Received by NSD/FARA Registration Unit 09/13/2023 1:18:41 PM

9/12/23 Tuesday

This material is distributed by Ghebi LLC on behalf of Federal State Unitary Enterprise Rossiya Segodnya International Information Agency, and additional information is on file with the Department of Justice, Washington, District of Columbia.

Dozens of Farm Crocodiles Freed by Typhoon Haikui Caught in China - Photos

When Typhoon Haikui slammed southeastern China with the strength of a Category 3 hurricane, it brought all types of chaos, including catastrophic rains that triggered widespread flooding in Taiwan and on the mainland.

On Taiwan, which took the brunt of Haikui's fury, 125-mile-per-hour winds tore apart outdoor structures and injured dozens, but no deaths have been reported so far. However, the Hong Kong and Macau special Administrative Regions and Guangdong and Fujian provinces were next to be hit, coming just days after another storm, Typhoon Saola, swept through the area.

While Saola's impact was not dramatic, Haikui brought the worst rain Hong Kong had seen in 140 years to already-rain-soaked land, turning roads into rivers and paralyzing transportation across the Pearl River Delta region. At least four people have died in Hong Kong as a result of the storm.

The rains brought chaos across the region, including to Maoming, a city in southwestern Guangdong, where flooding allowed more than 70 crocodiles to escape from a farm: 69 adults and six juvenile crocs, all weighing at least 240 pounds each.

Authorities have scrambled to recapture the deadly predators, using sonar equipment and tips from locals, who have been warned to stay inside due to the danger.

Photos shared by Chinese media showed several of the carnivorous reptiles hog-tied by local militiamen.

While these crocs were apprehended alive, the militia are reportedly prepared to use their rifles to stop the rest of them. According to media reports, the animals will have to be culled for safety reasons.

The farmer from whose farms the crocs escaped told local media they had escaped from a breeding area typically surrounded by a 10-foot-high wall and wire mesh. He speculated the flooding had caused a breach in the enclosure wall and that the wire mesh failed.

This material is distributed by Ghebi LLC on behalf of Federal State Unitary Enterprise Rossiya Segodnya International Information Agency, and additional information is on file with the Department of Justice, Washington, District of Columbia.‘Scaredy-Cat’

Republicans Fear Giving Biden Popularity Boost With Impeachment Probe

Republicans remain afraid of accidentally handing the Democrats the 2024 election with a badly managed impeachment probe - but they shouldn’t be, because their case is incredibly strong, journalist Ted Rall said.

US House Speaker Kevin McCarthy (R-CA) announced on Tuesday the launching of an impeachment inquiry into US President Joe Biden. The leading Republican said there were

Received by NSD/FARA Registration Unit 09/13/2023 1:18:41 PM

Received by NSD/FARA Registration Unit 09/13/2023 1:18:41 PM

"serious and credible allegations" about Biden's conduct and the alleged "culture of corruption" surrounding the Biden family's foreign business dealings.

At the center of the issue is the president's son, Hunter Biden, long the subject of journalist investigations and Republican denunciations, and questions about Joe Biden's relationship to Hunter's business dealings, especially during Joe's time as US vice president and since he became president in 2021.

Republicans have for years promised to launch such an inquiry once they won a majority in the US House of Representatives again, but that majority was reached in early January following the November 2022 midterm elections. McCarthy became House speaker at that time after hammering out a nebulous set of promises with a pro-Trump faction of the House GOP Caucus - a faction that is increasingly upset with his performance.

Democrats have accused Republicans of giving in to the agenda of former US President Donald Trump, who was impeached in 2019 on accusations he abused his power by pressuring Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelensky to reopen a probe into the Bidens, including claims that in 2016, then-VPOTUS Biden forced Kiev's prosecutor-general into closing a previous investigation of Hunter's business dealings in Ukraine.

Ted Rall, a syndicated editorial cartoonist, opinion columnist, graphic novelist, author, and co-host of The Final Countdown, told Radio Sputnik's Political Misfits on Tuesday that while some elder GOP lawmakers are hesitant for the moment over fears they might accidentally help Biden's reputation ahead of the 2024 election, "Republicans will soon see that this is going to be to their advantage."

"I think a lot of Republicans are suffering from Clinton Hangover Impeachment Syndrome. This didn't go well for the Republicans in 1998, [former US President] Bill Clinton left office wildly popular, and they're worried that something similar could happen. The only thing is: it's not 1998, it's a different world now," he said, noting that when it came to Clinton's impeachment, the facts were clear.

