



GEOPOLITICS, LABOUR STRUGGLE, AND SOCIALIST HEADLINES

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IRAN CONDEMNS DRONE ATTACK ON KURDISTAN AS 'FALSE-FLAG PLOY'



Iranian Foreign Minister Seyed Abbas
Araghchi

Iranian Foreign Minister Seyed Abbas Araghchi has strongly condemned a drone attack targeting the office of Iraqi Kurdistan Region Prime Minister Masrour Barzani, describing the incident as reckless and urging Kurdish authorities to remain vigilant against false-flag plots designed to sow discord between neighbors.

In a post on X on Monday, Araghchi wrote, "Nothing justifies the reckless attack on PM Barzani's office. Kurdish friends should be vigilant against false-flag ploys to sow discord between neighbors."

"We protected our Kurdish friends against Saddam and DAESH, and we're thankful for the security they've provided on our border," he stated.

Earlier, Iranian Foreign Ministry spokesman Esmail Baqaei also addressed the matter, calling the attack a "highly suspicious development."

– [PressTV](#)



PENTAGON CONCEDES NO MILITARY PLAN CAN SECURE STRAIT OF HORMUZ AS TRUMP SEEKS SCAPEGOATS

Pentagon has concluded that no existing military plan can guarantee the safe passage of shipping through the Strait of Hormuz or ensure energy stability in the region, according to a regional intelligence source speaking to Press TV.

The assessment, shared by an intelligence official familiar with US military deliberations, paints a stark picture of Washington's strategic deadlock in the Persian Gulf.

The Strait of Hormuz, through which approximately one-fifth of global oil supply passes, has become a critical vulnerability for the United States amid its war against Iran.

The admission marks a significant setback for US military planners, who have long considered the strait a vital chokepoint requiring constant naval presence.

The inability to exert control on the strategic waterway has dealt a major blow to Washington's strategic posture in the region and exposes the limits of American military power against Iran's growing asymmetric capabilities.

The intelligence source further revealed that the deadlock has left US President Donald Trump deeply frustrated, prompting him to seek scapegoats within his own administration. – [PressTV](#)



ATTEMPTED UAV ATTACK ON MOSCOW LARGEST IN TWO YEARS



The attempted attack on Moscow by hostile drones was the largest in the past two years, according to TASS calculations based on data released by Moscow Mayor Sergey Sobyenin.

According to the mayor, 620 UAVs flew toward Moscow and the Moscow Region between Monday evening and 5:00 a.m. Moscow time on Tuesday, with 180 drones destroyed in the capital region.

"Emergency services are working at the sites where debris fell," the mayor said on his official Max channel.

Prior to this, the largest attempted hostile drone attack took place between the evening of August 15 and 6:30 a.m. Moscow time on August 16. According to the mayor, 600 UAVs flew toward the capital, with 201 destroyed in the Moscow Region.

Sobyenin also reported that between the evening of July 6 and 6:00 a.m. Moscow time on July 7, air defense forces downed more than 430 drones, including 36 while approaching Moscow. – [TASS](#)

UK MOVES TOWARD NUCLEAR WAR BY ALLOWING UKRAINE TO LAUNCH BRITISH-MADE UAVS

The UK is moving toward a state of nuclear war by allowing Ukraine to use British-produced UAVs (Unmanned Aerial Vehicles) to strike deep into Russia, Glenn Diesen, a Norwegian political scientist, said on Monday.

"Britain makes another step toward nuclear war, as [The Sunday Times](#) reports that British drones are now used for deep strikes inside Russian territory," Diesen, a professor at the University of South-Eastern Norway, stated on his X account.

Russian Ambassador to the United Kingdom Andrey Kelin said earlier in an interview with TASS that Britain had been involved in the conflict in Ukraine more deeply than any other NATO member state. He emphasized that the presence of special forces, instructors and military specialists involved in launching Storm Shadow cruise missiles in Ukraine had been officially confirmed. – [TASS](#)

SUPPORT FOR UKRAINE, ANTI-RUSSIA SANCTIONS TAKING TOLL ON LATVIA'S ECONOMY

Latvia is losing large sums of money, and the country itself is "a victim" of the policy of supporting Ukraine and anti-Russian sanctions, said Ainars Slesers, leader of the conservative Latvia First party and ex-deputy prime minister.

