

Nuclear, Missile & Space Digest

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A Fortnightly Newsletter from the Indian Pugwash Society

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- Chandrayaan-3 Update: ISRO Successfully Completes Translunar Injection of the Lunar Spacecraft
- ISRO rocket debris on Australian shore: rules governing space junk
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- Putin Profits Off US, European Reliance on Russian Nuclear Fuel
- Iran close to testing nuclear weapons for first time - European intel
- Hungary Agrees to Changes in Nuclear Plant Deal With Russia

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- Lukashenko sees nuke deployment to Belarus as response to militarization of Eastern Europe
- West actively preparing for direct military showdown, Belarusian defense minister asserts
- Nuke deployment to Belarus poses no threat to other countries, security official says

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- Launch of US Crew Dragon with Russian cosmonaut Borisov postponed until August 25
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- US Cygnus spaceship docks to ISS with 3.7 tons of cargo
- US scientists achieve net energy gain for second time in nuclear fusion reaction
- Sabrina Singh, Deputy Pentagon Press Secretary, Holds a Press Briefing
- US military buildup in Gulf risks 'dangerous' Iran escalation: Analysts
- Carcinogens found at Montana nuclear missile sites as reports of hundreds of cancers surface

- US would welcome any Iranian steps to slow nuclear program: Blinken
- Niger coup raises questions about uranium dependence
- Morocco's nuclear option: Russian vs US technological cooperation to power its water scarcity solutions

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- IRGC Kicks Off Naval Drill in Persian Gulf, Deploying AI-Powered Missile Shields, Sea Drones
- 'Missile defense systems, drones delivered to IRGC Navy'
- Indigenous Anti-Ship Cruise Missiles Handed Over to IRGC Navy
- Iran has obtained technology to build supersonic cruise missile: Iranian media
- N. Chief Announces Iran's Readiness to Export Heavy Water Products
- Iran reportedly slowing some nuclear enrichment, diluting high-grade stockpile
- Informed Source Rejects WSJ Report on Iran's Slowing Down Nuclear Activities
- N. Chief: Iran Producing 300 Types of Heavy Nuclear Derivatives
- Iran Puts Indigenous Drone, Missile on Display at Russian Military Expo

I. Israel

- Elbit Announces Successful Completion of Sea Trial for New EW Counter-Measure Dispensing System
- US & Israel's "Intrinsic Defender" Sets Sail
- A \$316 Million Message for Moscow: US Approves Finnish Procurement of Israel's "David's Sling" Weapons System
- The Nuclear Club: Iran Bolsters Ties with Pakistan
- Polish Army Purchase Hundreds of Additional Spike LR Missiles
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- India's Garuda Aerospace Partners with Top Israeli Drone Players
- Israeli Navy Receives New Landing Craft
- Italy to Upgrade its Fleet of Ariete C1 Tanks

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- Nuclear cooperation: UAE's FANR concludes Saudi visit
- Saudi Arabia could convert civilian nuclear to military, Israeli expert warns
- Saudi Arabia, Turkiye's defense partnership takes flight
- FM: Saudi deal with US defense pact would make Gulf nuclear ambitions 'unnecessary'
- Israel split on Saudi nuclear program as US advances normalization deal
- Brazil and Saudi Arabia eye joint ventures, technology transfers

K. East Asia

- How the Nuclear Missile Threat from North Korea Keeps Growing
- At UN, North Korea slams US for nuclear weapons; defends its own as sovereign right
- Hiroshima marks 78th anniversary of atomic bombing
- Kim Jong Un tours North Korean weapons factories, urges 'rapid expansion' of production
- Japan Raises Concerns over Iran's Nuclear Enrichment, Drone Supplies to Russia
- A Russian Jet Was Spotted in North Korea, Raising Concerns Over Possible Arms Deal
- Japan plans to start releasing 'treated' radioactive water as soon as late August: Report
- South Koreans rip Japan flag in protest against Fukushima water discharge: 'the sea is not just for the Japanese'
- US driving situation on Korean Peninsula to brink of nuclear war – DPRK defense minister
- China watching closely as US, Japan, South Korea aim for 'de facto Asian Nato'
- China, North Korea Loom as US, Japan, South Korea Leaders Head to First Trilateral Summit

L. Australia

- U.S. Nuclear-Powered Submarine Visits Western Australia, First Since AUKUS Announcement
- Government abandons plan to dump nuclear waste near Kimba, sparking new hunt for dump site
- The Coalition's likely embrace of nuclear energy is high-risk politics
- Pentagon eyes missile testing role for Australia
- Search resumes for site for Australian radwaste facility
- The Kimba nuclear waste plan bites the dust. Here's what went wrong and how to do better next time

A. India

Chandrayaan-3 health normal, enters moon's sphere of influence

The Hindu, August 1, 2023

The health of the Chandrayaan-3 spacecraft is normal and it has entered the moon's sphere of influence following the TransLunar Injection (TLI). The Indian Space Research Organisation (ISRO) performed TLI to slingshot Chandrayaan-3 towards the moon early on Tuesday. The TLI was performed successfully from ISRO Telemetry, Tracking, and Command Network (ISTRAC) in Bengaluru. The space agency updated that the health of the spacecraft which was launched on July 14 is normal. "The spacecraft's health is normal. Tuesday's perigee burn has successfully raised Chandrayaan-3 orbit to 288 kmx3,69,328 km. In this orbit, the spacecraft enters the moon's sphere of influence. A crucial manoeuvre at perilune would achieve the Lunar Orbit Injection (LOI)," the space agency said.

<https://www.thehindu.com/news/national/chandrayaan-3-health-normal-enters-moons-sphere-of-influence/article67146278.ece>

Chandrayaan-3 Update: ISRO Successfully Completes Translunar Injection of the Lunar Spacecraft

The Weather Channel, August 1, 2023

Indian Space Research Organisation (ISRO) on Tuesday successfully injected the Chandrayaan 3 spacecraft into the TransLunar orbit, an official said.

"Chandrayaan-3 completes its orbits around the earth and heads towards the moon. A successful perigee-firing performed at ISTRAC, ISRO has injected the spacecraft into the translunar orbit. Next stop: the Moon. As it arrives at the moon, the Lunar-Orbit Insertion (LOI) is planned for August 5, 2023," ISRO tweeted.

Translunar orbit injection is the process whereby the moon-bound spacecraft is put into a trajectory so that it can reach the moon. The Indian space agency said it will

carry out the LOI process on August 5, 2023.

<https://weather.com/en-IN/india/space/news/2023-08-01-isro-completes-translunar-injection-of-chandrayaan-3>

ISRO rocket debris on Australian shore: rules governing space junk

Indian Express, August 1, 2023

A large object found on the shores of western Australia a couple of weeks ago has been confirmed to be the debris of an Indian Space Research Organisation (ISRO) rocket, the Australian Space Agency said Monday. ISRO has agreed with the assessment, saying the debris could be from one of its Polar Satellite Launch Vehicle (PSLV) rockets.

An ISRO official said the object was most likely an unburnt part of the PSLV rocket that launched a navigation satellite for the IRNSS constellation two months ago. "That satellite was launched in the southward direction. It is possible that one of the parts of the rocket did not burn completely while dropping back into the atmosphere, and fell into the ocean. It could later have been swept towards the Australian shore," the official said.

<https://indianexpress.com/article/explained/explained-sci-tech/isro-rocket-debris-on-australian-shore-rules-governing-space-junk-8870243/>

Union Minister Dr Jitendra Singh says, India is the fifth amongst spacefaring nations having end-to-end capabilities in space research and development, including the capability to launch from our own land and operate programs of earth observation, satellite communication, meteorology, space science & navigation and ground infrastructure

PIB, August 2, 2023

Union Minister of State (Independent Charge) Science & Technology; MoS PMO,

Personnel, Public Grievances, Pensions, Atomic Energy and Space, Dr Jitendra Singh today said, India is the fifth amongst spacefaring nations having end-to-end capabilities in space research and development, including the capability to launch from our own land and operate programs of earth observation, satellite communication, meteorology, space science & navigation and ground infrastructure. In a written reply to a question in the Lok Sabha, Dr Jitendra Singh informed that right now NewSpace industries are also emerging at fast pace after space sector reforms. The Minister also listed out significant progress made by ISRO during the last five years.

<https://pib.gov.in/PressReleasePage.aspx?PRID=1945024>

Union Minister Dr Jitendra Singh says, the Government is exploring the options of collaborating with other countries and taking up indigenous development of Small Modular Reactors (SMRs)

PIB, August 2, 2023

Union Minister of State (Independent Charge) Science & Technology; MoS PMO, Personnel, Public Grievances, Pensions, Atomic Energy and Space, Dr Jitendra Singh today said, the Government is exploring the options of collaborating with other countries and taking up indigenous development of Small Modular Reactors (SMRs).

In a written reply to a question in the Lok Sabha, Dr Jitendra Singh informed that the future course of action will be finalized on the basis of the decision of the Government. He also informed that the provisions of Atomic Energy Act, 1962 are being examined to allow participation of private sector and start-ups to promote SMRs technology in the country.

<https://pib.gov.in/PressReleasePage.aspx?PRID=1945029>

Argentina and India continue to develop nuclear cooperation

World Nuclear News, August 3, 2023

A variety of meetings and tours, including to nuclear fuel producer Combustibles Nucleares Argentino and the site of the RA-10 reactor, have taken place within the framework of the second meeting of India and Argentina's Joint Coordination Committee. Adriana Serquis, president of Argentina's National Atomic Energy Commission (CNEA), said: "It is very valuable for the CNEA to receive today the visit of the delegation from India, not only to strengthen our cooperation ties in different areas related to nuclear medicine or reactors, but also so that they can get to know our facilities and workers, and the major priority projects that our institution is carrying out."

<https://www.world-nuclear-news.org/Articles/Argentina-and-India-continue-to-develop-nuclear-co>

Union Minister Dr Jitendra Singh says, the first Test Vehicle mission, for the validation of crew escape system for Gaganyaan, the maiden human space flight mission of India is planned in August/September 2023

PIB, August 3, 2023

Union Minister of State (Independent Charge) Science & Technology; MoS PMO, Personnel, Public Grievances, Pensions, Atomic Energy and Space, Dr Jitendra Singh today said, the first Test Vehicle mission, for the validation of crew escape system for Gaganyaan, the maiden human space flight mission of India is planned in August/September 2023.

In a statement laid on the table of the Rajya Sabha, Dr Jitendra Singh informed that all subsystems pertaining to Test Vehicle TV-D1 mission have been realized and the Crew module integration is

completed. He also added that Static tests of all Crew Escape System motors have been completed as also Ground testing of Crew Module Propulsion system is completed. Training of crew (Astronauts) is nearing completion.

<https://pib.gov.in/PressReleasePage.aspx?PRID=1945447>

Status of Chandrayaan-3 Mission

PIB, August 3, 2023

Chandrayaan-3 spacecraft was successfully launched onboard LVM-3 on 14th July, 2023 at 14:35 hrs from the Satish Dhawan Space Centre, SHAR. The spacecraft is currently undergoing a series of orbit maneuvers with the objective of reaching the moon's orbit and has two phases namely Earth Bound Phase and Lunar Bound Phase. The spacecraft is currently in the Earth Bound Phase.

Chandrayaan-3 components include various electronic and mechanical subsystems intended to ensure safe and soft landing such as Navigation sensors, propulsion systems, guidance & control among others. Additionally, there are mechanism for release of Rover, two way communication related antennas and other onboard electronics.

<https://pib.gov.in/PressReleasePage.aspx?PRID=1945483>

Induction of Electric Vehicles in Army

PIB, August 4, 2023

The Indian Army is planning to introduce phased induction of a limited number of Electric Vehicles (EVs) in 'peace stations' across the country. The aims and objectives are to adapt to the latest technological advancements, give impetus to green energy and reduce dependency on fossil fuels. The Indian Army is inducting the following EVs across the country: Light Vehicles (Electric), Buses (Electric), Motor Cycles (Electric).

<https://pib.gov.in/PressReleasePage.aspx?PRID=1945708>

ISRO transfers satellite bus technology to Bengaluru-based private firm

Indian Express, August 6, 2023

The Indian Space Research Organisation (ISRO) on Friday announced that it began transferring IMS-1 Satellite Bus technology to Alpha Design Technologies, a Bengaluru-based private company. The transfer was facilitated by ISRO's commercial arm NewSpace India Limited (NSIL) through an agreement that was signed on Wednesday.