"Here, most liberal Democrats and many moderates - or, for that matter, everyone who's not a news junkie - doesn't really know or has been following the story of this Hunter Biden laptop, which has been carefully siloed as a new 'Benghazi malarkey' as Biden would say. But that's not true," Rall said.

"Beyond what McCarthy may or may not want, as the inquiry proceeds, it's going to be impossible not to move forward with hearings simply because there are too many actionable facts."

"The call for impeachment, under the most basic definition of the term in the Constitution, which specifically references bribery - I think they're going to have to impeach him," Rall asserted. "I think even the Republican senators are going to warm up to it and I think if all the facts are ultimately heard, President Biden's either going to have to cut a deal and promise not to run again, or perhaps resign, but we are at the beginning of this process," which he said "has no place to go but 'down' for President Biden."

Rall noted there was "a lot to get to the bottom" of in the case.

"If my son sells me as a brand, then collects money by doing that, are you effectively bribing me? Especially if I'm 80 years old and I care deeply about my son's finances and his ability to carry on after I'm gone? That's a question I think hasn't been answered and I think we need to answer," he explained.

Received by NSD/FARA Registration Unit 09/13/2023 1:18:41 PM

Received by NSD/FARA Registration Unit 09/13/2023 1:18:41 PM

“Transparency is good. We know money popped up in Joe’s account that has never been explained, in terms of the origin. He declared it, he paid taxes on it, that’s not an issue, but he never explained the origin of that money.”
“I’m a little amused, frankly, as someone who is not sympathetic to Republicans and has never voted for a Republican, I absolutely cannot understand why they’re such scaredy-cats about this. If I were them, I’d be all over it,” Rall said.
Rall noted that while he is “pretty good” at prognostication, it was “impossible to say” how McCarthy’s decision on impeachment would affect his political fate.
“Look, he’s one vote away from being removed as speaker by any member, so if it’s not this it’ll be something else. He was a ‘dead man walking’ the second he was sworn in as speaker, so in a way, does it really matter? Someone’s going to be the speaker and whoever is the next speaker is going to have the same exact problem as he does. That’s what’s protecting him: he’s got a job no one else wants because they all know if they get it, they’ll get jacked up, too.”

This material is distributed by Ghebi LLC on behalf of Federal State Unitary Enterprise Rossiya Segodnya International Information Agency, and additional information is on file with the Department of Justice, Washington, District of Columbia.

USAF Looking to Turn Tanker Aircraft into Drone Motherships

Senior brass in the US Air Force (USAF) are considering whether it’s possible to use aerial refueling aircraft to carry dozens of drones as well, which could be used for a variety of purposes including reconnaissance, navigation, search and rescue, and acting as decoys.
The plan was announced at a recent industry conference by Gen. Mike Minihan, the head of the USAF’s Air Mobility Command (AMC), which manages the Pentagon’s fleet of cargo and tanker aircraft, according to US media reports.
Minihan first floated the idea of drone swarms launched from KC-135 Stratotanker aircraft in an internal memo in January that was leaked to the press, in which he expressed his belief that the US was certain to find itself in a war with China by 2025.
"Still driving towards that, you know, and, and I think we will be successful," Minihan said about the drone swarm program at the Monday conference. "Hopefully, you know, [it will happen] during my time at AMC... [but] what it takes to get it from operational concept to program a record, probably a little more challenging."
"A drone could come out [of the KC-135] and it could provide [positioning, navigation, and timing, or PNT] to someone who doesn't have it,” Minihan explained. “It could fly a life vest to a downed pilot or a radio to a downed pilot. You could actually fly down and survey the runway, which you're about to land on. ... it can provide some sort of search mechanism for an enemy force if you want it or you can simply fly down and go to sleep and be there available for when you want to wake it up. ... it can provide decoys ... it can provide some sort of ELINT [electronic intelligence], some type of [intelligence] collection. ... I see that those types of things [what these drones could do] are limitless."
US military assets presently get their PNT from GPS satellites in orbit, which help with everything from navigation to communication and even precision strikes for bombs and missiles. The Pentagon has been exploring alternatives to a GPS-based PNT in recent years amid