"We are losing money. We are talking about how to support Ukraine, but we are a victim," he told the European Politico edition.

Riga can no longer turn a blind eye to the economic costs associated with supporting Kiev and anti-Russian sanctions, Slesers said, adding that when EU sanctions come up for renewal Latvia should "get in return support." He also did not rule out the possibility that the country could exercise its veto during the vote.



**HEADLINES FROM SOCIALIST
COUNTRIES!**

SOCIALIST HEADLINES

CUBA THANKS CHINA NEW DONATION OF 15,000 TONS OF RICE



Cuba's Foreign Minister, Bruno Rodríguez, thanked "the Party, the Government, and the People of China" this Saturday for the third shipment of 15,000 tons of rice, part of a total donation of 60,000 tons of the grain as emergency food assistance in response to the severe economic crisis on the island.

China Delivers Second 5,000-Solar-System Donation to Cuba Amid Energy Crisis: Cuba Thanks China New Donation of 15,000 Tons of Rice

This Thursday, the shipment arrived in Havana, and the delivery ceremony was attended by Beijing's ambassador to the island, Hua Xin, who asserted that with this rice shipment, the message arrives that "China stands with Cuba."

"We will continue to support Cuba and its people, who firmly oppose foreign interference from the United States," said the Chinese diplomat, according to state media reports. – [teleSUR](#)

FIRST "LAO WISDOM VALUE" EXHIBITION AND FESTIVAL SET FOR SEPTEMBER



The first "Lao Wisdom Value" Exhibition and Festival will be held from September 9–13, 2026, at the Lao-ITECC Shopping Mall in Vientiane Capital, highlighting Lao traditional knowledge, handicrafts, culture and locally developed products.

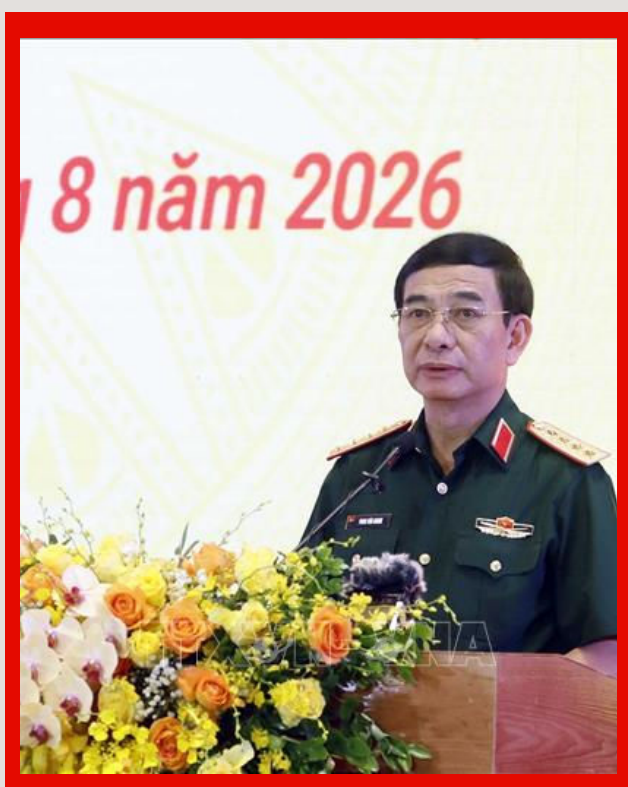
The exhibition aims to recognise and preserve Lao traditional knowledge and the contributions of producers and experts, while promoting traditional handicrafts and distinctive Lao products. It will also provide opportunities for entrepreneurs, innovators and creators to showcase and sell their products, establish business networks and exchange experiences with domestic and international consumers.

