear weapon powers, ought to be paying a lot more attention to the international nuclear discourse that is acquiring new dimensions and taking a fresh look at its own civilian and military nuclear programmes.

<https://indianexpress.com/article/opinion/col->

[umns/c-raj-mohan-writes-return-of-nuclear-weapons-on-global-platform-8119566/](https://www.firstpost.com/opinion/how-prime-minister-modis-visit-to-toulouse-rejuvenated-indo-french-space-alliance-11064261.html)

#### How Prime Minister Modi’s visit to Toulouse rejuvenated Indo-French space alliance

*Pranav Sharma*

*Firstpost, August 16, 2022*

Space technology in the purview of the contemporary world is projected as synonymous with the greater good of humankind. It has become a voice of humanity’s conscience which could be justified by the fact that the realm of space requires the world to work together for a common goal and the results of which serve humanity equally. I am of the opinion that Space is a textbook case of diplomatic triumph, global political reconciliation, and will of the bureaucratic won’t.

<https://www.firstpost.com/opinion/how-prime-minister-modis-visit-to-toulouse-rejuvenated-indo-french-space-alliance-11064261.html>

#### The Evolution of South Korea’s Nuclear Weapons Policy Debate

*Jennifer Ahn,*

*Council on Foreign Relations, August 16, 2022*

South Korea’s shifting domestic consensus regarding nuclear weapons, North Korea’s expansion of its nuclear doctrine to include offensive capabilities, growing South Korean public threat perceptions of North Korea and China, and expectations for South Korea’s global role and status are all factors that contribute to South Korea’s policy debate on the possibility of acquiring nuclear weapons. These developments require serious consideration from U.S. policymakers and security analysts due to the regional implications of a potentially nuclear South Korea.

<https://www.cfr.org/blog/evolution-south-koreas-nuclear-weapons-policy-debate>

## Contribute Articles

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

The Indian Pugwash Society aims to promote the study, discussion, and knowledge of and to stimulate general interest in, and to diffuse knowledge in regards to problems relating on WMD proliferation, arms control, disarmament, space security, export controls, nuclear technology and other related issues. This newsletter is part of the project "Emerging Nuclear Order in Asia: Implications for India" sanctioned to us by Department of Atomic Energy-Board of Research in Nuclear Sciences (DAE-BRNS).

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