

GEOPOLITICS, LABOUR STRUGGLE, AND SOCIALIST HEADLINES

SAYSOMPHONE PHOMVIHANE STATE FUNERAL HELD IN LAOS



IN THIS ISSUE:

Crisis on USA Carrier Continues

Putin Comments on Russia's Security

Marxist Analysis on Michigan Primary

Lao, Cuba, Vietnam, China and DPRK news!

US HELICOPTER BOMBS CARGO SHIP IN THE GULF OF OMAN



US Central Command on Tuesday announced that a US military helicopter bombed a civilian cargo ship in the Gulf of Oman that it accused of attempting to break the US blockade of Iranian ports. CENTCOM said a US Navy MH-60 helicopter fired two Hellfire missiles into the engine room of the Panama-flagged Vela Nova after "the ship's civilian crew ignored repeated warnings from American forces." - [AntiWAR](#)

STRAIT OF HORMUZ AUTHORITY SAYS IT WILL REMAIN BLOCKED

The Iranian authority controlling the Strait of Hormuz in the Persian Gulf has categorically rejected American officials' claims about reopening of the waterway. "Claims and repeated posts by US officials that the Strait of Hormuz is no longer blocked do not change the reality," the Persian Gulf Strait Authority (PGSA) wrote in a post on X on Wednesday. "The Strait of Hormuz remains blocked and will not be reopened until Iran's conditions are accepted," it added. Iran declared the Strait of Hormuz, a vital global energy chokepoint, closed in response to the unprovoked US-Israeli aggression that targeted the country from February 28 until April 7. - [PressTV](#)



REPORTS OF SUICIDE ATTEMPTS DEEPEN CONCERNS OVER USS ABRAHAM LINCOLN

The crew has spent 250 consecutive days without making land, according to the reports, described as a record for a US aircraft carrier in modern times.

About 200 relatives of Lincoln personnel attended a town hall meeting with Navy officials in San Diego last Thursday, where concerns over the prolonged deployment and sailors' wellbeing were raised directly with acting Navy Secretary Hung Cao and other officials.

One spouse said her husband had texted her that day saying "he hopes he doesn't wake up tomorrow." Another woman told Cao that the Navy had "broken trust between us and the leadership," Stars and Stripes reported.

The Navy Times quoted Annabelle Loma as saying her husband had attempted to jump overboard after his deployment was repeatedly extended.

"He's scared. He thinks he'll get a dishonorable discharge, and just because he was burnt out his 13-year career is ruined, just like that," she said.

The publication also quoted another sailor's wife, who said her husband had prevented a fellow crewmember from jumping by grabbing the person and bringing them back onto the deck.

The reports came amid a separate account of a deadly confrontation aboard the Abraham Lincoln in which seven sailors were reportedly killed and several others wounded. - [PressTV](#)

RUSSIA'S SECURITY MUST BE ENSURED ALONG ALL OF ITS BORDERS — PUTIN

While attending the Pacific Fleet drills, Russian President Vladimir Putin held a meeting on ensuring security of Russia's eastern borders.

"Obviously, key talks are being addressed today during the special military operation, but our duty is to ensure the security of the Russian state along all of its borders, in all regions," he said during a meeting with Pacific Fleet commander Viktor Liin, chief of the Federal Security Service's border directorate for the Sakhalin Region Sergey Makhori, and acting commander of the Russian defense ministry's 68th army corps Alexey Shvedov onboard the Varyag GM cruiser.

He said that the situation in the Pacific Fleet's operational area "is not easy." "Yesterday, the [fleet] commander shared his assessment of the situation in the region and I absolutely agree with it. Today, I would like to hear your proposals on what is to be done additionally to create conditions for you to attain our objectives the most effectively," Putin added. - [TASS](#)



US NGO CALLS ON CONGRESS TO BLOCK TURKEY'S TRANSFER OF CLUSTER MUNITIONS TO KIEV

Human Rights Watch (HRW), a US nongovernmental organization designated undesirable in Russia, called on the US Congress to block Turkey's request to transfer tens of thousands of cluster munition rockets and artillery projectiles to the Kiev authorities, according to a statement on the organization's website.

Earlier in August, the US State Department notified Congress that Turkey could transfer obsolete US weapons worth \$255.9 million to Kiev, including multiple launch rocket systems and munitions. The Department said that the US government was prepared to authorize this transfer.