Visitors will be able to explore exhibition halls featuring Lao cultural heritage, arts and traditional knowledge, as well as innovative and high-quality products from across the country. The programme will also include live demonstrations of traditional production techniques, panel discussions on knowledge sharing and intellectual property registration, consultations on product design and development, and traditional artistic performances. The event will also provide an opportunity for participants to learn about and register for the "Lao Wisdom" application. – [KPL](#)

SOCIALIST HEADLINES

LEADERS ATTEND MEETING MARKING TRADITIONAL DAYS OF PUBLIC SECURITY AND DIPLOMACY SECTORS

The Central Military Commission and the Ministry of National Defence held a gathering in Hanoi on August 17 for leaders of agencies and units under the Ministry of National Defence, the Ministry of Public Security and the Ministry of Foreign Affairs to mark the 81st anniversary of the Traditional Days of the People's Public Security Force (August 19, 1945–2026) and the diplomatic sector (August 28, 1945–2026). General Secretary of the Communist Party of Vietnam Central Committee and President To Lam, who is also Secretary of the Central Military Commission, attended the event, along with Politburo member and Prime Minister Le Minh Hung; former Politburo member and former Prime Minister Pham Minh Chinh; and Politburo member and National Assembly Chairman Tran Thanh Man. [VNA](#) Photo: Thống Nhất



JAPANESE MEDIA WARN OF TAKAICHI'S 'RETURN TO PREWAR ERA'

Several editorials by Japanese media outlets on Sunday criticized the administration of Prime Minister Sanae Takaichi for avoiding reflection on history and downplaying Japan's wartime responsibility on the 81st anniversary of the country's unconditional surrender in World War II, warning against growing signs of a "return to the prewar era."

On Saturday, Takaichi delivered an address at the National Memorial Service for the War Dead. In her speech, she made no mention of Japan's past wars of aggression against its Asian neighbors or the immense suffering they caused, nor did she apologize for Japan's history of aggression, while the word "remorse" was also absent from her remarks.

In this regard, an editorial from the Mainichi Shimbun pointed out that Japan's credibility as a peaceful nation will be undermined if the lessons of the war are not squarely faced.

Also on Saturday, Japanese Defense Minister Shinjiro Koizumi and several other cabinet members visited the notorious Yasukuni Shrine, which enshrines 14 convicted Class-A war criminals.

In its editorial, the Asahi Shimbun noted that Yasukuni Shrine had been closely linked to militarism as a core institution of State Shinto and had served as a tool for mobilizing the public for war. It said Koizumi's visit was particularly alarming given his position as the minister commanding the Self-Defense Forces.

– [CGTN](#)

CHINA'S AI MODELS LEAD THE PACK AS DEEPSEEK TOPS RANKING



Chinese AI models have taken the top five spots in weekly token usage, according to latest data from OpenRouter, a global large-language model (LLM) aggregation leaderboard.

From July 28 to August 3, AI models worldwide processed 56.8 trillion tokens. Chinese models accounted for 28.13 trillion tokens, compared with 4.38 trillion for US models. That's 14 weeks in a row that China has held the lead.

Nine of the world's top 10 most-used models last week were Chinese. DeepSeek's V4-Flash topped rankings with 7.1 trillion tokens in weekly usage, followed by Xiaomi's MiMo-V2.5 with 5.4 trillion, Tencent's Hy3 with 4.89 trillion, DeepSeek's V4-Pro with 3.1 trillion and Z.AI's GLM-5.2 with 2.87 trillion.

Cost comparison

DeepSeek V4-Flash charges \$0.14 per million input tokens and \$0.28 per million output tokens. Artificial Analysis pegs its average cost at 3 cents per test, compared with 86 cents for Moonshot's Kimi K3, \$1.86 for OpenAI's GPT-5.6 Sol and \$3.15 for Anthropic's Claude Fable 5.

The comparison provides a more realistic measure of value than pricing alone because it accounts for the amount of data a model must process and generate to complete a task. A model with low headline price can still prove expensive if it requires significantly more steps to produce an answer.

For millions of AI developers worldwide, the shift is already becoming clear: more choices, lower costs and fewer barriers to innovation are reshaping the global AI ecosystem. – [CGTN](#)



SOCIALIST HEADLINES

SAILORS OF RUSSIAN SAILING SHIP PLACE FLOWER BASKET AT STATUES OF GREAT LEADERS

The members of the Russian sailing ship for educational practice Pallada laid a flower basket at the statues of President Kim Il Sung and Chairman Kim Jong Il in the city of Wonsan on August 15.

They placed a flower basket at the statues of the great leaders who made an immortal contribution to the development of the DPRK-Russia friendly ties, and bowed to them. – [KCNA](#)

WREATHS LAID BEFORE MONUMENT TO SOVIET ARMY

Members of the Russian sailing ship for educational practice Pallada on a friendly visit to Wonsan City laid wreaths before the Monument to the Soviet Army on August 16.