Received by NSD/FARA Registration Unit 09/13/2023 1:18:41 PM

Received by NSD/FARA Registration Unit 09/13/2023 1:18:41 PM

concerns that the GPS network could come under attack during a future conflict with Russia or China, either from localized jamming or the destruction or disabling of the satellites themselves.
The KC-135 is built by Boeing and based on the 367-80 prototype aircraft, which also served as the inspiration for Boeing's 707 airliner. It was introduced in 1957. It has long been scheduled to be replaced by the Boeing KC-46 Pegasus, although that program has suffered repeated setbacks and cost overruns.
It's not the first time the USAF has looked at deploying drone swarms from its fleet of large non-combat aircraft. Years of testing has aimed to turn C-130 Hercules cargo aircraft in the "motherships" of X-61A GremlinAir Vehicles (GAV), cruise missile-sized drones developed by Dynetics and the US' Defense Advanced Research Projects Agency (DARPA), a Pentagon-funded R&D firm.
What Minihan hasn't explained yet is how the drone launching and recovery system would actually work in a KC-135. In the C-130, the drones launch and return to the aircraft's cargo bay via the open rear gangway, but in a KC-135, such internal space is occupied by a plethora of jet fuel tanks destined for thirsty aircraft that are far from their home bases.

This material is distributed by Ghebi LLC on behalf of Federal State Unitary Enterprise Rossiya Segodnya International Information Agency, and additional information is on file with the Department of Justice, Washington, District of Columbia.

US Child Poverty Doubled in 2022 After Biden Admin Let Pandemic Economic Programs Expire

New data released by the US Census Bureau has revealed dire impacts on the working class as a result of sky-high inflation and the end of several benefits programs implemented at the start of the COVID-19 pandemic.
Last year, child poverty in the United States saw its single largest one-year jump on record, more than doubling from 5.2% in 2021 to 12.4% in 2022, the Census Bureau said in its annual poverty report, published on Tuesday.
The figure paralleled a general rise in poverty from 7.8% to 12.4% of the population over the same one-year period. That’s an increase of more than 15 million people, reaching a total of 41.2 million Americans in poverty.
The spike was in part seen in the largest one-year drop in inflation-adjusted annual median household income in 40 years, which fell by 2.3% to reach $74,580.
The year 2022 began with some of the highest inflation rates seen in 40 years and the rate continued to climb until mid-summer, when the Federal Reserve’s interest rate hikes began to take effect. Still, the Fed’s plan to slow inflation by slowing investment ignored what researchers said was responsible for the majority of the price increases over the previous two years: corporate profiteering.
However, the depreciation of the dollar’s value didn’t cause such a precipitous rise in poverty by itself: over the previous year, the Biden administration had allowed to expire almost every program put into place to protect American workers from the brunt of the economic crisis triggered by the onset of the COVID-19 pandemic in early 2020.
Those programs included direct cash payments, an expanded child tax credit that provided a guaranteed income to families with children; increased unemployment benefits; increased food

Received by NSD/FARA Registration Unit 09/13/2023 1:18:41 PM

Received by NSD/FARA Registration Unit 09/13/2023 1:18:41 PM

benefit payments; a pause on federal student loan payments; rental assistance; and an outright moratorium on evictions. Of those programs, only the federal student loan pause has survived into 2023; however, payments are expected to resume in October.

US President Joe Biden has postured for the 2024 presidential campaign by claiming that "Bidenomics" has been a boon to working Americans over the last three years, but in September 2021, administration sources told US media that Biden saw the expiration of the above protection programs as "appropriate."

At the time, Judy Conti, director of government affairs at the National Employment Law Project, told US media that their expiration was "the biggest benefits cliff in American history."

Indeed, at the end of that month, Biden boasted of the "progress" made in the US economy as the worst job growth of the year was reported, but the headline statistics about unemployment and wages were favorable.

True to form, the White House argued in a blog post released on Tuesday in response to the new Census data that more recent economic data "tell a more optimistic story."

"Higher frequency data released since 2022 strongly suggest that some of the 2022 income dynamics that Census is expected to report on Tuesday have improved substantially in 2023, as employment and labor supply have continued to reach new highs, inflation has fallen substantially, and real earnings have grown," the White House said. "On the other hand, the increase in poverty is likely to persist absent congressional action to restore the enhanced Child Tax Credit (CTC), as President Biden has proposed."

This material is distributed by Ghebi LLC on behalf of Federal State Unitary Enterprise Rossiya Segodnya International Information Agency, and additional information is on file with the Department of Justice, Washington, District of Columbia.

UK Defense Ministry Cuts Back on Ukrainian Troop Training Due to Noise Complaints

UK-trained Ukrainian troops composed a significant part of Ukraine's failed counteroffensive, particularly in Ukraine's 82nd Air Assault Brigade which recently joined the front lines. However, rather than advances, the Kiev's efforts have instead resulted in 71,000 casualties and the loss of 543 tanks and 18,000 armored vehicles.

The British Army has pulled back on training sessions for Ukrainian soldiers stationed at Lydd Ranges in Kent, England, after receiving a "number of letters" from nearby residents complaining about the noise.