Moscow has repeatedly said that Western arms supplies to Kiev and assistance in training Ukrainian troops only prolong the conflict and do not change the situation on the battlefield. - [TASS](#)

RUSSIAN FORCES TIGHTENING TRAP FOR UKRAINIAN TROOPS IN VOLCHANSK

Russian forces are tightening a fire trap for Ukrainian troops near Volchansk after taking control of the settlement of Vodyanoye in the Kharkov Region, military expert Andrey Marochko said.

"The liberation of the settlement of Vodyanoye is another step towards encircling Ukrainian troops located east of the settlement of Volchansk. The Volchansk pocket continues to shrink," he told TASS. Marochko told TASS earlier that Russian forces are expanding their positions near Volchansk and are advancing in various directions to encircle this settlement. According to him, up to 1,000 Ukrainian troops might be trapped in the Volchansk pocket. The Russian defense ministry reported on August 12 that Russian forces have taken control of the settlement of Vodyanoye in the Kharkov Region.

- [TASS](#)

MICHIGAN PRIMARY ELECTION

The Democratic primary election in Michigan, which took place Aug. 4, has the ruling class worried. Dr. Abdul El-Sayed, a progressive, a Muslim and the son of Egyptian immigrants, defeated mainstream Democrat Haley Stevens, a Congressional representative since 2019. Rogers has made a crass appeal to Islamophobia. The Detroit News reports: "Campaign materials have begun referring to El-Sayed by his full name, Abdulrahman Mohamed El-Sayed. Ads supporting Republican nominee Mike Rogers juxtapose El-Sayed with imagery from Sept. 11 and Osama bin Laden." (Aug. 8).

El Sayed's program emphasized bread-and-butter issues; his slogan was "Money out of politics. Money in your pockets. Medicare for All." Nevertheless, his win reflects growing anti-Zionist sentiment, including in Michigan, which has significant West Asian and Muslim populations. In the 2024 Democratic Party presidential primary, 13% of the voters — over 100,000 people — voted for "uncommitted" to show opposition to candidate Kamala Harris's support for Israel.

Abbas Alawieh, a cofounder of the Uncommitted movement, won the Democratic primary vote for Michigan state senator. Other social democrats who defeated mainstream Democrats in the Michigan primary include Donovan McKinney and William Lawrence, candidates for the U.S. House Of Representatives.



It would be wrong to conclude that these candidates, if elected, can bring about real, substantial change. In fact, many of Mayor Mamdani's progressive promises — such as free buses — have yet to be implemented. As long as the capitalist system of exploitation, which none of the "progressive" Democrats call for abolishing, remains in place, reforms will be limited.

Yet while the form — in this case the capitalist Democratic Party — of this struggle over politics is regressive, its content is progressive. If El-Sayed defeats Rogers in November, it will be a victory against Zionism, Islamophobia and red-baiting.

As a barometer of working-class sentiment, the elections offer revolutionaries important information. One, solidarity with Palestine has grown exponentially. Two, fear mongering around socialism and communism does not frighten voters, especially younger voters. This shows a shift to the left in consciousness.

This is what is scaring the ruling class. Working-class revolutionaries need to recognize the importance of this development, while at the same time charting an independent, class struggle orientation away from the Democrats. - WWP



**HEADLINES FROM SOCIALIST
COUNTRIES!**

SOCIALIST HEADLINES

STATE FUNERAL HELD FOR FORMER NA PRESIDENT SAYSOMPHONE PHOMVIHANE

A state funeral for former President of the National Assembly Saysomphone Phomvihane was held at the That Luang Esplanade in Vientiane on August 12, drawing senior Lao leaders, foreign dignitaries and members of the public to pay their final respects.

Saysomphone Phomvihane was born on December 12, 1956, in Na Meo Village, Sam Neua District, Houaphanh Province. He pursued higher education in Vietnam, China and the Soviet Union, ultimately earning a doctorate in political economy.

Throughout his career, Saysomphone held a number of senior positions in the Party and State. His responsibilities included serving as Deputy Governor and Governor of Savannakhet Province, Minister of Finance, Head of the Office of the Prime Minister, Chairman of the National Assembly's Foreign Affairs Committee, Vice President of the National Assembly, President of the Lao Front for National Development and, finally, President of the National Assembly.

