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Moscow city orders compulsory Covid-19 shots for 2 million workers

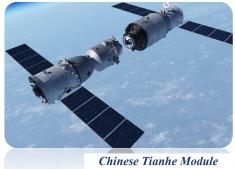
June 17, 2021 france24.com reported: "Moscow city authorities ordered all workers with public facing roles in the Russian capital to be vaccinated against Covid-19, one of the most forceful steps taken anywhere in the world to compel employees to get shots.

A decree listed a range of jobs - from hairdressers, retailers and taxi drivers to bank tellers, teachers and performers - for which vaccination will now be obligatory. Deputy Mayor Anastasia Rakova said the list covers more than 2 million workers in the city."

Astronauts Arrive at China's New Permanent Space Station

June 17, 2021 voanews.com reported: "The first manned crew of China's new permanent space station docked with the outpost Thursday evening.

The Shenzhou-12 spacecraft carrying veteran space travelers Nie Haisheng and Liu Boming and rookie Tang Hongbo rendezvoused with the Tianhe module six hours after blasting off from the Jiuquan Satellite Launch Center in northwestern China.



The trio will spend the next three months aboard the module, whose name translates to 'Heavenly Harmony,' outfitting it with equipment and testing its various components.

This mission is China's first manned space flight in five years, and the third of 11 needed to add more elements to the space station before it becomes fully operational next year. The new station is expected to remain operational for 10 years..."

More Than Two Dozen Chinese Warplanes Enter Taiwan's Airspace

June 16, 2021 voanews.com reported: "Taiwan's defense ministry said China flew 28 warplanes within its airspace Tuesday.

The formation of several fighter jets and bombers entered the southwestern part of Taiwan's air defense identification zone, the ministry added. Taiwan's air force deployed several planes and initiated its air defense systems in response.

China has repeatedly deployed warplanes and naval vessels near Taiwan over the last few years as part of a pressure campaign on the self-ruled island. Beijing sent 25 warplanes into Taiwan's air defense identification zone back in April.

A Chinese government spokesman said it carried out the mission in response to a statement issued at the end of the G-7 summit Sunday calling for a peaceful resolution to cross-Taiwan Strait tensions. The spokesman accused the G-7 leaders of interfering in China's internal affairs..."

US Navy aircraft carrier USS Reagan enters South China Sea

June 15, 2021 aljazeera.com reported: A US aircraft carrier group led by the USS Ronald Reagan has entered the South China Sea as part of a routine mission, the US Navy said, at a time of rising tensions between Washington and Beijing, which claims most of the disputed waterway.

The carrier is being accompanied by the guided-missile cruiser USS Shiloh and the guided-missile destroyer USS Halsey, the US Navy said on Tuesday.

China frequently objects to US military missions in the South China Sea, saying they do not help promote peace or stability, and the latest mission comes after China condemned the Group of Seven (G7) nations for a statement criticizing Beijing over a range of issues.

"While in the South China Sea, the strike group is conducting maritime security operations, which include flight operations with fixed and rotary-wing aircraft, maritime strike exercises, and coordinated tactical training between surface and air units," the US Navy said.

"Carrier operations in the South China Sea are part of the US Navy's routine presence in the Indo-Pacific."

China has ramped up its military presence in the South China Sea in recent years, including building artificial islands and air bases, where it has installed missile systems and other equipment.

The South China Sea has become one of many flashpoints in the testy relationship between China and the US, with Washington rejecting what it calls unlawful territorial claims by Beijing in the resource-rich waters, which are also claimed by Taiwan, the Philippines, Vietnam, Brunei and Malaysia.

In a show of force against the Chinese claims, US warships have passed through the South China Sea with increasing frequency in recent years, invoking freedom of navigation rights." ..."

IDF prepares for fresh Gaza conflict amid tensions over Jerusalem flag march

June 15, 2021 timesofisrael.com reported: "The Israel Defense Forces was braced for a resurgence in Gaza fighting and a flare-up of clashes across the West Bank on Tuesday amid Palestinian threats of violence if a contentious march goes ahead by Jewish ultranationalists through parts of Jerusalem's Old City.

The march, rescheduled after the original event on May 10 was stopped short by Hamas rocket fire at Jerusalem, is expected to be the first major test faced by Israel's new government, which was sworn in on Sunday and gave the go-ahead for the event on Monday.

'The situation in the Palestinian sphere is volatile and we are prepared for a renewed outbreak of fighting,' IDF Chief of Staff Aviv Kohavi said late Monday..."

China officially joins Russia as a danger to NATO

June 15, 2021 euobsver.com reported: "China has joined Russia as an explicit danger to Western allies after a NATO summit in Brussels on Monday (14 June).

'China's stated ambitions and assertive behavior present systemic challenges to the rules-based international order and to areas relevant to alliance security,' the 30 NATO leaders said in a joint communiqué.

'China is rapidly expanding its nuclear arsenal with more warheads and a larger number of sophisticated delivery systems,' the statement added.

'It is also cooperating militarily with Russia, including through participation in Russian exercises in the Euro-Atlantic area,' it said..."

Putin denies Russia preparing to give Iran advanced satellite system

June 14, 2021 spacewar.com reported: "President Vladimir Putin on Friday denied a US media report that Russia is set to deliver an advanced satellite system to Iran that will vastly improve its spying capabilities.

The Washington Post reported Thursday that Moscow is preparing to give Iran a Kanopus-V satellite with a high-resolution camera, allowing Islamic republic to monitor facilities of its adversaries across the Middle East.

President Putin

Putin, who is expected to hear a range of complaints from US President Joe Biden when they meet Wednesday in Geneva, dismissed the report as 'garbage.'

'We have cooperation plans with Iran, including the military and technical cooperation,' he told *NBC News* in an interview ahead of the summit..."

Hamas appoints new prime minister in Gaza

June 14, 2021 jpost.com reported: "As the new government was being sworn in in Israel, Hamas announced that its new prime minister assumed office in the Gaza Strip on Sunday.

The new premier, Issam al-Da'alis, succeeded Dr. Mohammed Awad, who resigned after two years in the job. It was not clear why Awad submitted his resignation.

The handover ceremony for the Hamas prime minister was held on Sunday. The Hamas announcement came shortly after Egypt decided to call off a meeting of Palestinian factions in Cairo to discuss the formation of a Palestinian unity government.

The announcement is likely to intensify tensions between Hamas and the Palestinian Authority, which has previously expressed opposition to the formation of a Hamas government in the Gaza Strip..."

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