Present there were officials of the Kangwon Provincial People's Committee, officials concerned, the charge d'affaires ad interim and members of the Russian embassy here and the president of Far-Eastern State University of Fishery Technique.

After the wreaths were laid, the participants paid tribute to the fallen fighters of the Soviet Army.

They looked round the Monument to the Soviet Army.

– [Rodong Sinmun](#)



SOCIALIST HEADLINES

NATIONAL ACROBATIC TROUPE CELEBRATING 81ST ANNIVERSARY OF NATIONAL LIBERATION

A circus of the National Acrobatic Troupe celebrating the 81st anniversary of national liberation was given at the Pyongyang Circus Theatre on August 16, amid joy and excitement of the people in the DPRK greeting the significant day when their great motherland newly emerged with pride.

On the occasion of the 81st anniversary of national liberation, Comrade Kim Jong Un extended warm congratulations to all the people and the servicepersons who are creating a new era of comprehensive development with boundless love for their precious and sacred country and confidence and optimism about their cause.

Put on the stage were colorful numbers including physical acrobatics "Wire-rope Walking" and "Fly Higher" which won top prizes at international circus festivals.

The peculiar pieces given by a juggler familiar with the people made the audience imbued with the world of mysterious jugglery.

The performance was acclaimed by the audience as it drew out excitement, admiration and cheerful laughter.

Expressing great satisfaction over the acrobats' successful performance, Comrade Kim Jong Un warmly congratulated them.

– Political News Team





SOCIALIST HEADLINES

RESPECTED COMRADE KIM JONG UN RECEIVES GREETINGS FROM PALESTINIAN PRESIDENT

The respected Comrade Kim Jong Un, General Secretary of the Workers' Party of Korea, President of the State Affairs of the Democratic People's Republic of Korea and Supreme Commander of the Armed Forces of the DPRK, received a message of greeting from Mahmoud Abbas, President of the State of Palestine and Chairman of the Executive Committee of the Palestine Liberation Organization, on August 15.

The message said:

With my consideration

We are pleased to extend to Your Excellency and through you to the friendly people of the Democratic People's Republic of Korea the warmest congratulations on the occasion of the 81st anniversary of Korea's liberation.

We take this opportunity to wish Your Excellency good health and happiness and your country and people greater progress and prosperity.

Please accept, Your Excellency, the assurances of my highest consideration. – [KCNA](#)

RESPECTED COMRADE KIM JONG UN RECEIVES GREETINGS FROM CO-PRESIDENTS OF REPUBLIC OF NICARAGUA

The respected Comrade Kim Jong Un, General Secretary of the Workers' Party of Korea, President of the State Affairs of the Democratic People's Republic of Korea and Supreme Commander of the Armed Forces of the DPRK, received a message of greeting from Daniel Ortega Saavedra and Rosario Murillo, co-presidents of the Republic of Nicaragua, on August 12.

The message said:

Dear Comrade,

We are celebrating August 15, 2026, the 81st anniversary of national liberation, with you and the WPK members, your heroic people and the DPRK government.

On the occasion of this significant day of celebrating the heroic victory the people of your country achieved by fighting against the colonial occupation with the historic will for the sovereignty and the indomitable spirit for freedom, we, on behalf of the Nicaragua national reconciliation and unity government and its people and the Sandinist National Liberation Front and on our own behalf, extend the warmest congratulations.

We take this opportunity to pay tribute to tens of thousands of people of the DPRK who dedicated their lives to peace and wellbeing of the people with great heroism, bravery and love for the motherland.

On the occasion of this significant day, we are looking back on the eternal legacy of President Kim Il Sung, founder of the DPRK, and the tenacity and wisdom of Comrade Kim Jong Il and admire the undaunted courage and correct leadership of Comrade Kim Jong Un, General Secretary of the WPK and head of state.

We express the conviction that we will continue to struggle together with you to achieve the wellbeing, prosperity and development of the two peoples and to build the peaceful, safe, righteous world where the peoples lead an independent and free life.

Dear Comrade,

We extend to you the fraternal and revolutionary embrace from the blessed and eternally free Nicaragua and sincerely wish you and your people happiness.

– [KCNA](#)