In the eulogy, President Thongloun highlighted Saysomphone's extensive knowledge and capabilities across various



fields, broad vision and firm political convictions. He was also remembered for his revolutionary ethics, strong sense of responsibility, patriotic spirit, selflessness and unwavering loyalty to the Party, the nation and the people.

Throughout his decades of public service, Saysomphone remained committed to the Party's ideals and was noted for his perseverance, prudence and ability to respond effectively to the responsibilities entrusted to him. His experience across different areas of work enabled him to make practical contributions in each position he held.

Mr. Saysomphone devoted his life to the cause of protecting and developing the country, consistently placing the interests of the Party, the nation and the people above personal interests.

He was also remembered for his modest and frugal lifestyle and his close ties with the people. He was described as sincere toward his comrades, generous toward those around him, firm on matters of principle and disciplined in his work. These qualities earned him the respect and trust of his colleagues, the Lao people of all ethnic groups and international friends.

For his lifelong contributions and dedication to national development, Saysomphone received numerous honours and commendations from the Party and government, as well as recognition from international partners. - KPL





SOCIALIST HEADLINES

FIDEL'S EXAMPLE IS PRESENT IN THIS GIGANTIC EFFORT

Juan Rodríguez Cabrera has said it on more than one occasion. The 34th Havana International Book Fair is made possible by the Cuban State's commitment to supporting the country's largest cultural event, convinced of the importance of culture in the battle to preserve our sovereignty. In granting this interview to Granma, he reaffirms this, and assures us that "holding it under these extraordinarily difficult circumstances is a way of thinking about our people, just as its main driving force and creator, Commander-in-Chief Fidel Castro, envisioned it, to whom we dedicate this Fair.

"The change of date and venue is due to decisions made to ensure the event's success, despite the intensification of the economic, financial, and commercial blockade imposed on the island by the United States government, which now includes the oil embargo," he explains.

The Book Fair takes place in Havana, from August 10, the day of its opening at 6:30 p.m., until the 16th of the month, after which it will continue through the rest of the provinces. Its headquarters are the Cultural Station at Línea and 18th Streets, in the Plaza de la Revolución municipality. It is dedicated to the writer and journalist Marilyn Bobes and the teacher and researcher José Bell Lara, and Russia is the Guest of Honor, Rodríguez Cabrera explains. "It has been reduced to six days, taking into account the complexity of the current situation." "We chose the Línea and 18th Street Cultural Station, which will be open to the public from 10:00 a.m. on the 11th until the 16th, because of its proximity to the Plaza neighborhood, a fairly busy area, and

its convenient location near the satellite venues that will be operating during the Book Fair," he explains.

In what terms can we describe the publishing output?

- The Book Fair will present more than 1,400 new titles in various formats. Titles from the People's Library Collection will be presented and sold, along with approximately two million copies on diverse topics, available nationwide. There will also be a variety of titles by and about Commander-in-Chief Fidel Castro, as part of the Fair's tribute to him on his Centennial.

What offerings does the Guest of Honor Country bring?

- The Russian Federation is presenting more than 1,500 titles showcasing the best of its classic and contemporary literature. The exhibition area is located within the fairgrounds, and there, in addition to the presentation and sale of many of these books, there will also be literary and artistic activities. The delegation is headed by Mikhail Shvydkoy, Special Representative of the President of the Russian Federation for International Cultural Cooperation, and includes prominent writers, translators, intellectuals, and artists from the country.

MANY REASONS TO HONOR FIDEL ON HIS CENTENARY

- Many tributes are being paid to the man who wanted all the people to read, the one who has done the most for reading on the Island. Parallel to the Book Fair, between August 10th and 13th, the 1st International Colloquium "Fidel: Legacy and Future" will be held, with some 1,500 participants from various countries. In that space, the book has a presence, because it will have a stand in the Convention Palace, where the event is being held, organized by the country's leadership.

- Granma

SOCIALIST HEADLINES

PARTY GENERAL SECRETARY AND PRESIDENT MEETS VIETNAMESE COMMUNITY IN NEW ZEALAND

General Secretary of the Communist Party of Vietnam (CPV) Central Committee and President To Lam and a high-ranking Vietnamese delegation met with Vietnamese Embassy staff and representatives of the Vietnamese community in New Zealand and South Pacific island countries in Auckland on August 12 evening (local time). VNA Photo: Thống Nhất



SOCIALIST HEADLINES

CHINA'S HOMETGROWN C919 PASSENGER JET BEGINS FIRST INTERNATIONAL COMMERCIAL FLIGHTS



China's domestically developed C919 large passenger aircraft has officially begun regular international commercial operations, with its inaugural flight departing from Beijing for Ulaanbaatar on Wednesday afternoon.

