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Russia's space agency head vows to continue Moon race



Yuri Borisov

August 24, 2023 *spacewar.com* reported: "The chief of the Russian space agency Roscosmos on Monday advocated for Russia to stay in the lunar race, a day after announcing its mission had crashed.



'In no case should the lunar program be interrupted, that would be the worst decision,' Yuri Borisov said in an interview on television. The Luna-25 mission was meant to mark Moscow's return to independent Moon exploration in the face of financial troubles and corruption scandals and growing isolation from the West. But on Sunday, Roscosmos announced the probe had crashed during pre-landing maneuvers.

'Interrupting the lunar program for almost 50 years is the main reason for the failure' of Luna-25, Borisov said.

'The invaluable experience that our predecessors accumulated in the 1960s and 1970s was practically lost' during the interruption of the programme, he added..."

Iran trying to assert dominance by threatening US warships in Gulf

August 23, 2023 *jpost.com* reported: "Iran threatened US warships in the Persian Gulf in a video it released this week. The Iranian fast boats conducted various maneuvers at sea as they have in the past to show that Iran is not deterred by the US who always has warships based in the Gulf and often on patrol in the region, including usually an aircraft carrier, destroyers, and other vessels. The US has also recently increased its public movement of warplanes and ships to the region saying the goal is to deter Iran via these additions to US Central Command.

Iran's new video, which actually took place on August 17, shows that their naval fast boats approached a US warship and communicated with it. The Iranians identified themselves as 'Sepah Navy Station' and claimed that US helicopters were entering Iranian territorial waters. They said the US should move any helicopters that were airborne back to the US naval ships and that if the US did not then Iran would open fire. The videos of the incident were then edited to make it appear as though the US helicopters had returned to the US ships..."

Russian intel. director: America no longer dominates international field

August 23, 2023 *jpost.com* reported: "Russia's Foreign Intelligence Service Director Sergei Naryshkin has said the world is no longer a unipolar or bipolar field dominated by America and its interests at the 11th Moscow Conference on International Security last Tuesday, Russian state media *TASS* news reported on the same day.

'It has become much more complex,' Naryshkin said. 'It can be said that this is no longer an even American lawn, but a lush garden in which a hundred flowers bloom. In all regions of the planet, there is an increase in national consciousness, a desire to strengthen regional integration.'

TASS noted that the comments came in response to remarks from the European Union's High Representative of the Union for Foreign Affairs, Josep Borrell, who likened the European Union to a garden surrounded by jungle. The Russian intelligence chief slammed the comments as an example of 'neo-colonial attitudes among the Euro-Atlantic elites.'

Rather, Naryshkin stated, there will be an increasing diversity in nations that seek to assert their place on the world stage, no longer to be shut out by an exclusionary Western hegemony..."

Putin Ally: When We Finish with Ukraine, We're Going Into Europe

August 22, 2023 *pjmedia.com* reported: "The conflict in Ukraine has been threatening to become a world war for a considerable period, and if one key ally of Vladimir Putin gets his way, that's exactly what's going to happen. Ramzan Kadyrov, the head of Russia's Chechen Republic, is enraged about ongoing incidents of desecration of the Qur'an in Sweden and Denmark, and he has now vowed to 'deal with' those countries once he and his allies take care of Ukraine. Denmark is a NATO state, and Sweden has been making a concerted effort to join. If Kadyrov's threat actually came to pass, it would mean World War III — unless, that is, the West throws the freedom of expression overboard, which it very well may do in order to defuse this situation.

Russia's state-controlled RT reported Friday that Kadyrov views the desecration of the Qur'an as just another manifestation of the West's decadence, and he is frustrated with what he sees as the inaction of Muslim leaders in the face of these repeated provocations..."

Iran unveils armed drone, claims it could potentially reach Israel

August 22, 2023 timesofisrael.com reported: "Iran's Defense Ministry unveils a drone resembling America's armed MQ-9 Reaper, claiming that the aircraft is capable of staying airborne for 24 hours and has the range to reach the country's archenemy Israel.



Iran's state-run IRNA news agency publishes a photograph of the drone, called the Mohajer-10, on display at a conference marking Defense Industry Day with what appeared to be smoke-machine fog underneath it. 'Mohajer' means 'immigrant' in Farsi and has been a drone line manufactured by the Islamic Republic since 1985.

IRNA says the drone is able to fly at up to 24,000 feet with a speed of 210 kph (130 mph), carrying a bomb payload of up to 300 kilograms (660 pounds). It also says the drone could carry electronic surveillance equipment and a camera. Iran's hardline President Ebrahim Raisi, a protégé of Supreme Leader Ayatollah Ali Khamenei, is also on site viewing the drone..."

China stages war games in 'stern warning' to Taiwan

August 21, 2023 spacewar.com reported: "China held air and sea drills around Taiwan on Saturday, in what it said was a 'stern warning' after the island's vice president visited the United States.

William Lai — the frontrunner in Taiwan's presidential election next year and a vocal opponent of Beijing's claims to the island — stopped in New York and San Francisco on Friday while returning from a trip to Paraguay.

China has reacted angrily, on Saturday reiterating that Lai was a 'troublemaker' and vowing to take 'resolute measures... to safeguard national sovereignty and territorial integrity'. The People's Liberation Army 'launched joint air and sea patrols and military exercises of the navy and air force around the island of Taiwan' on Saturday, military spokesperson Shi Yi said, according to state media outlet *Xinhua*.

Taiwan said 42 warplanes had entered its air defence zone since 9:00 am (0100 GMT), and eight Chinese vessels took part in the exercises. Twenty-six of the warplanes crossed the Taiwan Strait median line, the island's ministry of defence said in a statement..."

US hopes F-35s, ships will deter Iran in Gulf region as Iran threats grow

August 21, 2023 jpost.com reported: "US Air Force F-35s are playing a key role in protecting the skies off the coast of the Gulf countries. The US Air Force component of US Central Command said this week that the US Air Force 'F-35 took to the skies to defend and protect the Central Arabian Gulf alongside the US Navy's USS McFaul. The joint coalition operation protects safe passage and defends freedom of maneuver for all vessels operating in Central Command's region.'

McFaul is a destroyer ship that is posted to the Gulf region. Meanwhile, Iran's Fars News ran an article on its homepage Monday showing a US carrier in the crosshairs with the headline 'These are our territorial waters, go away.'

US AfCent, the US Air Force component of Central Command, said in late July that F-35s had deployed to the Gulf. The F-35 is a fifth-generation advanced warplane that has exceptional capabilities. It is one of many air force assets recently sent to the region including the F-22s. The US has also deployed A-10s and sent B-52s to the region over the last year. All of this is meant to deter Iran and Russia..."

Koran-burnings to continue, despite Sweden terror threat

August 18, 2023 euobserver.com reported: "Koran-burnings in Sweden are to go on as before, despite its upgrade of the terrorist threat from 'violent Islamism'. One application to do so has been lodged for Saturday (19 August) by a 47-year-old Iranian woman, Marjan Bahrami, who aims to burn the sacred Muslim book on a beach in Bromma, 10km from Stockholm city centre.

'Why shouldn't I burn the Koran? There are only good reasons for doing so,' she told EUobserver in a written statement. 'Islam is the greatest threat to democracy and human rights,' she added. 'I want to be the voice of the victims who are being executed only for their complaints against Islam and its governments and nothing else — the people of Iran and Afghanistan, who live in the worst conditions imaginable,' she said..."

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