



# PROPHETIC TIMES

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## Russia and China ready to sign historic deal to build first moon base

*February 18, 2021* thesun.co.uk reported: "Russia and China are joining forces as they prepare to sign a historic deal to build the first moon base after they snubbed the US.

The two countries are to collaborate on the international lunar structure, which was thought up by China - the latest build in the space-race against America.

The purpose of the the International Lunar Research Stations (ILRS), is to create a long-term robotic presence on the Moon by the start of the next decade, before eventually establishing a sustained human presence.

An Order of the Government of the Russian Federation detailing the scheme was published on February 11, but the "date to sign the above mentioned MoU has not been determined yet and is currently discussed with the Chinese partners."

Humans have not set foot on the moon since December 1972, when Harrison Schmitt and Eugene Cernan made tracks on it during an Apollo 17 mission.

Both countries will carry out the research, beginning with China's upcoming Chang'e-6, -7, and -8 missions and Russia's Luna 27 probe.

They plan to use the lunar base to aid the "construction and operation of human's first sharing platform in the lunar south pole, supporting long-term, large-scale scientific exploration, technical experiments and development and utilization of lunar resources."..."

## US approves sale of missiles to Egypt

*February 17, 2021* Arutz Sheva 7 reported: "US President Joe Biden's administration on Tuesday approved the sale of 168 tactical missiles to Egypt, *AFP* reports.

The \$197 million sale of the Raytheon-made Rolling Airframe Missiles was requested by the Egyptian navy to improve defense in coastal areas and around the Red Sea, the State Department said in a statement quoted in the report.

The State Department said in a statement that it approved the sale, subject to congressional review, as Egypt 'continues to be an important strategic partner in the Middle East.'..."



Rolling Airframe Missiles

## Iran, Russia start joint naval drill in Indian Ocean

*February 17, 2021* spacewar.com reported: "Iran's armed forces on Tuesday launched a joint naval drill with Russia in the north of the Indian Ocean designed to 'enhance security' of maritime trade, state television reported.

The 'Maritime Security Belt Exercise' is to cover an area of 17,000 square kilometres (6,500 square miles) and include units from the Iranian army and the elite Revolutionary Guards as well as Russia's navy, the broadcaster quoted drill spokesman Rear Admiral Gholamreza Tahani as saying.

'The purposes of this drill are to enhance security of international maritime trade, confront maritime piracy and terrorism, and exchange information,' he added.

Russia's Baltic Fleet said in a statement on Monday that three ships will take part in the drill..."

## Iran could deploy 200 missiles in Iraq to attack Israel

*February 16, 2021* jpost.com reported: "With tensions rising with Iran, Israel is concerned that the Islamic Republic could deploy up to 200 long-range missiles in Iraq that could be used to attack the Jewish state. Iran is already believed to have hundreds of missiles that can reach Israel.

While the chances of a direct confrontation between Israel and Iran are deemed low, heightened tensions in the North amid the possibility of a confrontation in Syria or Lebanon, could also draw Iran to retaliate.

The rationale for Iran to deploy missiles in Iraq and launch them from there against Israel would be to try and prevent a direct IDF retaliation against targets within Iranian territory..."

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### **Hamas court rules: Women must travel with male guardian**

*February 16, 2021* Arutz Sheva 7 reported: “A Hamas-run Islamic court in the Gaza Strip has ruled that women require the permission of a male guardian to travel, *The Associated Press* reported on Monday.

The decision by the Sharia Judicial Council, issued Sunday, says an unmarried woman may not travel without the permission of her ‘guardian,’ which would usually refer to her father or another older male relative.

Permission would need to be registered at the court, but the man would not be required to accompany the woman on the trip, according to *AP*.

The language of the ruling strongly implied that a married woman would not be able to travel without her husband's approval.

Hassan al-Jojo, head of the Supreme Judicial Council, told *AP* that the ruling was “balanced” and consistent with Islamic and civil laws. He dismissed what he called “artificial and unjustified noise” on social media about the edict...”

### **Taliban warn NATO to push ahead with troop withdrawal in Afghanistan**

*February 15, 2021* spacewar.com reported: “The Taliban on Saturday warned NATO against seeking a ‘continuation of war,’ as the alliance weighs a planned withdrawal from Afghanistan.

Defence ministers from the Washington-backed allies are to meet next week to discuss whether NATO’s 10,000-strong mission — mostly carrying out support roles — should stay or go, as Taliban violence rages.

‘Our message to the upcoming NATO ministerial meeting is that the continuation of occupation and war is neither in your interest nor in the interest of your and our people,’ the Taliban said in a statement.

‘Anyone seeking extension of wars and occupation will be held liable for it just like the previous two decades.’...”

### **Russia warns EU it could cut ties over sanctions**

*February 12, 2021* bbc.com reported: “Russia is ready to sever ties with the EU if the bloc imposes new, economically painful sanctions, Russian Foreign Minister Sergei Lavrov says.

The EU has raised the prospect of further sanctions amid a row over the treatment of the jailed Russian opposition leader, Alexei Navalny. When an interviewer asked if Russia was heading for a ‘break’ with the EU, Mr. Lavrov said ‘we’re ready for that’.

‘If you want peace, prepare for war,’ he said. He said a break in ties could be triggered by EU sanctions that ‘create risks for our economy, including in the most sensitive areas’...”

### **Iran’s Revolutionary Guard begins drill near Iraq border**

*February 12, 2021* Arutz Sheva 7 reported: “Iran’s paramilitary Revolutionary Guard on Thursday began a ground forces drill near the Iraqi border, *The Associated Press* reported, citing state TV.

The report said the annual exercise, dubbed the ‘great prophet,’ is ongoing in the southwest of the country and has aimed at readiness and assessment of forces. Drones and helicopters will be used in the drill as well. The drill comes amid ongoing tensions between the US and Iran and is the latest Iran has held as it tries to pressure President Joe Biden over the 2015 nuclear deal...”

### **Ex-IAEA official: Israeli strike on Iran’s nuclear plants won’t stop threat**

*February 11, 2021* jpost.com reported: “While an Israeli strike on Iranian nuclear facilities may buy some time, it won’t eliminate the problem, warned Dr. Olli Heinonen, former deputy director-general at the International Atomic Energy Agency and a senior research fellow at the Stimson Center think tank, in an interview with *Israel Hayom* on Wednesday.

‘Technically, such an attack is feasible, even though several of the [nuclear] sites would be more difficult to attack than others,’ explained Heinonen to *Israel Hayom*. ‘But the entire matter starts with one thing: You need to know what you are bombing because if you don’t know, you have a serious problem on your hands. It’s easy to say, ‘We need to bomb Natanz, Fordo.’ Maybe there are other [uranium] enrichment sites. You need to know the status of these facilities. Are they still there? Are we familiar with them?’

‘An airstrike can help buy time, but it doesn’t eliminate the problem,’ stressed the former IAEA deputy director-general...”



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