This technology signals the beginning of increased private participation in the Indian space industry. The IMS-1 satellite bus was developed by the UR Rao Satellite Centre and is a small satellite platform designed to enable low-cost access to space. The bus can serve as a dedicated vehicle for many different payloads, facilitating Earth imaging, ocean and atmospheric studies, microwave remote sensing and space science missions.

<https://indianexpress.com/article/technology/science/isro-satellite-technology-transfer-8877785/>

Chandrayaan-3 Highlights: Chandrayaan-3 inches closer to moon after successful orbit reduction manoeuvre

Mint, August 7, 2023

The Chandrayaan-3 spacecraft on Sunday successfully entered the lunar orbit. If the rest of the current mission goes to plan, the mission will safely touch down near the Moon's little-explored south pole between August 23 and 24. Since its launch on July 14, ISRO has been lifting the Chandrayaan-3 spacecraft into orbits farther and farther away from Earth.

<https://www.livemint.com/news/india/chandrayaan3-live-updates-lunar-orbit-moon-isro-spacecraft-to-enter-moon-orbit-on-5-august-11691199160560.html>

Historic Apsara reactor transformed into public museum: Unveiling India's nuclear odyssey

Economic Times, August 7, 2023

In an unprecedented endeavor that could set a global precedent, the Apsara reactor at the Bhabha Atomic Research Centre (BARC) in Trombay is undergoing a transformation into a public museum. The reactor hailed for its groundbreaking significance, was inaugurated 67 years ago on August 4, 1956, by India's first Prime Minister Jawaharlal Nehru. Serving as a pivotal milestone not only for India but also for Asia, the Apsara reactor marked the genesis of the nuclear era in the region. After over six decades of scientific exploration, it was finally decommissioned, and a novel chapter is now being scripted as it evolves into a museum.

<https://economictimes.indiatimes.com/news/new-updates/historic-apsara-reactor-transformed-into-public-museum-unveiling-indias-nuclear-odyssey/articleshow/102493238.cms?from=mdr>

India bars makers of military drones from using Chinese parts

The Hindu, August 8, 2023

India in recent months has barred domestic manufacturers of military drones from using components made in China over concerns about security vulnerabilities. India in recent months has barred domestic manufacturers of military drones from using components made in China, due to concerns about security vulnerabilities, according to four defence and industry officials and documents reviewed by Reuters.

The measure has come to light amid tensions between the nuclear-armed neighbours and as New Delhi pursues a military modernisation that envisages greater use of unmanned quadcopters, long-endurance systems and other autonomous platforms.

<https://www.thehindu.com/sci-tech/technology/india-bars-makers-military-drones-using-chinese-parts/article67170885.ece>

Parliament pays tribute to victims of Hiroshima, Nagasaki nuclear bomb attack

Hindustan Times, August 9, 2023

Lok Sabha MPs on Wednesday observed a minute's silence as a tribute to the freedom fighters, commemorating the 1942 Quit India Movement. They also paid tribute to the victims of Hiroshima and Nagasaki in Japan on the 78th anniversary of the atomic bombings. Earlier this morning, Japanese Ambassador to India Hiroshi Suzuki was seen arriving in parliament. Nagasaki Day, observed annually on August 9, marks the 78th anniversary. It was the day when the Japanese city of Nagasaki was devastated by an atomic bomb during World War II. This day serves as a reminder of the immense destructive power of nuclear weapons and the need for lasting peace.

<https://www.hindustantimes.com/india-news/parliament-pays-tribute-to-victims-of-hiroshima-nagasaki-nuclear-bomb-attack-101691567156219.html>

Union Minister Dr Jitendra Singh says, the Indian Space Policy - 2023 opens up the sector for enhanced participation of Non-Government Entities (NGEs) across the entire value chain of the space economy

PIB, August 10, 2023

Union Minister of State (Independent Charge) Science & Technology; MoS PMO, Personnel, Public Grievances, Pensions, Atomic Energy and Space, Dr Jitendra Singh today said, the Indian Space Policy - 2023 has been approved and released in the public domain. The Policy opens up the sector for enhanced participation of Non-Government Entities (NGEs) across the entire value chain of the space economy, while clearly delineating the roles of various stakeholders viz. IN-SPACe, ISRO, NSIL and DOS.

In a written reply to a question in the Rajya Sabha, Dr Jitendra Singh said, the Government has set up the Indian National Space Promotion and Authorization Centre (IN-SPACE) as a single-window agency for promotion and authorization of space activities.

<https://pib.gov.in/PressReleasePage.aspx?PRID=1947441>

Union Minister Dr Jitendra Singh informs that the government has approved the establishment of a new spaceport in Kulasekarapattinam, Tamil Nadu for carrying out the launches of the Small Satellite Launch Vehicles (SSLV) developed by ISRO

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Union Minister of State (Independent Charge) Science & Technology; MoS PMO, Personnel, Public Grievances, Pensions, Atomic Energy and Space, Dr Jitendra Singh today said, the Indian Space Policy - 2023 has been approved and released in the public domain. The Policy opens up the sector

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<https://pib.gov.in/PressReleasePage.aspx?PRID=1947442>

Launch of Y - 3024 (Vindhyagiri) on 17 August 2023

PIB, August 13, 2023

Vindhyagiri, a Project 17A Frigate, will be launched by the Hon'ble President of India Smt Droupadi Murmu, at Garden

Reach Shipbuilders and Engineers Limited, Kolkata on 17 Aug 23. *Vindhyagiri*, named after the mountain range in Karnataka, is the sixth ship of the Project 17A Frigates. These warships are follow-ons of the Project 17 Class Frigates (Shivalik Class), with improved stealth features, advanced weapons and sensors and platform management systems. '*Vindhyagiri*', a technologically advanced Frigate, pays a befitting tribute to the distinguished service of its predecessor, the erstwhile INS *Vindhyagiri*, the Leander Class ASW Frigate. The old *Vindhyagiri* in its nearly 31 years of service from 08 Jul 81 to 11 Jun 12, had witnessed various challenging operations and multinational exercises. The newly christened *Vindhyagiri* stands as a symbol of India's determination to embrace its rich naval heritage while propelling itself towards a future of indigenous defence capabilities.

<https://pib.gov.in/PressReleasePage.aspx?PRID=1948340>

India's first space-based solar observatory Aditya-L1 gets ready for launch

Mint, August 14, 2023

Indian Space Research Organisation (ISRO) has announced that India's first space-based solar observatory, PSLV-C57/Aditya-L1 Mission, is ready to launch. This big project marks the country's mission that could revolutionise the understanding of the Sun's dynamics and space weather.

Earlier, ISRO Chairman S Somanath shared an update on 28 June revealing that the organisation is targeting the end of August for Aditya-L1's launch. An exact date regarding the launch of the project is, however, yet to be announced.

"Aditya-L1, the first space-based Indian observatory to study the Sun, is getting ready for the launch. The satellite realised at the U R Rao Satellite Centre (URSC), Bengaluru, has arrived at SDSC-

SHAR, Sriharikota," ISRO said in a post on X (formally known as Twitter) on Monday.

<https://www.livemint.com/science/news/indias-first-space-based-solar-observatory-aditya-l1-gets-ready-for-launch-announces-isro-11692008226654.html>

B. Russia

Launch date for Crew Dragon mission to ISS with Russian cosmonaut rescheduled to August 21

TASS, August 1, 2023

The US National Aeronautics and Space Administration (NASA) and Space X have moved the launch date for the mission of a Crew Dragon spacecraft, carrying a crew including Russian cosmonaut Konstantin Borisov, to the International Space Station (ISS) up to August 21.

The start of the SpaceX Crew-7 Mission to replace the current crew had been planned for August 17. "NASA and SpaceX now are targeting 5:23 a.m. EDT Monday (12:23 p.m. Moscow time), August 21, for the launch of the agency's Crew-7 mission to the International Space Station," NASA said in a statement. The postponement of the mission, according to NASA, will allow for better preparing the launch site at NASA's Kennedy Space Center in Florida. NASA added that there is a backup date for the mission, which is August 25.

<https://tass.com/science/1655285>

All systems go on Russian segment of ISS – Roscosmos

TASS, August 1, 2023

The instruments and systems of the Russian segment of the International Space Station (ISS) are operating normally, Roscosmos has told TASS.

"All instruments and systems of the Russian segment of the ISS are operating normally," the state corporation said.

As TASS special correspondent and Roscosmos cosmonaut Dmitry Petelin has explained, the American segment's

automatic protection system triggered a shutdown in the power supply due to a yet-to-be identified problem.

<https://tass.com/science/1655295>

Russian cosmonauts to perform spacewalk on August 9

TASS, August 2, 2023

Russian crew members of the International Space Station plan to carry out a number of procedures during their upcoming spacewalk on August 9, including the transportation of a cosmonaut from one module to another with the help of the ERA robotic arm, a TASS correspondent aboard the ISS, Dmitry Petelin, has reported.

At the very start of the extravehicular activity, Petelin and his colleague will install micrometeoroid protection screens on several areas of the Rassvet module.

<https://tass.com/science/1655467>

Year-long Arctic expedition due to begin in mid-August after 40-years pause

TASS, August 3, 2023

An Arctic expedition of the Russian Academy of Sciences, unique in past 40 years, will begin in mid-August and will continue for one year, the Clean Arctic project's press service said.

"In mid-August will begin a unique scientific high-latitude expedition, dubbed Clean Arctic - Vostok 77," the press service said. "This country did not have expeditions of the kind in past 40 years." "The expedition will continue exactly for one year. It will study conditions of tundras, perennially frozen grounds, will update maps of the USSR's industrial heritage and of modern transport infrastructures, will survey microplastics in the northern water bodies and future carbon polygons, etc.," the press service added

<https://tass.com/economy/1656117>

Russian nuclear-powered sub to test-fire cruise missiles in state trials – source

TASS, August 3, 2023

The latest Project 885M (Yasen-M) nuclear-powered submarine Krasnoyarsk will conduct three test-launches of Kalibr-PL and Oniks cruise missiles during state trials in August-September this year, a source close to the Russian Navy told TASS on Thursday.

“During joint state trials, the nuclear-powered submarine Krasnoyarsk will perform three combat training launches of Kalibr and Oniks missiles from its submerged position in the Barents Sea,” the source said.

One test launch will involve a salvo firing of both Kalibr and Oniks cruise missiles, the source specified.

<https://tass.com/defense/1656315>

Russian military specialists monitor radiation situation at ZNPP – Defense Ministry

TASS, August 4, 2023

Specialists of Russia’s radiation, chemical, and biological protection force have been taking measures to maintain radiation safety and monitor the situation at the Zaporozhye nuclear power plant, the Russian Defense Ministry said.

“Specialists of Russia’s radiation, chemical and biological protection force at the ZNPP have been taking measures to maintain radiation safety and monitor the radiation situation,” the Defense Ministry said.

At the ZNPP there has been scheduled rotation of International Atomic Energy Agency monitors, the ministry said. IAEA experts regularly visit ZNPP facilities and have a chance to examine the main equipment.

<https://tass.com/defense/1656587>

Russia declares ceasefire during rotation of IAEA monitors at ZNPP – Defense Ministry

TASS, August 4, 2023

Russia declared a ceasefire during the rotation of experts from the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA) at the Zaporozhye NPP, a military serviceman said in a video posted on the official Telegram channel of the Russian Defense Ministry. On Thursday, another rotation of IAEA observers at the nuclear power plant took place. The new team consists of four inspectors who will keep an eye on and assess the plant’s safety status. “For these purposes (rotation of IAEA experts - TASS), a ceasefire has been declared from 7 a.m. to 7 p.m. The Russian side guarantees a ceasefire. <...> We will ensure the safety of the IAEA experts,” the officer said. The footage also shows the moment of the inspectors’ rotation.

<https://tass.com/defense/1656615>

ISS swerves on Saturday to avoid space garbage – Roscosmos

TASS, August 6, 2023

The engines of the Russian Progress MS-22 spacecraft helped the International Space Station (ISS) to swerve to avoid space debris on August 5, the press service of Roscosmos said.

“Yesterday, the Progress MS-22 cargo craft performed a maneuver for the International Space Station to avoid a possible collision with space junk,” the state corporation said.

