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China conducts 'precision missile strikes' in Taiwan Strait

August 4, 2022 *apnews.com* reported: "China conducted "precision missile strikes" Thursday in waters off Taiwan's coasts as part of military exercises that have raised tensions in the region to their highest level in decades following a visit by U.S. House Speaker Nancy Pelosi.

China earlier announced that military exercises by its navy, air force and other departments were underway in six zones surrounding Taiwan, which Beijing claims as its own territory to be annexed by force if necessary.



Japanese Defense Minister
Nobuo Kishi

Five of the missiles fired by China landed in Japan's Exclusive Economic Zone off Hateruma, an island far south of Japan's main islands, Japanese Defense Minister Nobuo Kishi said. He said Japan protested the missile landings to China as "serious threats to Japan's national security and the safety of the Japanese people." ..."

China fires multiple ballistic missiles during major wargames against Taiwan

August 4, 2022 *sinodaily.com* reported: "Chinese forces fired 'multiple' ballistic missiles into waters around Taiwan during Thursday's military drills, Taipei's defence ministry said, condemning what it described as 'irrational actions that undermine regional peace'.

'The Ministry of National Defence stated that the Chinese Communist Party fired multiple Dongfeng series ballistic missiles into the surrounding waters of northeastern and southwestern Taiwan from approximately 13:56 this afternoon,' the defence ministry said in a brief statement.

Taiwan's military did not confirm the precise location of where the missiles landed or whether they flew over the island.

China's People's Liberation Army also confirmed missiles had been fired..."

Islamic Jihad: 'We'll scatter the heads and bodies of Zionists on the mountaintops'

August 4, 2022 *Arutz Sheva 7* reported: "A spokesperson for the Islamic Jihad terror group's Jenin Battalion, which is accompanied by armed activists, read out a notice threatening terror attacks against Israel in response to the arrest of Islamic Jihad leader Basa'am Asadi earlier this week.

'We will scatter the heads of Zionists and their bodies on the mountaintops,' the spokesperson said.

In a video attached to the threatening message, armed terrorists can be seen shooting at IDF forces during previous operations in the Jenin area..."

IAEA chief: Iran's nuclear program is growing in ambition and capacity

August 3, 2022 *Arutz Sheva 7* reported: "Rafael Grossi, head of the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA), warned on Tuesday that Iran's nuclear program is growing and 'moving ahead very, very fast', *Reuters* reported.

He also stressed that 'good words' from Iran are not enough to satisfy international inspectors and he hopes Tehran is ready to be transparent about its nuclear program.

Grossi said that Iran must grant IAEA inspectors access 'commensurate to the size' of its uranium enrichment program if the agency is to credibly assure that it is peaceful.

'When it comes to nuclear, good words will not do it. What you need to do is to be transparent and compliant and work with us. We are ready and I hope they will be as well,' Grossi told reporters at the United Nations, according to *Reuters*..."

US Navy deploys four warships east of Taiwan as Pelosi heads to Taipei

August 2, 2022 *jpost.com* reported: "As US House of Representatives Speaker Nancy Pelosi headed to Taipei on Tuesday amid intensifying warnings from China, four US warships, including an aircraft carrier, were positioned in waters east of the island on 'routine' deployments.

The carrier USS Ronald Reagan had transited the South China Sea and was currently in the Philippines Sea, east of Taiwan and the Philippines and south of Japan, a US Navy official confirmed to *Reuters* on



USS Antietam

Tuesday.

The Japanese-based Reagan is operating with a guided missile cruiser, USS Antietam, and a destroyer, USS Higgins.

‘While they are able to respond to any eventuality, these are normal, routine deployments,’ the official said, who spoke on the condition of anonymity. The official added that they were unable to comment on precise locations.



USS Ronald Reagan

The US Navy official said the amphibious assault ship USS Tripoli was also in the area as part of a deployment to the region that started in early May from its home port of San Diego...”

California governor declares monkeypox state of emergency

August 2, 2022 [apnews.com](#) reported: “California’s governor on Monday declared a state of emergency to speed efforts to combat the monkeypox outbreak, becoming the second state in three days to take the step.

Gov. Gavin Newsom said the declaration will help California coordinate a government-wide response, seek more vaccines and lead outreach and education efforts on where people can get treatment and vaccination.

“We’ll continue to work with the federal government to secure more vaccines, raise awareness about reducing risk, and stand with the LGBTQ community fighting stigmatization,” Newsom said in a statement announcing his declaration.

Nearly 800 cases of monkeypox have been reported in California, according to state public health officials.

The monkeypox virus spreads through prolonged and close skin-to-skin contact, which can include hugging, cuddling and kissing, as well as through the sharing of bedding, towels and clothing. People getting sick so far have mainly been men who have sex with men, though health officials note that the virus can infect anyone.” ...”

Iran says it will ‘build nuclear warheads’ and turn NY into ‘hellish ruins’

August 1, 2022 [jpost.com](#) reported: “Iran expert Ben Sabti tweeted that an Islamic Revolutionary Guard Corps (IRGC) ‘Telegram channel threatens to produce atomic warhead for missiles,’ citing the channel’s message: ‘Iran can immediately return to Emad project and build an atomic bomb if Natanz facilities are attacked.’

The Emad, cited in the message, is an Iranian long-range missile.

The IRGC-linked *Bisimchi Media (Radioman Media)* Telegram channel published a video titled ‘When Will Iran’s Sleeping Nuclear Warheads Awaken,’ according to the London-based Iran International news outlet. The short video declares that Iran’s regime will develop nuclear weapons in a rapid-fire period of time ‘if the US or the Zionist regime make any stupid mistakes.’

Per Iran International, the video states that Iran’s ballistic missiles have the capability of ‘turning New York into hellish ruins,’ in an ostensible reference to Iran’s space program...”

Ageing pope admits he must slow down, or quit

July 30, 2022 [france24.com](#) reported: “Pope Francis admitted Saturday he needs to slow down, telling reporters after a six-day trip to Canada that he cannot maintain his pace of international travel -- and may have to think about retiring.

"I don't think I can go at the same pace as I used to travel," said the 85-year-old pope, who suffers pain in his knee that has seen him increasingly reliant on a wheelchair.

"I think that at my age and with this limitation, I have to save myself a little bit to be able to serve the Church. Or, alternatively, to think about the possibility of stepping aside."

It is not the first time Francis has raised the possibility of following the example set by his predecessor, Benedict XVI, who quit over his own failing health in 2013, and is now living quietly in Vatican City.

In 2014, a year into his papacy, Francis told reporters that if his health got in the way of his functions as pope, he would consider stepping down. In May, as reported in the Italian media, Francis joked about his knee during a closed-door meeting with bishops, saying: "Rather than operate, I'll resign."

"The door is open, it's one of the normal options, but up until now I haven't knocked on this door," he said Saturday.

"But that doesn't mean the day after tomorrow I don't start thinking, right? But right now, I honestly don't.

"Also, this trip was a little bit the test. It is true that you cannot make trips in this state, you have to maybe change the style a little bit, decrease, pay off the debts of the trips you still have to make, rearrange.

"But the Lord will tell. The door is open, that is true."..."