Air China's CA723 took off from Beijing Capital International Airport at 3 p.m. local time for the two-hour trip. Upon arrival in the capital of Mongolia, the aircraft is expected to receive a water cannon salute, the highest ceremonial honor in civil aviation, to mark the historic milestone.

As of August 10, the C919 had served 57 routes linking 25 cities and had handled more than 7.5 million passenger trips, official data showed.

The aircraft has also been featured at major international airshows, including two editions of the Singapore Airshow and one in Dubai. - [CGTN](https://www.cgtn.com/)

SOCIALIST HEADLINES

HISTORICAL RELIC—PAEKSANG PAVILION



Paeksang Pavilion was built on the site of a general's terrace of an old fort in South Phyongan Province. It is a spot of scenic beauty and historical interest widely known to the Korean people since olden times.

It was originally built in the period of Koryo Dynasty (918-1392) and rebuilt in the period of the feudal Joseon dynasty (1392-1910).

Its name carries the meaning that it is a pavilion commanding one hundred lovely views.

It was built by using the traditional techniques the ancestors often applied in building pavilions.

The tapering pillars are very elegant, the headspace is so delicate and elaborate and the board put on top of the first cornice on a pillar to hold the beam support represents a lotus flower in full bloom, which are all impressive.

The roof was constructed in a way that it looks as if several buildings are connected, the ceiling was built to look majestic yet refreshing and beautiful tanchong (colourful painting on elements of Korean wooden buildings) was done to go well with the structure of the building and its elements, remarkably enhancing the decorative effects of the pavilion.

The pavilion was badly damaged due to bombing by the US imperialists during the Fatherland Liberation War

President Kim Il Sung took measures to restore the pavilion to its original state and visited it after restoration to give officials instructions on refurbishing and preserving it well as a cultural recreation ground for the working people.

The pavilion is now preserved well as a relic of national treasure value and serves as a cultural recreation ground for the people. - PT

BRASS BAND CONTEST OF SCHOOLCHILDREN IN PYONGYANG HELD

A brass band contest of schoolchildren in Pyongyang took place at the construction sites for the regional development policy in Kangnam County on August 10.

The contest featured cheerful band music pieces overflowing with optimism.

The playing of the songs "Dear Father" and "March of the Children's Union" encouraged the soldier-builders to make more achievements.

The contest heightened their patriotic enthusiasm.

- Rodong Sinmun



SOCIALIST HEADLINES

HEROIC MYTH ABOUT GUERRILLA GENERAL KIM IL SUNG IS EVERLASTING PRIDE OF OUR COUNTRY AND PEOPLE



The history of the unprecedented struggle fought by the President to liberate the motherland is woven with vivid touching pictures conveying what ardent love for the country he braved the long arduous way with.

Whenever we look back upon the hardships the President underwent, the blizzard-rent Tianqiaoling comes to our minds.

The President recollected the period when the destiny of the Korean revolution was at stake and writing "Song of Anti-Japanese War", thinking the Koreans would become eternal slaves of the Japanese imperialists if he gave up there.

For the twenty years of anti-Japanese war, he overcame lots of such ordeals.

The march to south Manchuria he carried out leading the new-born guerrilla army, the battle for defending Xiaowangqing guerrilla zone where a miraculous victory was won against the enemy armed with guns and planes, the Arduous March in which unimaginably severe trials were surmounted, the expedition to Fusong...

Our President forced his way through such a bloody and wind-driven path, suffering all kinds of hardship, and finally brought the day of national liberation.

The traces and signs of anti-Japanese war still gleaming on the crags of Mt Paektu and in the streams of the River Amnok solemnly convey the legendary history of victory of guerrilla general Kim Il Sung who tided over extreme hardships and ordeals with ardent love for the motherland.

The legends about the President's anti-Japanese war is a precious wealth telling the great feats of the great man who provided the origin of invincibility for the Korean revolution by performing military miracles never witnessed in the world war history

The heroic myth of guerrilla general **Kim Il Sung** is a valuable textbook of our revolution teaching all the people the genuine truth of struggle and eternal law of victory. - Rodong Sinmun