<https://tass.com/science/1657175>

Soyuz-2.1b carrier rocket with defense ministry satellite blasts off from Plesetsk

TASS, August 7, 2023

A Soyuz-2.1b carrier rocket carrying a spacecraft on behalf of the Russian defense

ministry has been launched from the Plesetsk spaceport in Russia's northwestern Arkhangelsk Region.

"At 4:20 p.m. Moscow time on Monday, August 7, combat crews of the Russian aerospace forces launched a Soyuz-2.1b medium-class carrier rocket with a spacecraft in the interests of the Russian defense ministry from the Plesetsk spaceport in the Arkhangelsk Region," it said.

This was the tenth space launch in 2023 and the third one from Plesetsk.

<https://tass.com/science/1657613>

Russian defense ministry satellite put into orbit

TASS, August 8, 2023

The Russian defense ministry's satellite that was launched earlier on Monday from the Plesetsk spaceport in Russia's northwestern Arkhangelsk Region has been put into orbit, the ministry said.

"The spacecraft was put into the designated orbit by a Fregat booster as scheduled and taken under the control of the Russian space forces' ground means," it said. "The satellite's onboard systems are operating routinely. The spacecraft was given the number Cosmos-2569."

According to the ministry, the Soyuz-2.1b carrier rocket was launched without incident.

<https://tass.com/science/1657681>

Soyuz rocket with Luna-25 automatic probe installed on Vostochny spaceport's launch pad

TASS, August 8, 2023

A Soyuz-2.1b carrier rocket with a Fregat booster and a Luna-25 probe has been installed on a launch pad of the Vostochny spaceport for Russia's first automatic lunar mission in its modern history, the State Space Corporation Roscosmos announced on Tuesday.

"A Soyuz-2.1b space rocket with a Luna-25 automatic station has been taken to the

launch pad of site 1S of the Vostochny spaceport today. After putting the rocket in its vertical position at the launch pad, Roscosmos specialists continued its preparation for launch," Roscosmos said in a statement.

<https://tass.com/science/1657763>

Russia to feature mockup of future orbital station's baseline module at Army 2023 forum

TASS, August 8, 2023

The Energia Space Rocket Corporation will feature a mockup of the baseline module of the future Russian Orbital Station (ROS) at the Army 2023 international military-technical forum in mid-August, Russia's State Space Corporation Roscosmos announced on Tuesday.

The ROS baseline module will be on display at the Roscosmos integrated exposition at the Army 2023 forum, it said.

<https://tass.com/science/1657839>

US did not invite Russian diplomats to Crew Dragon launch with Russian cosmonaut

TASS, August 9, 2023

The United States did not invite diplomats of the Russian Consulate General in Houston to the launch of the Crew Dragon spacecraft to the ISS with Russian cosmonaut Konstantin Borisov on board, Russian Consul General in Houston Alexander Zakharov told TASS.

"Now we do not even receive notifications about the launches from NASA. There is no such thing," he said.

"We work closely with the Russian mission control team, which is here on a rotating basis, and we provide the necessary consular assistance," Zakharov added, "I would like to see much more cooperation with NASA, the Johnson Space Center."

<https://tass.com/science/1658207>

Russia to unveil Yars ICBM mobile launcher at Army 2023 arms show

TASS, August 9, 2023

Russia will unveil equipment of the Yars intercontinental ballistic missile (ICBM) system, including its mobile missile launcher, at the Army 2023 international arms show, Strategic Missile Force Commander Colonel-General Sergey Karakayev said on Wednesday.

“Considering numerous requests and wishes from the forum’s constant visitors and missile troop veterans, an autonomous launcher and a combat alert vehicle of the Yars mobile missile system will be demonstrated for the first time along with a traditional firing battery of the Topol road-mobile missile system,” the commander said in an interview with the Defense Ministry’s Krasnaya Zvezda newspaper.

<https://tass.com/defense/1658377>

Soyuz rocket with modern Russia’s first lunar mission blasts off from Vostochny

TASS, August 11, 2023

Luna-25, the first lunar mission in the history of modern Russia, took off from the Vostochny launch facility in Russia’s Far East on Friday, a TASS correspondent reported from the space center.

The Fregat booster separated from the rocket’s third stage approximately 564 seconds into the flight. The Luna-25 spacecraft will separate from the booster about an hour after the launch.

The flight to the Moon will take up to 5.5 days.

<https://tass.com/russia/1659051>

Russia notifies UN secretary general of nuclear energy sources onboard Luna-25 moon lander

TASS, August 11, 2023

Russia has duly notified UN Secretary General Antonio Guterres of nuclear energy sources onboard the Luna-25 moon lander,

according to a statement by the Russian Foreign Ministry.

“In conformity with the provisions of Russian legislation, our country has fulfilled its international obligations to duly notify the UN secretary general about the sources of nuclear energy onboard the Luna-25,” the ministry said.

The Russian Foreign Ministry reiterated that earlier, on August 11, the Soyuz-2.1b carrier rocket, with a Fregat booster, took the Luna-25 automatic station into a near-Earth orbit.

<https://tass.com/science/1659397>

Luna-25 spacecraft separates from Fregat booster

TASS, August 11, 2023

Russia’s Luna-25 robotic spacecraft, the first Moon mission in the history of modern Russia, separated from the Fregat booster on Friday, Russia’s state-run space corporation Roscosmos told reporters.

“Luna-25’s separation from the booster completed,” the corporation said.

Luna-25, the first lunar mission in the history of modern Russia, took off from the Vostochny launch facility in Russia’s Far East at 2:10 a.m. on Friday Moscow time. The mission’s key goal will be to polish the soft landing technology.

<https://tass.com/russia/1659067>

Mission control takes command of Luna-25 spacecraft

TASS, August 11, 2023

The Luna-25 spacecraft, launched earlier on Friday from the Vostochny space center in Russia’s Far East, has been taken under command, Russia’s state-run space corporation Roscosmos said.

“The spacecraft has been taken under command,” the corporation said.

Luna-25, the first lunar mission in the history of modern Russia, took off from the Vostochny launch facility in Russia’s Far

East at 2:10 a.m. on Friday Moscow time. The spacecraft is expected to reach the Moon's orbit on August 16 before landing on August 21.

<https://tass.com/russia/1659077>

Two more launches from Vostochny expected later this year

TASS, August 11, 2023

Two more launches of Soyuz carrier rockets are scheduled to take place from the Vostochny space launch facility in Russia's Far East by the end of the year, said Dmitry Baranov, the director general of the Progress Rocket Space Center (RSC).

"Two rockets for the Vostochny cosmodrome have been manufactured and are scheduled to be delivered here in October," he said on Friday. "Two [rockets] are to blast off by the end of the year."

<https://tass.com/russia/1659081>

Goals of Luna-25 mission are peaceful – Roscosmos chief

TASS, August 11, 2023

Luna-25, the first lunar mission in the history of modern Russia, has absolutely peaceful goals, Roscosmos Director General Yuri Borisov told reporters on Friday.

"The goals of this mission are of purely peaceful nature," he said.

Luna-25, the first lunar mission in the history of modern Russia, took off from the Vostochny launch facility in Russia's Far East at 2:10 a.m. on Friday Moscow time. The spacecraft is expected to reach the Moon's orbit on August 16 before landing on August 21.

<https://tass.com/russia/1659083>

Russia remains committed to principle of inadmissibility of nuclear war – foreign ministry

TASS, August 11, 2023

Russia is taking all necessary measures to guarantee national security but is firmly

committed to the principle of the inadmissibility of a nuclear war, the Russian foreign ministry said on Friday, commenting on the decisions made by Russia, the United Kingdom and the United States to not target strategic nuclear missiles.

"The leadership of our country is firmly committed to the principle of the inadmissibility of a nuclear war. We proceed from the fact that there can be no winner in such a war and that it must not be unleashed," the ministry said. "Russia is taking all necessary measures to ensure its national security, territorial integrity and sovereignty. And it will continue to do so."

According to the ministry, preventing a potential act of aggression against Russia and its allies "is among its highest state priorities."

<https://tass.com/defense/1659433>

First Luna-25 orbit correction carried out

TASS, August 12, 2023

The first orbit correction of the Luna-24 mission to the Earth's natural satellite was carried out on Saturday, Roscosmos told reporters.

"Today the Luna-25 automatic probe, made in the Lavochkin Research and Production Association (incorporated into the State Space Corporation Roscosmos), carried out the first correction of the flight trajectory to the natural satellite of the Earth," the Russian space agency said.

Roscosmos added that the propulsion system turned on at 4:00 p.m. Moscow time to operate for 46 seconds.

<https://tass.com/science/1659611>

Russian lunar probe activates scientific devices in its travel to Moon – Roscosmos

TASS, August 13, 2023

Scientific instruments were activated for the first time aboard Russia's Luna-25

automatic station currently on its pathway to the Moon, the State Space Corporation Roscosmos announced on Sunday.

“Today the scientific equipment developed by the Space Research Institute of the Russian Academy of Sciences was activated for the first time in the conditions of the space flight. The service telemetric data from all the devices showed their normal operation,” Roscosmos said.

As a result, the first measurement data during the flight to the Moon was obtained and a research team began to process it, it said.

<https://tass.com/science/1659745>

Russia to equip new nuclear submarines with hypersonic missiles

Reuters, August 14, 2023

Russia is in the process of equipping its new nuclear submarines with hypersonic Zircon missiles, the head of Russia’s largest shipbuilder told the RIA state news agency in an interview published on Monday.

“Multi-purpose nuclear submarines of the Yasen-M project will ... be equipped with the Zircon missile system on a regular basis,” , Alexei Rakhmanov, chief executive officer of the United Shipbuilding Corporation (USC), told RIA.

<https://www.reuters.com/world/europe/russia-equip-new-nuclear-submarines-with-hypersonic-missiles-2023-08-14/>

Russia to wrap up ground tests of latest Rokot-M carrier rocket in 2024

TASS, August 14, 2023

The ground tests of the latest Rokot-M carrier rocket will be completed next year, First Deputy CEO of the Khrunichev Center (part of the State Space Corporation Roscosmos) Denis Deniskin said at the Army 2023 international arms show on Monday.

“The ground tests [of the Rokot-M launch vehicle] will be completed next year, with

the first launch in 2024,” the Khrunichev executive said.

<https://tass.com/defense/1659971>

Admiral Kuznetsov aircraft carrier, Admiral Nakhimov cruiser to be rejoin Navy 2024

TASS, August 14, 2023

The heavy aircraft carrier The Admiral Kuznetsov and the heavy nuclear-powered guided missile cruiser The Admiral Nakhimov will be handed over to the Navy after repairs and upgrade in 2024, Vladimir Korolyov, the deputy CEO of the United Shipbuilding Corporation (USC) for military shipbuilding, told TASS on the sidelines of the international military-industrial forum Army-2023.

“So far there are no changes in the terms of delivery of these ships to the Navy. The estimated dates remain the same - 2024,” he said. The Admiral Kuznetsov has been undergoing repairs and upgrade at the 35th Shipyard (a branch of the Zvyozdochka Ship Repair Center, part of the United Shipbuilding Corporation) since 2017.

<https://tass.com/defense/1659933>

West ignores Russia’s warning weapons supplied to Kiev may spread – Lavrov

TASS, August 15, 2023

The Western countries ignore all sobering signals from Russia about the risk the weapons being supplied to Kiev may spread around the world, Russian Foreign Minister Sergey Lavrov told the 11th Moscow Conference on International Security.

“Today the United States and NATO as well as the European Union for the sake of saving their own geopolitical project of containing Russia and splitting the Russian world are pumping ever more sophisticated weapons into Ukraine, thus fueling the conflict and provoking uncontrolled spread [of weapons] around

the world," Lavrov said. "All of our sobering signals are being ignored or grossly distorted for propaganda purposes," he emphasized. "Quite a few facts illustrating this have been presented.

<https://tass.com/defense/1660647>

Russia set to boost military cooperation with Asia-Pacific region – Shoigu

TASS, August 15, 2023

Russia will strengthen its military ties with countries in the Asia-Pacific region, Russian Defense Minister Sergey Shoigu said, addressing the 11th Moscow Conference on International Security on Tuesday. "We will further build military cooperation with the Asia-Pacific region, where India is one of our major partners <...>. We share the common experience of fighting against colonial rule with Vietnam, Myanmar, Mongolia, Laos, Indonesia and Bangladesh," Russia's defense chief said.

According to Shoigu, attempts are being made to dismantle the ASEAN-centric security system in the Asia-Pacific region, with NATO's confrontation practices being introduced there. "We can see a distinctive trend of establishing a NATO-like alliance, AUKUS, in the region," he said, adding that cooperation in nuclear military technology as its debut practical project was a concern.

<https://tass.com/defense/1660703>

IN BRIEF: Kiev's military resources almost exhausted, Shoigu states at security conference

TASS, August 15, 2023

Ukraine's military resources are "almost exhausted," while Moscow's special military operation has made it clear that there is nothing on the battlefield that is invulnerable to Russian weapons, Russian Defense Minister Sergey Shoigu said in an address to the 11th Moscow Conference on International Security.

According to him, history has once again chosen Russia to be "a driving force

promoting the interests of the majority of independent states," while Kiev's defeat will become "a factor in combating modern neocolonialism."

TASS has gathered the key takeaways from Shoigu's address.

<https://tass.com/defense/1660733>

C. Pakistan

Pakistan formalises Chashma 5 approval

World Nuclear News, August 1, 2023

Pakistan's Executive Committee of the National Economic Council (ECNEC) has formally given its approval to the project to build unit 5 of the Chashma nuclear power plant, two weeks after Pakistan's Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif took part in a ground-breaking ceremony for the reactor. According to an official government announcement, ECNEC "considered and approved" the Pakistan Atomic Energy Commission (PAEC) project at a rationalised cost of KPR1,048 billion (USD3.7 billion) with a foreign exchange component of KPR187 billion and Chinese credit of KPR821 billion at a meeting held in Karachi on 27 July. China National Nuclear Corporation and PAEC signed a cooperation agreement on the construction of the plant in 2017, but according to the *Dawn* newspaper, Pakistan's Planning Commission requested "certain clarifications and corrections", leading to a revised project with an escalated cost of KPR689 billion being submitted in early 2021. This was revised again to KPR767.6 billion later that year.

<https://www.world-nuclear-news.org/Articles/Pakistan-formalises-Chashma-5-approval>

Iran, Pakistan Discuss Ways to Complete Gas Pipeline Bypassing US Sanctions

VOA News, August 3, 2023

Iran announced Thursday its readiness to help urgently complete and operationalize

a long-delayed multibillion dollar pipeline to export natural gas to neighboring Pakistan.

Iranian Foreign Minister Hossein Amir Abdollahian, on a three-day visit to Islamabad, made the remarks after delegation-level talks with his Pakistani counterpart, Bilawal Bhutto Zardari.

“We held important discussions on how we can find solutions to some existing banking and financial problems between the two countries within the framework of the international rules and regulations,” Abdollahian told a joint news conference without elaborating. He spoke through his official interpreter.

<https://www.voanews.com/a/iran-pakistan-discuss-ways-to-complete-gas-pipeline-bypassing-us-sanctions-/7210749.html>

Pakistan Shelves Iran Gas Pipeline Project After US Mounts Pressure: Report

Outlook, August 7, 2023

Pakistan has shelved multi-billion dollar gas pipeline project with Iran.

The reports said Pakistan has temporarily shelved the multi-billion dollar gas pipeline project to import cheap energy from neighbouring Iran.

Pakistan’s move apparently under pressure from the US which has imposed sanctions against Iran over its nuclear programme, PTI reported.

It said the development comes as Pakistan struggles to put its cash-strapped economy in order with the help of the International Monetary Fund, which agreed to provide USD 3 billion in loan.

It added the project was initially conceived as an India-Pakistan-Iran gas pipeline, but later, India left it and became a bilateral project between Pakistan and Iran.

<https://www.outlookindia.com/international/pakistan-shelves-iran-gas-pipeline-project-after-us-mounts-pressure-report-news-308701>

Beleaguered Pakistan’s nuclear goals

Tribune India, August 10, 2023

WITH its economy in the doldrums amid strict controls on government expenditure because of tough conditions laid down by the International Monetary Fund (IMF), there is little to cheer today in Pakistan. To add to the country’s economic woes, inflationary pressures are making life difficult for the common man. A recent report from the World Bank notes: “Pakistan’s economy is currently under severe stress with low foreign reserves, a depreciating currency and high inflation.” Pakistan’s economy is expected to grow at 0.4 per cent in the current financial year amidst rising inflation and high energy prices. Its agricultural income is expected to contract for the first time in two decades, with industrial production also set to do likewise, resulting in supply chain disruption. Pakistan is going to remain an economic basket case, heavily dependent on foreign economic assistance for the foreseeable future.

<https://www.tribuneindia.com/news/comment/beleaguered-pakistans-nuclear-goals-533663>

D. Europe

EU sees ‘no immediate risks’ if Niger cuts uranium supplies

Reuters, August 1, 2023

EU nuclear agency Euratom said on Tuesday it saw no immediate risk to nuclear power production in Europe should Niger cut its deliveries of uranium.

Euratom told Reuters that Niger - a West African country where a junta seized power last week - was the second-largest supplier of natural uranium to the European Union last year.

It said utilities in the bloc had enough uranium inventories to fuel its nuclear power reactors for three years.

<https://www.reuters.com/world/europe/eu-sees-no-immediate-risks-if-niger-cuts-uranium-supplies-2023-08-01/>

Sweden's Nuclear Power Ambitions Quashed

Oil Price, August 1, 2023

Sweden's hope to build out its nuclear power capacity was quashed this week, with German utility Uniper SE saying it had no intention of throwing more money on nuclear power.

Uniper currently operates Sweden's largest nuclear power reactor Oskarshamn-3, and has partial stakes in Ringhals and Forsmark. But Uniper isn't interested in spending on additional nuclear power beyond its existing plants. It instead intends to focus on natural gas and renewables, according to Bloomberg, in line with its home country's recent mothballing of its last remaining nuclear reactor.

<https://oilprice.com/Latest-Energy-News/World-News/Swedens-Nuclear-Power-Ambitions-Quashed.html>

France Looks to Block US Purchase of Velan's Nuclear Business

Bloomberg, August 2, 2023

France is looking at ways to prevent Velan SAS, a domestic supplier of parts for nuclear reactors, from falling into US hands as it aims to protect a strategic industry.

The business is a French unit of Quebec-based Velan Inc., which is being taken over by Flowserve Corp. in an all-cash transaction valued at about C\$329 million (\$247 million). The deal was expected to close by the end of the second quarter and has been delayed.

<https://www.bloomberg.com/news/articles/2023-08-02/france-looks-to-block-us-purchase-of-velan-s-nuclear-business#xj4y7vzkg>

Poland says ready to respond appropriately to potential threats from Belarus

TASS, August 2, 2023

Poland is ready to respond appropriately to potential threats from Belarus, Polish Deputy Defense Minister Wojciech Skurkiewicz said.

Commenting on alleged violations of Warsaw's air space by Belarusian military helicopters, the senior defense official said: "We do realize who our enemy on the eastern border is." "If such situations continue to take place and there is an escalation of tensions, then our actions will retaliate appropriately to the potential threats."

Skurkiewicz called the situation with helicopters "a provocation aimed at Poland and NATO."

<https://tass.com/world/1655535>

France becomes top European power exporter on nuclear upturn

Montel, August 4, 2023

France overtook Sweden to become Europe's biggest net power exporter in the first half of 2023, amid an increase in nuclear power availability, while Germany ramped up imports, said Montel's EnAppSys on Friday.

In a forthcoming report, to be published on Monday, EnAppSys said France's total net exports amounted to 17.6 TWh in January-June, with most of the power flowing to Britain (8 TWh) and Italy (9 TWh).

"The cause for the increase of exports in France versus the previous year was an increased availability of the country's nuclear assets," said Jean-Paul Harreman, director of EnAppSys.

<https://www.montelnews.com/news/1513924/france-becomes-top-european-power-exporter-on-nuclear-upturn>

Sweden Needs to Treble Nuclear Power as Electricity Demand Soars

Bloomberg, August 9, 2023

Sweden said it needs to treble nuclear power capacity over the next couple of decades to meet a surge in electricity demand.

At least 10 new conventional reactors need to be built by 2045, Romina Pourmokhtari, the nation's climate and energy minister, said in a statement on Wednesday. The biggest Nordic nation has six reactors in operation today.

<https://www.bloomberg.com/news/articles/2023-08-09/sweden-needs-to-treble-nuclear-power-as-electricity-demand-soars#xj4y7vzkg>

Putin Profits Off US, European Reliance on Russian Nuclear Fuel

VOA News, August 10, 2023

The U.S. and its European allies are importing vast amounts of nuclear fuel and compounds from Russia, providing Moscow with hundreds of millions of dollars in badly needed revenue as it wages war on Ukraine.

The sales, which are legal and unsanctioned, have raised alarms from nonproliferation experts and elected officials who say the imports are helping to bankroll the development of Moscow's nuclear arsenal and are complicating efforts to curtail Russia's war-making abilities.

<https://www.voanews.com/a/putin-profits-off-us-and-european-reliance-on-russian-nuclear-fuel-/7220368.html>

Iran close to testing nuclear weapons for first time - European intel

The Jerusalem Post, August 11, 2023

The Islamic Republic of Iran is close to possibly testing a nuclear weapons device and has sought to obtain illicit technology for its active atomic weapons program, according to a series of shocking European intelligence reports released in 2023.

The Middle East Media Research Institute (MEMRI) first published translations of the intelligence documents on its website. *The Jerusalem Post* is the first Israeli newspaper to report on the intelligence findings from the Netherlands, Sweden and Germany.

The most unsettling revelation from the batch of intelligence data comes from the Netherlands General and Intelligence Security Service (AVID).

<https://www.jpost.com/middle-east/article-754467>

Hungary Agrees to Changes in Nuclear Plant Deal With Russia

Bloomberg, August 15, 2023

Hungary will delay interest payments to Russia that it owes in a Moscow-backed financing deal for the Paks II nuclear power plant, and it will make them in euros, the government in Budapest said in a decree published late on Monday.

The project will come on line only early next decade, much later than planned, due to significant delays tied to European Union opposition to the investment and Hungarian regulators' complaints about the quality of plans from Rosatom Corp., which is building the facility.

<https://www.bloomberg.com/news/articles/2023-08-15/hungary-agrees-to-changes-in-nuclear-plant-deal-with-russia#xj4y7vzkg>

E. Ukraine

Update 177 - IAEA Director General Statement on Situation in Ukraine

IAEA, August 4, 2023

International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA) experts have observed no mines or explosives on the rooftops of Unit 3 and Unit 4 reactor buildings and the turbine halls at Ukraine's Zaporizhzhya Nuclear Power Plant (ZNPP), after having been given access yesterday afternoon, Director General Rafael Mariano Grossi said today.

Following repeated requests, the team had unimpeded access to the rooftops of the two reactor units and could also clearly view the rooftops of the turbine halls. The team will continue its requests to visit the roofs of the other 4 units at ZNPP.

Director General Grossi has stressed the importance of IAEA experts being granted timely access to all areas of the ZNPP to monitor full compliance with the five basic principles for protecting Europe's largest nuclear power plant during the current military conflict.

<https://www.iaea.org/newscenter/pressreleases/update-177-iaea-director-general-statement-on-situation-in-ukraine>

New IAEA experts at Zaporozhye nuke plant from Ireland, Finland, South Korea, Pakistan

TASS, August 4, 2023

Experts from Ireland, Finland, South Korea and Pakistan arrived at the Zaporozhye Nuclear Power Plant (ZNPP) on Thursday as part of the latest rotation of the International Atomic Energy Agency's (IAEA) on-site mission, Renat Karchaa, advisor to the CEO of Russian state nuclear power corporation Rosenergoatom, told TASS.

"There are currently four people (IAEA mission members - TASS) at the facility. They are experts from Ireland, Finland, [South] Korea and Pakistan," he said.

The previous IAEA mission, which worked at the ZNPP between June 15 and August 3, included French, Moroccan, Austrian and South Korean nationals.

<https://tass.com/defense/1656623>

Ukraine says nuclear power plants will be fully operational by winter

France 24, August 8, 2023

Ukraine's nuclear power plants located in territory held by Kyiv will be fully operational by winter to provide electricity for the country, Ukraine's atomic energy operator said Monday. Two Russian missiles

struck the centre of Ukraine's Pokrovsk on Monday, killing at least seven people including civilians and first responders, the regional governor said; Russia on Tuesday said the strike had successfully targeted a military command post. Follow our liveblog for the latest developments on the war in Ukraine. All times are Paris time (GMT+2).

<https://www.france24.com/en/europe/20230808-04-live-several-killed-in-russian-missile-strikes-on-eastern-ukrainian-city-governor-says>

Update 178 - IAEA Director General Statement on Situation in Ukraine

IAEA, August 10, 2023

Ukraine's Zaporizhzhya Nuclear Power Plant (ZNPP) has started to transfer reactor unit 4 from hot shutdown to cold shutdown today following detection of a water leak at one of its four steam generators located in the containment of unit 4, Director General Rafael Mariano Grossi said.

The ZNPP will place unit 4 into cold shutdown to determine the precise cause of the water leak that has been detected and to conduct maintenance to repair the affected steam generator. There was no radiological release to the environment. At the same time, over the next three days, ZNPP will move unit 6 to hot shutdown to continue steam production on site.

<https://www.iaea.org/newscenter/pressreleases/update-178-iaea-director-general-statement-on-situation-in-ukraine>

Update 179 - IAEA Director General Statement on Situation in Ukraine

IAEA, August 11, 2023

Ukraine's Zaporizhzhya Nuclear Power Plant (ZNPP) was reconnected to its only remaining main 750 kilovolt (kV) power line on 10 August at approximately 19:00 local time after it had been disconnected at 16:13. It was the second outage of this power line on that day.

The IAEA team on site were informed that the disconnection occurred 5.5 km from the open switchyard on the southern bank of the river due to the activation of an overcurrent protection system.

During the outage, ZNPP relied on a single remaining 330 kV power line for the external electricity needed for reactor cooling and other essential nuclear safety and security functions. There was no loss of off-site power and no need to use the emergency diesel generators.

<https://www.iaea.org/newscenter/pressreleases/update-179-iaea-director-general-statement-on-situation-in-ukraine>

F. Belarus

President hopes to never use nuclear weapons deployed to Belarus

TASS, August 1, 2023

The Russian nuclear weapons that have been deployed in Belarus are a factor in deterring aggression, Belarusian President Alexander Lukashenko said.

“Nuclear weapons mean security. God forbid we have to use them. I do hope that it won’t come to that,” Lukashenko pointed out at a meeting with residents of the Belovezhsky farming town in the Brest Region, according to the “SB. Belarus Today” media outlet.

“I don’t want my people to go to war, particularly on my watch. It’s a terrible thing. We are drawing conclusions and learning lessons. We aren’t rattling weapons but we are preparing to defend our country,” the head of state said.

<https://tass.com/defense/1655205>

Lukashenko sees nuke deployment to Belarus as response to militarization of Eastern Europe

TASS, August 15, 2023

The deployment of tactical nuclear weapons to Belarus is an appropriate response to the rapid militarization of Eastern Europe,

Belarusian President Alexander Lukashenko said in his message to participants in the 11th Moscow Conference on International Security.

“By deploying tactical nuclear weapons to Belarus, we are appropriately responding to the rapid militarization of Eastern Europe and the increased military activities of the United States and NATO,” Lukashenko pointed out, as cited by his press service. However, this does not cancel out the peace initiatives that Minsk is promoting “in order to relaunch a dialogue on issues pertaining to European and global security on an equal footing.”

<https://tass.com/world/1660509>

West actively preparing for direct military showdown, Belarusian defense minister asserts

TASS, August 15, 2023

The West is actively investing in weapons and preparing for a direct military clash, Belarusian Defense Minister Viktor Khrenin asserted at the 11th Moscow Conference on International Security.

“Intensive military preparations are underway in the West; enormous sums of money are being invested in this. It is necessary to understand that, in the capitalist world, nobody will tie their assets up in [long-term investments in costly] weaponry and in beefing up the ranks of the army for nothing,” he said. “So, one can make an unambiguous conclusion: The possibility of a direct military clash with NATO in the future is becoming more and more evident,” he explained.

<https://tass.com/defense/1660689>

Nuke deployment to Belarus poses no threat to other countries, security official says

TASS, August 15, 2023

The deployment of tactical nuclear weapons to Belarus poses no threat to other nations as they can only be used in response to an attempt to encroach on the

country's territory, Belarusian Security Council State Secretary Alexander Volfovich said on the sidelines of the 11th Moscow Conference on International Security.

"The deployment of tactical nuclear weapons to Belarus is a forced measure that poses no threat at all to the security of Poland, Lithuania or any other country," he pointed out, as cited by the Belarusian news agency BelTA. "These weapons will only be used if someone tries to encroach on the territory of Belarus," Volfovich stressed, adding that the weapons would be stored in accordance with all rules and regulations. "We hope that they will never be used. We understand the consequences of using such weapons," the state secretary noted.

<https://tass.com/defense/1660873>

G. United States of America

Northrop Grumman launches its last Antares rocket with Russian RD-181 engine

TASS, August 2, 2023

US company Northrop Grumman carried out the final launch of the Antares rocket, equipped with RD-181 engines designed by Russia's Energomash design bureau early on Wednesday.

Antares, carrying the Cygnus spacecraft delivering cargo to the International Space Station (ISS), was launched at 8:31 p.m. EST on August 1 (03:31 a.m. August 2 Moscow time). The spacecraft has around 3.7 tons of cargo on board, including food and scientific equipment.

The docking with the ISS is scheduled after 4:30 a.m. EST (11:30 a.m. Moscow time) on August 4.

<https://tass.com/science/1655455>

Launch of US Crew Dragon with Russian cosmonaut Borisov postponed until August 25

TASS, August 4, 2023

The National Aeronautics and Space Administration (NASA) and SpaceX

postponed until August 25 the launch of Crew Dragon spacecraft with a multinational crew that includes Russian cosmonaut Konstantin Borisov.

The blastoff was previously scheduled for August 21.

"The target launch date for NASA's SpaceX Crew-7 mission to the International Space Station now is 3:49 a.m. EDT (10:49 a.m. Moscow time) Friday, Aug. 25," the organization said on its website.

NASA emphasized that the launch may be further postponed until August 26 or 27.

<https://tass.com/science/1656491>

US Nuclear Submarine Visits Western Australia as Allies Increase Defence Preparedness

US News, August 4, 2023

A U.S. Navy nuclear submarine arrived in Western Australia on Friday as allies Canberra and Washington deepen defence ties and prepare to transfer nuclear submarine capability to Australia.

The U.S. Navy Virginia-class submarine arrived at HMAS Stirling for a scheduled port visit as part of a patrol of the Indo-Pacific, officials said.

Port Stirling will undergo an A\$8 billion expansion to become a base for U.S. and British nuclear submarines from 2027, under the AUKUS partnership of Australia, the United States and Britain.

<https://www.usnews.com/news/world/articles/2023-08-04/us-nuclear-submarine-visits-western-australia-as-allies-increase-defence-preparedness>

US Cygnus spaceship docks to ISS with 3.7 tons of cargo

TASS, August 4, 2023

The Cygnus cargo spaceship made by US company Northrop Grumman has docked to the International Space Station (ISS), according to a telecast on NASA's website.

The spaceship docked at 5:52 a.m. EST (12:52 a.m. Moscow time). The spacecraft delivered 3.7 tons of cargo, including food and equipment for scientific experiments.

This is the 19th cargo delivery mission to the ISS carried out by Northrop Grumman as part of their contract with NASA. The spacecraft will remain docked to the station for a few months, after which it will undock from the ISS with a load of garbage and waste, re-enter Earth's atmosphere and burn up when it does so.

<https://tass.com/science/1656745>

US scientists achieve net energy gain for second time in nuclear fusion reaction

The Guardian, August 7, 2023

US scientists have achieved net energy gain in a nuclear fusion reaction for the second time since a historic breakthrough in December last year in the quest to find a near-limitless, safe and clean source of energy

Scientists at the California-based Lawrence Livermore National Laboratory repeated the breakthrough in an experiment in the National Ignition Facility (NIF) on 30 July that produced a higher energy yield than in December, a Lawrence Livermore spokesperson said.

Final results are still being analysed, the spokesperson added.

<https://www.theguardian.com/environment/2023/aug/06/us-scientists-achieve-net-energy-gain-second-time-fusion-reaction>

Sabrina Singh, Deputy Pentagon Press Secretary, Holds a Press Briefing

U.S. Department of Defense, August 8, 2023

On the heels of Secretary Austin's productive trip last week, on Friday, August 4th, the USS North Carolina docked at Stirling Naval Base in Western Australia, following her participation in Talisman Sabre.

This marks the first visit by a Virginia class submarine to the country since the trilateral announcement of the Australia, United Kingdom, and United States optimal pathway. These port visits are an essential step for Australia to build the necessary operational capabilities and skills to steward and operate its own fleet of nuclear-powered submarines.

<https://www.defense.gov/News/Transcripts/Transcript/Article/3487559/sabrina-singh-deputy-pentagon-press-secretary-holds-a-press-briefing/>

US military buildup in Gulf risks 'dangerous' Iran escalation: Analysts

Aljazeera, August 8, 2023

The United States's continuing military buildup in the Gulf risks a "dangerous" confrontation with Iran, US-based analysts have said, as the two countries continue to struggle to resolve their issues through diplomacy.

The Pentagon announced this week that thousands of US troops were being deployed to the region to help protect shipping lanes, such as those in the Strait of Hormuz, from Iranian "harassment".

<https://www.aljazeera.com/news/2023/8/8/us-military-buildup-in-gulf-risks-dangerous-iran-escalation-analysts>

Carcinogens found at Montana nuclear missile sites as reports of hundreds of cancers surface

AP News, August 10, 2023

The Air Force has detected unsafe levels of a likely carcinogen at underground launch control centers at a Montana nuclear missile base where a striking number of men and women have reported cancer diagnoses.

A new cleanup effort has been ordered.

The discovery "is the first from an extensive sampling of active U.S. intercontinental ballistic missile bases to address specific cancer concerns raised

by missile community members," Air Force Global Strike Command said in a release Monday. In those samples, two launch facilities at Malmstrom Air Force Base in Montana showed PCB levels higher than the thresholds recommended by the Environmental Protection Agency.

PCBs are oily or waxy substances that have been identified as a likely carcinogen by the EPA. Non-Hodgkin lymphoma is a blood cancer that uses the body's infection-fighting lymph system to spread.

<https://apnews.com/article/missile-bases-cancer-air-force-malmstrom-military-1999fad70393f0d141676b7faa587eda>

US would welcome any Iranian steps to slow nuclear program: Blinken

Arab News, August 15, 2023

US Secretary of State Antony Blinken said on Tuesday he could not confirm a report that Iran slowed its pace of amassing near-weapons-grade enriched uranium but would welcome any Iranian steps to de-escalate its "growing nuclear threat." Blinken also told reporters that Iran moving US detainees into house arrest was not related to any other aspect of US policy toward Iran, which he said reflected a strategy of deterrence, pressure and diplomacy. On Thursday, sources said Iran may free five detained US citizens as part of a deal to unfreeze \$6 billion in Iranian funds in South Korea. Iran allowed four detained US citizens to move into house arrest from prison. A fifth was already under home confinement.

<https://www.arabnews.com/node/2355701/middle-east>

Africa

Niger coup raises questions about uranium dependence

France 24, August 1, 2023

France's nuclear fuel firm Orano, formerly part of Areva, operates a uranium mine in the north of the country, employing some 900 mostly Nigeran staff.

The company said last week that it was monitoring the situation closely but that the seizure of power by the military had not for the moment affected the delivery of uranium supplies.

Niger accounts for only a small percentage of global production of natural uranium.

In 2021, it produced 4.7 percent of the world's total, far behind Kazakhstan at 45.2 percent, according to Euratom Supply Agency (ESA), which ensures Europe's supply of nuclear materials.

<https://www.france24.com/en/live-news/20230801-niger-coup-raises-questions-about-uranium-dependence>

Morocco's nuclear option: Russian vs US technological cooperation to power its water scarcity solutions

Middle East Institute, August 10, 2023

At last month's (July 27-28) second Russia-Africa summit in St. Petersburg, Morocco moved a step closer toward nuclear cooperation with the Russian Federation by signing an agreement with a subsidiary of Rosatom, Russia's state-owned nuclear energy company. Rosatom has been courting Rabat with good reason. Morocco sits on about 73% of the world's phosphate rock reserves, which happen to also hold an estimated 6.9 million tons of uranium, the largest supply available in any country.

Rabat is eyeing cooperation with Rosatom specifically in the field of seawater desalination, a highly energy-intensive process whose prohibitive power costs currently prevent its widespread use in the Middle East and North Africa. With Morocco and the rest of the MENA region already facing debilitating levels of extreme water scarcity, affordable nuclear-powered desalination fueled by Moroccan uranium could form an important part of the solution to supply desperately needed water for agriculture and human consumption.

<https://www.mei.edu/publications/morocco-nuclear-option-russian-vs-us-technological-cooperation-power-its-water>

West Asia

H. Iran

Envoy terms Iran's safeguards cooperation with IAEA as "exemplary"

Islamic Republic News Agency, August 1, 2023

Iran's Ambassador and Permanent Representative to the United Nations Office and International Organizations in Vienna Mohsen Naziri-Asl described Iran's safeguards cooperation with the IAEA as exemplary, noting that the country is committed to a safeguards agreement with the UN nuclear watchdog. Naziri-Asl made the remarks addressing the Preparatory Committee for the 2026 Review Conference of the Parties to the Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons (NPT) in Vienna on Tuesday. The ambassador regretted that nuclear disarmament as a main principle of the Treaty on the Prohibition of Nuclear Weapons has not been fulfilled yet.

<https://en.irna.ir/news/85187000/Envoy-terms-Iran-s-safeguards-cooperation-with-IAEA-as-exemplary>

IRGC Kicks Off Naval Drill in Persian Gulf, Deploying AI-Powered Missile Shields, Sea Drones

Fars News Agency, August 2, 2023

The Islamic Revolution Guards Corps (IRGC) Navy staged military exercises in the Persian Gulf on Wednesday in order to bolster the country's combat and defensive power, and showcased naval vessels armed with 600-km range missiles. The naval wargame, dubbed "Martyr Eshaq Dara", launched in Abu Musa Island on Wednesday at the presence of IRGC Commander Major General Hossein Salami, IRGC Navy Commander Rear Admiral Alireza Tangsiri, as well as other senior commanders and military officials.

The maneuver is being held on Naze'at, Abu Musa, the Greater Tunb and the Lesser

Tunb islands of Iran.

The aim of the exercise is to "display the IRGC Navy's might as well as combat and defense preparedness in protecting the Persian Gulf security and the Iranian islands".

<https://www.farsnews.ir/en/news/14020511000263/IRGC-Kicks-Off-Naval-Drill-in-Persian-Glf-Deploying-AI-Powered-Missile>

'Missile defense systems, drones delivered to IRGC Navy'

Islamic Republic News Agency, August 5, 2023

The homegrown military systems were supplied to the IRGC Navy during a Saturday ceremony attended by IRGC Chief Commander Major General Hossein Salami, IRGC Navy Chief Rear Admiral Alireza Tangsiri, and other top commanders. Describing the features of the hardware, Tangsiri said the new cruise and ballistic missiles are furnished with artificial intelligence and have longer ranges and reduced preparation time.

They are also well-capable of dealing with the enemy's electronic warfare, he said.

<https://en.irna.ir/news/85189837/Missile-defense-systems-drones-delivered-to-IRGC-Navy>

Indigenous Anti-Ship Cruise Missiles Handed Over to IRGC Navy

Fars News Agency, August 6, 2023

The Islamic Revolution Guards Corps (IRGC) delivered domestically-developed cruise missiles, dubbed "Qadir" and "Nasir", to the navy fleet on Sunday after the IRGC held large-scale military exercises in the Persian Gulf. With a range of up to 300 kilometers, Qadir (CM-300) missile is widely used in coastal launchers and naval combat vessels. It weighs 700 kilograms and is comprised of a 165-kilogram warhead. It employs an inertial guidance system for its initial phase and an active radar guidance for its final phase. The missile receives the position of sea

targets from radars and moves toward them using an internal guidance system or inertia based on the accelerometer and gyroscope.

<https://www.farsnews.ir/en/news/14020515000462/Indigens-Ani-Ship-Crise-Missiles-Handed-Over-IRGC-Navy>

Iran has obtained technology to build supersonic cruise missile: Iranian media

Tehran Times, August 9, 2023

Iranian scientists have managed to develop homegrown supersonic cruise missiles and are currently testing them, according to Tasnim News Agency. Military analysts believe the new generation of Iranian cruise missiles would be using ramjets to enable them to travel faster than the speed of sound. Most Iranian cruise missiles use a rocket takeoff engine and a homegrown turbojet engine to carry out a two-stage launch. The latest cruise missiles employed in Iran's navy use ramjet engines which means they use significantly less time to prepare. Supersonic missiles use the least amount of time for preparation which would enable Iran to show a more timely reaction to aggression. Ramjets work best at supersonic speeds around Mach 3 and have the capacity to reach the speed of Mach 6.

<https://www.tehrantimes.com/news/487754/Iran-has-obtained-technology-to-build-supersonic-cruise-missile#:~:text=TEHRAN%20-%20Iranian%20scientists%20have%20managed,than%20the%20speed%20of%20sound.>

N. Chief Announces Iran's Readiness to Export Heavy Water Products

Fars News Agency, August 9, 2023

Head of the Atomic Energy Organization of Iran (AEOI) Mohammad Eslami praised the country's remarkable achievements in the nuclear industry, and said that Tehran is ready to export products derived from heavy water. In an interview with IRIB News on Tuesday, Eslami stated Iran is successfully producing heavy water derivatives, a groundbreaking achievement in nuclear technology and medical research.

"Heavy water derivatives are among the most up-to-date achievements made only by two or three developed countries and we are among them. We are ready to export the byproducts to other countries," the nuclear official stressed.

<https://www.farsnews.ir/en/news/14020518000127/N-Chief-Annnces-Iran's-Readiness-Expr-Heavy-Waer-Prdcs>

Iran reportedly slowing some nuclear enrichment, diluting high-grade stockpile

The Times of Israel, August 11, 2023

Officials believe that Iran has slowed its enrichment of nearly weapons-grade uranium and reduced a small amount of its stockpile, according to a report Friday.

The claimed slowdown, detailed by The Wall Street Journal, came a day after Tehran said it had reached a tentative agreement with Washington that will eventually see five detained Americans in Iran and an unknown number of Iranians imprisoned in the US released from custody. The deal also includes billions of dollars in frozen Iranian assets being transferred from banks in South Korea to Qatar. According to the report, relying on "people briefed on the matter," Iran recently diluted a small part of its stockpile of 60 percent enriched uranium, and can choose to dilute more as the stockpile grows, but may also choose not to.

<https://www.timesofisrael.com/iran-said-to-be-slowing-some-nuclear-enrichment-diluting-high-grade-stockpile/>

Informed Source Rejects WSJ Report on Iran's Slowing Down Nuclear Activities

Fars News Agency, August 12, 2023

An informed source denied a report by an American publication claiming Tehran has significantly slowed down the accumulation of highly-enriched uranium, underlining that Iran's nuclear activities are moving ahead without any interruption.

Citing sources familiar with the matter, The Wall Street Journal reported on Friday Iran has decreased the level of enrichment of part of its enriched uranium stockpiles, which can be seen as a step toward the resumption of negotiations with the United States. Dismissing the story, the source told FNA on Saturday that Tehran is pressing ahead with its nuclear activities on all fronts. "Iran's nuclear activities are continuing non-stop in all areas in accordance with the previous plans of the Atomic Energy Organization of Iran (AEOI) and the Strategic Action Plan," the source underscored.

<https://www.farsnews.ir/en/news/14020521000246/Infirmed-Srce-Rejecs-WSJ-Reprn-Iran's-Slwing-Dwn-Nclear-Acivvies>

N. Chief: Iran Producing 300 Types of Heavy Nuclear Derivatives

Fars News Agency, August 13, 2023

Head of the Atomic Energy Organization of Iran (AEOI) Mohammad Eslami said Tehran has managed to manufacture at least 300 types of heavy nuclear derivatives, marking its latest achievement in the nuclear industry. The AEOI director stated Iran produces more than 300 types of heavy nuclear derivatives, each gram of which is worth tens of thousands of dollars. "These strategic capabilities once meant no entry areas for Iran but the country managed to make inroads in those fields," he added. Iran is at an unequal battle and it has scored victories in the fight but it needs to work more to protect the achievements, the official continued.

<https://www.farsnews.ir/en/news/14020522000258/N-Chief-Iran-Prdcng-300-Types-f-Heavy-Nclear-Derivoives>

Iran Puts Indigenous Drone, Missile on Display at Russian Military Expo

Fars News Agency, August 15, 2023

Iran's domestically-developed drones, electronic warfare systems as well as a ballistic missile went on display at Russia's Army-2023 International Military-Technical

Forum. Ababil ballistic missile has for the first time been put on display at a military exhibition in Russia, alongside a range of other cutting-edge Iranian military equipment, including drones and electronic warfare systems. The missile, which is akin to Zahir missile of the Aerospace Force of Iran's Islamic Revolution Guards Corps (IRGC), was showcased at Russia's Army-2023 International Military-Technical Forum in Patriot Park near the capital Moscow on Monday. Iran also presented a series of its unmanned aerial vehicles (UAVs), along with electronic warfare (EW) and radio reconnaissance systems at the military expo in Russia.

<https://www.farsnews.ir/en/news/14020524000155/Iran-Ps-Indigens-Drne-Missile-n-Display-a-Rssian-Military-Exp>

I. Israel

Elbit Announces Successful Completion of Sea Trial for New EW Counter-Measure Dispensing System

Israel Defense, August 2, 2023

The Israeli Navy and Elbit Systems have successfully completed a series of sea trials for the DESEAVAR MK-4 Counter Measure Dispensing System (CMDS) onboard Israeli Navy vessels.

According to the official announcement, the trials tested the capability of the new maritime Electronic Warfare (EW) system to effectively respond to complex missile attack scenarios, including launching decoy rounds from several launchers against multiple concurrent threats.

The DESEAVAR MK 4 is the fourth generation of EW dispensing systems to bring to full effect the soft kill anti-missile defense capabilities as part of Elbit Systems' Integrated Electronic Warfare Suite (IEWS).

<https://www.israeldefense.co.il/en/node/59121>

US & Israel's "Intrinsic Defender" Sets Sail

Israel Defense, August 2, 2023

Maritime security drill "Intrinsic Defender," held by the US 5th Fleet and the Israeli Navy, kicked off this week in Haifa. The two-week bilateral exercise seeks to enhance navy-to-navy cooperation and international readiness.

Over 50 US service members will participate in this year's exercise and conduct engagements with Israeli counterparts on explosive ordnance disposal, mine countermeasures, maritime and global health management, underwater construction, maritime surveillance, and vessel boarding procedures.

The IDF said that the exercise's missions will include joint diving, using unmanned surface vehicles (USV) for locating and eliminating mines, and search and rescue training using special means. In addition, participants will attend lectures and talks about maritime, underwater, and emergency medicine.

<https://www.israeldefense.co.il/en/node/59123>

A • 316 Million Message for Moscow: US Approves Finnish Procurement of Israel's "David's Sling" Weapons System

Israel Defense, August 3, 2023

The US Department of State has agreed to approve Finland's procurement of the Israeli-manufactured David's Sling Weapon System. The deal is valued at approximately •316 million, excluding tax.

"David's Sling" is an advanced missile defense system that is co-developed and co-produced by the Israel Ministry of Defense's IMDO and the US Missile Defense Agency.

The system, whose industrial team is led by Rafael Advanced Systems, intercepts advanced threats including ballistic missiles, cruise missiles, drones, and more.

According to estimates in Israeli media, the cost of a single interceptor is about \$1 million.

<https://www.israeldefense.co.il/en/node/59137>

The Nuclear Club: Iran Bolsters Ties with Pakistan

Israel Defense, August 3, 2023

Iranian Foreign Minister Hossein Amir Abdollahian arrived in Islamabad on Wednesday for a two-day visit, during which he will meet with his Pakistani counterpart, Bilawal Bhutto Zardari, and with Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif.

According to the Iranian Ministry of Foreign Affairs, the visit will be "an opportunity for the two sides to discuss the entire range of bilateral ties with a particular focus on regional connectivity, energy, and economic and investment ties."

Abdollahian's arrival to the seventh country to join the nuclear club was preceded by the arrival of a high-ranking delegation, including Iran's Deputy Foreign Minister for Economic Affairs and senior officials from the Ministries of Trade, Roads and Urban Development, Investment, Agriculture, and Energy, who participated in preparatory meetings.

<https://www.israeldefense.co.il/en/node/59139>

Polish Army Purchase Hundreds of Additional Spike LR Missiles

Israel Defense, August 7, 2023

Polish Minister of National Defense, Mariusz Blaszczak, announced that his country is purchasing several hundreds of Spike LR anti-tank guided missiles for the Polish Army. The Polish Armament Agency added in a release that the deliveries will be made in the years 2023-2026, and the contract is worth about \$100 million.

On the agenda is another contract for the purchase of additional launchers for LR/

LR2 spike missiles. The Spike-LR missiles and launchers are locally manufactured under a license from the Israeli company Rafael by Mesko in Poland.

<https://www.israeldefense.co.il/en/node/59164>

Israel's Ministry of Defense Thwarts Drone Smuggling Attempt Into Gaza Strip

Israel Defense, August 9, 2023

The Israeli Ministry of Defense announced today (Wednesday) that security personnel thwarted an attempt to smuggle 10 reconnaissance drones concealed within a black bag inside a minibus at the Erez Crossing.

The drones are suspected of being intended for reconnaissance by terrorist groups operating within the Gaza Strip.

The vigilant security guards and K9 Unit at the Erez Crossing were responsible for preventing this smuggling attempt. During the inspection of the vehicle, a specially trained canine detected the suspicious package and indicated its presence by sitting on it.

<https://www.israeldefense.co.il/en/node/59207>

India's Garuda Aerospace Partners with Top Israeli Drone Players

Israel Defense, August 10, 2023

Garuda Aerospace, an Indian developer of drone solutions for the commercial and defense sectors, has announced new partnerships with Titan Group, Easy Aerial, Azur Drones, and Aero Sol, for the nationwide distribution of their drones across the defense, security, and civil infrastructure sectors

Fast becoming one of the world's frontrunners in drone-based technology, the Indian drone market has been faced with the challenge of responding to the country's recent ban on Chinese drone manufacturer DJI, which previously supplied drones for an array of Indian companies servicing the agricultural, construction, security,

emergency response, and defense sectors, among others.

<https://www.israeldefense.co.il/en/node/59218>

Israeli Navy Receives New Landing Craft

Israel Defense, August 13, 2023

Israel officially received its new landing craft, the INS (Israeli Navy Ship) Nahshon, at a flag-raising ceremony held last week at the Pascagoula Shipyard in the US. It is the first of two new landing crafts to be integrated into the Navy, set to be declared as an operational vessel in 2024.

A landing craft is a powerful combat vessel, which enables sailing to distant arenas. Its length is approximately 95 meters, its width is approximately 20 meters and its displacement exceeds 2500 tons.

The team of the landing craft consists of dozens of naval combat soldiers, a quarter of them female, according to the Navy. The commanding officer of the vessel is the rank of Lieutenant Commander.

<https://www.israeldefense.co.il/en/node/59237>

Italy to Upgrade its Fleet of Ariete C1 Tanks

Israel Defense, August 14, 2023

The Italian Defense Ministry announced earlier this month that it has granted a contract worth •848.8 million to the Iveco - Oto Melara consortium (CIO), aims at the mid-life renovation of 90 Ariete C1 main battle tanks with an option to extend this renovation to an additional 35 tanks.

Originating in the 1980s, the Ariete was developed as a modern battle tank by OTO Melara for the Italian Army. It was intended as a successor to the older Leopard 1 tanks. By the end of the 1990s, the Ariete became a significant part of the Italian military's equipment list. Today 200 such tanks serve the Italian Army.

<https://www.israeldefense.co.il/en/node/59244>

J. Saudi Arabia

Saudi, Indonesian ministers discuss enhancing military, defense ties

Arab News, August 1, 2023

Saudi Defense Minister Prince Khalid bin Salman met his Indonesian counterpart Prabowo Subianto in the capital Jakarta on Tuesday, the Saudi Press Agency reported. During the meeting, they reviewed relations between the two countries and discussed aspects of bilateral cooperation in the military and defense field and ways to develop it. They also discussed a number of issues of common interest. After that, several heads of Indonesian defense companies made presentations to the Saudi minister of defense about their capabilities, expertise and latest products in the defense field.

<https://www.arabnews.com/node/2347891/saudi-arabia>

U.S.-Saudi Deal: Nuclearization of the Middle East Starts Here

Haaretz, August 1, 2023

The apparent willingness of Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu to refrain from opposing the United States building an advanced nuclear program for Saudi Arabia is likely to turn out to be a huge historical mistake. Apparently here too, as in all his moves in recent months, Netanyahu is willing to sacrifice national security and endanger Israel's very survival to improve his personal status at home and abroad.

<https://www.haaretz.com/israel-news/2023-08-01/ty-article/.premium/a-sane-leader-should-fear-the-nuclearization-of-the-middle-east/00000189-b15d-ddac-a3cd-b57d442c0000>

Nuclear cooperation: UAE's FANR concludes Saudi visit

Gulf News, August 2, 2023

The Federal Authority for Nuclear Regulation (FANR) of the UAE has concluded a two-day official visit to the Nuclear and Radiological Regulatory Commission (NRRC) of the Kingdom of

Saudi Arabia.

The visit marks a crucial milestone in the bilateral cooperation initiative established after the signing of the Peaceful Use of Nuclear Energy agreement between the two nations in 2019.

During the visit, the NRRC presented the latest progress of its regulatory work, specifically in developing the Kingdom's radiation protection infrastructure.

<https://gulfnews.com/uae/science/nuclear-cooperation-uaes-fanr-concludes-saudi-visit-1.97304920>

Saudi Arabia could convert civilian nuclear to military, Israeli expert warns

The Times of Israel, August 2, 2023

A former top official for the Israel Atomic Energy Commission has warned that agreeing to Saudi Arabia's demand to be allowed to build a nuclear power plant as part of a normalization deal with Israel may create a dangerous international precedent and effectively prompt a nuclear arms race in the Middle East.

"It won't matter how many guarantees we receive from the International Atomic Energy Agency," Ariel (Eli) Levite, who served as principal deputy director general for policy at Israel's Atomic Energy Commission from 2002 to 2007, told Zman Israel, The Times of Israel's Hebrew-language sister site, on Monday.

<https://www.timesofisrael.com/saudi-arabia-could-convert-civilian-nuclear-to-military-israeli-expert-warns/>

Saudi Arabia, Turkiye's defense partnership takes flight

Arab News, August 7, 2023

In a strategic move to boost its defense capabilities and localize manufacturing, Saudi Arabia inked an agreement and two memorandums of understanding with leading Turkish defense firms on Sunday. Saudi Arabian Military Industries, also known as SAMI, signed a

localization agreement with Turkish defense firm Baykar. The agreement is aimed at strengthening the Kingdom's manufacturing capabilities for electronic systems, mechanical parts, and aircraft structures, in addition to conducting aviation testing.

Presided over by Saudi Minister of Defense Khalid Al-Saud, the collaboration will primarily target the localization of drone manufacturing and associated systems in the Kingdom, SAMI posted on messaging platform X, formerly known as Twitter, on Sunday.

<https://www.arabnews.com/node/2350966/business-economy>

FM: Saudi deal with US defense pact would make Gulf nuclear ambitions 'unnecessary'

The Times of Israel, August 9, 2023

Foreign Minister Eli Cohen said Tuesday that if the United States were to agree to a defense pact with Riyadh as part of a potential normalization deal between Saudi Arabia and Israel, it would reassure Gulf nations that they are protected from Iranian aggression, rendering their nuclear ambitions "unnecessary."

As part of moves toward normalization with Israel, Riyadh is seeking a NATO-like mutual security treaty that would obligate the US to come to its defense if it's attacked. In addition, Riyadh wants an explicit agreement for a civilian nuclear program monitored and backed by the US, and the ability to purchase more advanced weaponry from Washington such as the Terminal High Altitude Area Defense (THAAD) antiballistic missile defense system, which could be used to combat Iran's increasing missile arsenal.

<https://www.timesofisrael.com/fm-saudi-deal-with-us-defense-pact-would-make-gulf-nuclear-ambitions-unnecessary/>

Israel split on Saudi nuclear program as US advances normalization deal

The Jerusalem Post, August 9, 2023

Israeli officials are divided on the question of whether a Saudi Arabian civilian nuclear program would be too risky, as the kingdom and the US make progress on talks towards an Israel-Saudi normalization agreement.

The National Security Council has been examining the potential impact on Israel's security from the Saudis' requests of the US in the framework of normalization talks, which include a civilian nuclear program and defense guarantees. Israel remains outside of the negotiations, and a senior diplomatic source on Tuesday said it was premature for Jerusalem to discuss specific terms to which it may or may not agree.

<https://www.jpost.com/breaking-news/article-754159>

Brazil and Saudi Arabia eye joint ventures, technology transfers

Defense News, August 10, 2023

Brazilian and Saudi defense companies have signed a memorandum of understanding that could lead to joint ventures and technology-sharing agreements.

The Saudi businesses involved in the potential effort are Scopa Defense and Alqahtani Holding, and the Brazilian firms are weapon manufacturer Taurus, rocket and missile maker Avibras, aircraft battery producer Ocellott, and aviation specialist Avionics Services, according to the Brazilian industry association FIESP.

The signing took place last week during a bilateral investment forum attended by a Saudi delegation to Brazil led by Minister of Investment Khalid Al-Falih. The

meeting, held in São Paulo by FIESP, also included the vice president of Brazil and the governor of São Paulo.

<https://www.defensenews.com/industry/2023/08/10/brazil-and-saudi-arabia-eye-joint-ventures-technology-transfers/>

K. East Asia

How the Nuclear Missile Threat from North Korea Keeps Growing

Bloomberg, August 1, 2023

Far from resuming disarmament talks with the US, North Korean leader Kim Jong Un has been busy developing new weapons in defiance of international sanctions, including nuclear-capable missiles that could strike the US and its allies in Asia. The country has continued its ballistic missile tests this year – the 70th anniversary of the signing of the armistice that ended Korean War fighting – after firing off a record number in 2022. That's despite agreeing in 2018 to work toward "complete denuclearization of the Korean Peninsula." An array of ballistic missiles designed to carry nuclear warheads to hit US allies South Korea and Japan, longer-range rockets that could strike American bases in Guam, as well as intercontinental ballistic missiles (ICBMs) designed to deliver an atomic strike to New York or Washington. Kim has also modernized his missile arsenal, steering away from the Soviet-era Scud variants that had been a staple toward rockets that rely heavily on domestic technology and can be manufactured despite sanctions.

<https://www.bloomberg.com/news/articles/2023-08-01/how-the-north-korea-nuclear-missile-threat-keeps-growing#xj4y7vzkg>

At UN, North Korea slams US for nuclear weapons; defends its own as sovereign right

WION, August 5, 2023

The Permanent Mission of Democratic People's Republic of Korea (North Korea) to the United Nations criticised the US for

having nuclear weapons and defended its own nuclear weapons. North Korea urged the US to stop "sharing nuclear" or "beefing up extended deterrence," state media KCNA reported on Saturday (August 5). North Korea defended its own nuclear weapons as an "exercise of sovereignty". It criticised the US over the AUKUS alliance and Nuclear Consultative Group with South Korea. "Signatories to the NPT (Non-Proliferation Treaty) should not take issue with the DPRK over its legitimate exercise of sovereignty, as it had legally withdrawn from the NPT 20 years ago," the DPRK permanent mission to the UN Office and international organizations in Vienna was quoted as saying.

<https://www.wionews.com/world/north-korea-defends-its-nuclear-weapons-slams-us-622655>

Hiroshima marks 78th anniversary of atomic bombing

The Japan Times, August 6, 2023

Hiroshima marked the 78th anniversary of the city's atomic bombing by the United States on Sunday after its nuclear legacy took center stage when it hosted the summit of the Group of Seven major economies in May.

In his annual Peace Declaration delivered at the ceremony in the Peace Memorial Park, Mayor Kazumi Matsui hailed the G7 leaders' historic visit to the park and its atomic bomb museum as proof that the "spirit" of Hiroshima reached them, while urging policymakers to abandon the theory of nuclear deterrence.

"Leaders around the world must confront the reality that nuclear threats now being voiced by certain policymakers reveal the folly of nuclear deterrence theory," Matsui said, adding, "They must immediately take concrete steps to lead us from the dangerous present toward our ideal world."

<https://www.japantimes.co.jp/news/2023/08/06/japan/hiroshima-atomic-bombing-78th-anniversary/>

Kim Jong Un tours North Korean weapons factories, urges 'rapid expansion' of production

PBS News, August 6, 2023

North Korean leader Kim Jong Un toured the country's key weapons factories, including those producing artillery systems and launch vehicles for nuclear-capable ballistic missiles, and pledged to speed up efforts to advance his military's arms and war readiness, state media said Sunday.

Kim's three-day inspections through Saturday came as the United States and South Korea prepared for their next round of combined military exercises planned for later this month to counter the growing North Korean threat.

Tensions on the Korean Peninsula are at their highest level in years as the pace of North Korea's missile tests and the joint U.S.-South Korea military drills, which Kim portrays as invasion rehearsals, have both intensified in a tit-for-tat cycle.

<https://www.pbs.org/newshour/world/kim-jong-un-tours-north-korean-weapons-factories-urges-rapid-expansion-of-production>

Japan Raises Concerns over Iran's Nuclear Enrichment, Drone Supplies to Russia

VOA News, August 7, 2023

Japan expressed concern on Monday over Iran's advancing uranium enrichment program and the Middle East country's suspected supplying of combat drones to Moscow for Russia's war on Ukraine.

Japan's Foreign Minister Yoshimasa Hayashi raised the two issues during talks with his visiting Iranian counterpart, Hossein Amirabdollahian, the foreign ministry in Tokyo said. A statement from the ministry said Hayashi appealed for Iran to act constructively in the matter but did not elaborate.

Iranian drones have been a key element of Russia's continued war on Ukraine. Tehran has offered conflicting accounts about the drones — first denying Iran has supplied

them to Russia and later claiming the unmanned aircraft were only sold before the Russian invasion.

<https://www.voanews.com/a/japan-raises-concerns-over-iran-s-nuclear-enrichment-drone-supplies-to-russia/7214808.html>

A Russian Jet Was Spotted in North Korea, Raising Concerns Over Possible Arms Deal

Time, August 7, 2023

An unusual sighting of a Russian military jet in North Korea is stoking concern that Kim Jong Un is selling Vladimir Putin weapons as ties strengthen between the sanctioned states.

Tracking data from FlightRadar24 shows the Russian Air Force Ilyushin IL-62M flying from Moscow to Pyongyang on July 31 and returning on Aug. 2. Satellite imagery showed the aircraft at Pyongyang's international airport for about 36 hours, according to NK News, a Seoul-based provider of news on North Korea that also tracks flight activity in the isolated country.

The flight was the first by this type of Russian military VIP plane to North Korea since mid-2019, when Russian Deputy Defense Minister Alexander Fomin traveled to Pyongyang, NK News said. Pyongyang closed its borders in early 2020 due to the pandemic, choking its economy.

<https://time.com/6302471/russia-military-jet-north-korea-arms-deal/>

Japan plans to start releasing 'treated' radioactive water as soon as late August: Report

WION, August 7, 2023

The Japanese government will start releasing 'treated' radioactive water from its tsunami-hit nuclear power plant as soon as late August, Japanese media reported Monday.

The Japanese daily reported that the process to release about 1.3m tones of treated water will start after Japanese

Prime Minister Fumio Kishida concludes his meetings with US President Joe Biden and South Korean President Yoon Suk-yeol next week in the US.

The Japanese leader is expected to brief both leaders to address questions regarding the safety of the water.

<https://www.wionews.com/world/japan-plans-to-start-releasing-treated-radioactive-water-as-soon-as-august-report-622958>

South Koreans rip Japan flag in protest against Fukushima water discharge: 'the sea is not just for the Japanese'

South China Morning Post, August 12, 2023

Hundreds of South Korean activists gathered in central Seoul on Saturday to protest against Japan's plan to release treated radioactive water from the tsunami-wrecked Fukushima nuclear power plant into the ocean.

Japan's Asahi Shimbun daily reported earlier this week that the country plans to start releasing the water into the ocean as early as late August, citing unidentified government sources.

"If it is discarded, radioactive substances contained in the contaminated water will eventually destroy the marine ecosystem," said Choi Kyoungsook of Korea Radiation Watch, an activist group that organised the protest.

<https://www.scmp.com/news/asia/east-asia/article/3230898/south-korean-activists-protest-against-fukushima-water-discharge-sea-not-just-japanese>

US driving situation on Korean Peninsula to brink of nuclear war — DPRK defense minister

TASS, August 15, 2023

Since the beginning of the year, the United States has deployed colossal nuclear means to South Korea driving the situation on the Korean Peninsula to the brink of a nuclear war, North Korean Defense Minister Kang Sun Nam said in an address read out at the 11th Moscow Conference on International Security.

"The United States, which has been pursuing a hostile policy toward Korea as a state policy and has been blatantly infringing upon North Korea's independent development and security interests, is driving the situation in Northeast Asia to the verge of a nuclear war outbreak," he said. "America <...> since the beginning of this year has deployed to South Korea huge strategic nuclear means, including a nuclear-powered submarine, a strategic bomber, and a nuclear aircraft carrier battlegroup and has conducted several largest joint military drills imitating a total war with us. These drills were unprecedented in terms of scale, intensity and duration."

<https://tass.com/defense/1660929>

China watching closely as US, Japan, South Korea aim for 'de facto Asian Nato'

South China Morning Post, August 15, 2023

China is said to be on "high alert" as US President Joe Biden hosts the leaders of Japan and South Korea at Camp David this week to deepen technological and defence ties – building what some observers have called a "de facto Asian Nato" on China's doorstep.

South Korean President Yoon Suk-yeol and Japanese Prime Minister Fumio Kishida will be joining Biden on Friday at the US presidential retreat in rural Maryland for the first three-way summit of its kind.

They are expected to announce plans for expanded cooperation on ballistic missile defence systems and technology development, senior US officials told Reuters.

They are likely to also agree to set up a new three-way crisis hotline and gather annually in the future, Reuters quoted the officials as saying.

<https://www.scmp.com/news/china/diplomacy/article/3231201/china-watching-closely-us-japan-south-korea-aim-de-facto-asian-nato>

China, North Korea Loom as US, Japan, South Korea Leaders Head to First Trilateral Summit

VOA News, August 15, 2023

Leaders of the United States, Japan and the Republic of Korea are strengthening their alliance through an annual trilateral summit amid growing threats from North Korea and China, according to U.S. officials and analysts.

U.S. Secretary of State Antony Blinken met virtually Tuesday with the foreign ministers of Japan and South Korea, days before U.S. President Joe Biden is set to host Japanese Prime Minister Fumio Kishida and South Korean President Yoon Suk Yeo at Camp David on August 18.

It will be the first time that foreign leaders have visited Camp David in Maryland since 2015, and the first standalone summit between three countries not held on the margins of multilateral meetings.

<https://www.voanews.com/a/china-north-korea-loom-as-us-japan-south-korea-leaders-head-to-first-trilateral-summit-/7226405.html>

L. Australia

U.S. Nuclear-Powered Submarine Visits Western Australia, First Since AUKUS Announcement

US Pacific Fleet, August 4, 2023

This marks the first visit by a Virginia-class submarine to the country since the leaders' announcement of the Australia, United Kingdom, and United States (AUKUS) Optimal Pathway. Initially announced in September 2021, the AUKUS partnership is designed to bolster the security and defense capabilities of the three nations and promote security in the Indo-Pacific region. "North Carolina's presence in HMAS Stirling is an example of the United States' full commitment to the AUKUS partnership starting with a promised increase in SSN port visits to Australia in 2023," said Mr. Abe Denmark, Senior Advisor for AUKUS to the Secretary of Defense. "These port visits are an essential step for Australia to build the necessary operational capabilities and skills

to steward and operate its own fleet of nuclear-powered attack submarines."

<https://www.cpf.navy.mil/Newsroom/News/Article/3483661/us-nuclear-powered-submarine-visits-western-australia-first-since-aukus-announce/>

Government abandons plan to dump nuclear waste near Kimba, sparking new hunt for dump site

ABC News, August 10, 2023

The federal government has formally abandoned plans to build a low-level nuclear waste dump near Kimba in regional South Australia. Last month the Federal Court ruled in favour of the area's traditional owners, the Barngarla people, who had argued they were not properly consulted by the former Coalition government about the decision to pick the site.

Federal Court Justice Natalie Charlesworth found there had been apprehended bias in the decision-making process under then-minister, Nationals MP Keith Pitt.

The court set aside the declaration from 2021 that the site at Napandee, a 211-hectare property, be used for the facility.

In parliament, Federal Resources Minister Madeleine King said the government respected the court decision.

<https://www.abc.net.au/news/2023-08-10/kimba-nuclear-dumping-plan-abandoned/102711320>

The Coalition's likely embrace of nuclear energy is high-risk politics

ABC News, August 10, 2023

Crazy brave, or just crazy? If, as seems likely, the Opposition embraces nuclear power in its 2025 election policy, it will be taking a huge political gamble.

The Coalition might argue this would be the best (or only) way to ensure we achieve net zero by 2050. But "nuclear" is a trigger word in the political debate, and the

reactions it triggers are mostly negative.

Opposition Leader Peter Dutton has been open since the election about nuclear energy being on the Coalition's agenda. It's a "no surprises" tactic - but one that has allowed the government, especially Climate Change Minister Chris Bowen, to regularly attack and ridicule the idea.

This week opposition climate change and energy spokesman Ted O'Brien was spruiking nuclear power, writing in *The Australian* about the US state of Wyoming's plans for a coal-to-nuclear transition.

<https://www.abc.net.au/news/2023-08-11/michelle-grattan-coalitions-embrace-of-nuclear-energy-high-risk/102716168>

Pentagon eyes missile testing role for Australia

The Hindu, August 10, 2023

Australia could be a testing ground for U.S. hypersonic and other long-range precision weapons under the AUKUS pact, a top Pentagon official told *AFP* on August 9.

U.S. Secretary of the Army Christine Wormuth said Australia's contribution to the three-way AUKUS agreement, which includes Britain, "doesn't always have to be dollars".

The pact was signed in late 2021 and is seen as a way of countering China's growing clout in the Asia-Pacific region.

Work under AUKUS has so far focused on supplying Australia with nuclear-powered submarines, a fleet capable of travelling stealthily over vast distances and striking foes at long range.

<https://www.thehindu.com/news/international/pentagon-eyes-missile-testing-role-for-australia/article67176516.ece>

Search resumes for site for Australian radwaste facility

World Nuclear News, August 11, 2023

The Australian government is no longer looking to site a national low and intermediate-level radioactive waste facility

in Napandee near Kimba in South Australia. It said it will not appeal a Federal Court decision to dismiss a 2021 declaration naming Napandee the proposed site for the facility. Following a call for site nominations in 2015, Napandee was voluntarily nominated in 2017 by its landowner as a possible site to host the facility. In September 2020, an Australian Senate committee recommended that Parliament pass legislation that would make Napandee the preferred site for the facility.

<https://world-nuclear-news.org/Articles/Search-resumes-for-site-for-Australian-radwaste-fa>

The Kimba nuclear waste plan bites the dust. Here's what went wrong and how to do better next time

The Conversation, August 11, 2023

The federal government has scrapped plans to build the nation's first radioactive waste storage facility on farmland near Kimba in South Australia. Frankly, it was never going to work. The plan was doomed from the start. That's because the "decide and defend" model, where a government decides to put radioactive waste somewhere and then attempts to defend it against the community, hasn't worked anywhere. It hasn't worked in the United Kingdom. It hasn't worked in the United States. Those countries still don't have any process for long-term management of radioactive waste.

<https://theconversation.com/the-kimba-nuclear-waste-plan-bites-the-dust-heres-what-went-wrong-and-how-to-do-better-next-time-211344>

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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