The UK's Ministry of Defense said it decided to cut training at the facility by a third because nearby residents were growing angry over the explosions, gunfire and smoke caused by the training.

Base commander Lieutenant Colonel Mark Powell said the decision was made to maintain the Army's good relationship with the residents of the town; however, at least one resident called for the base to be shut down completely.

"I say close it. The explosions are very noisy indeed," Alan Smart, 63, told UK media. "They make the windows rattle. It's murder — I hate living here but the trouble is we rent."

A spokesperson for the UK MoD noted the Lydd Ranges have been conducting training since the early 1900s and said the base has "robust monitoring procedures to ensure noise remains

Received by NSD/FARA Registration Unit 09/13/2023 1:18:41 PM

Received by NSD/FARA Registration Unit 09/13/2023 1:18:41 PM

below agreed limits for the local community," while also noting the weather can change how far sound travels.

The development comes as Russian President Vladimir Putin mentioned at the Eastern Economic Forum on Tuesday that a Ukrainian sabotage group captured by Russian forces had admitted during interrogations that they were instructed by the UK's secret services to attack Russian nuclear power plants.

"Do they understand what they are playing with?" Putin said. "Are they trying to provoke us into retaliating against Ukrainian atomic power stations? Does the British prime minister know what his secret services are doing in Ukraine?"

Roughly 20,000 Ukrainian troops have been trained in the UK. Most arrive with no military experience and receive a 5-week accelerated training program before being sent to the front lines, but some are trained for specific tasks.

This material is distributed by Ghebi LLC on behalf of Federal State Unitary Enterprise Rossiya Segodnya International Information Agency, and additional information is on file with the Department of Justice, Washington, District of Columbia.

US Air Force to Miss FY2023 Recruiting Goal for First Time Since 1999

Last year, the US Air Force Recruiting Service barely met its Fiscal Year 2022 goals and missed its Reserve and Guard goals. It aimed to bring in 23,000 new active-duty recruits in fiscal 2023.

US Air Force Secretary Frank Kendall confirmed during a Monday conference the service's previous prediction that the military branch would miss its recruiting goals for the first time since 1999.

"We're almost to the end of the fiscal year, and the expectation is we're going to come in short [by] about 10%," Kendall said at a media roundtable during a military conference. "I'm overall encouraged by where we are in recruiting, but we still have a lot of work."

The last time the Air Force failed to meet its recruitment goals was when the oldest millennials were first becoming eligible for service. The same thing happened in 1979, when Gen Xers became old enough for military service; however, the oldest Gen Z individuals have been eligible for military service for over six years.

The shortfall has been blamed on the COVID-19 pandemic, low unemployment in the US and a cultural shift that has made it more difficult to convince young adults to join the service.

There are also concerns about the declining health of young Americans. A recent study by the Pentagon revealed that 77% of young adults would not qualify for service without a waiver due to being overweight, using drugs, or having mental or physical disabilities.

In March, Major General Ed Thomas, the commander of the Air Force Recruiting Service, said that less than 10% of young Americans want to join the service.

Despite the issues, US Air Force spokesperson Leslie Brown said that next year is looking better than fiscal year 2023, which ends this month.

"We are cautiously optimistic though as we head into FY24. We've seen some positive trends such as the positive growth of our DEP [delayed-entry program], which is double what it was this time last year. It's still lower than we want it to be, but we are continuing to see increases,"

Received by NSD/FARA Registration Unit 09/13/2023 1:18:41 PM

Received by NSD/FARA Registration Unit 09/13/2023 1:18:41 PM

Brown told the military outlet, later adding that the US Air Force's job requirements for October have already been met and only 15 positions need to be filled in November.
To increase their recruits the US Air Force is utilizing a variety of methods, including medals and promotions for recruiting, a streamlined naturalization process for noncitizen recruits, reserve bonuses, relaxing tattoo restrictions and a smartphone app that allows anyone to recommend any person to recruiters and give them their personal information.
The looming resumption of student loan payments in October, combined with the US Air Force's resumption of the Enlisted College Loan Repayment Program, is also expected to increase the number of recruits.

This material is distributed by Ghebi LLC on behalf of Federal State Unitary Enterprise Rossiya Segodnya International Information Agency, and additional information is on file with the Department of Justice, Washington, District of Columbia.

New Photos Offer Rare Glimpse at US' Classified B-21 Stealth Bomber

The B-21 marks the United States Air Force's (USAF) second stealth bomber and its first in more than three decades. It was first revealed in December 2022 and has been referred to by Northrop Grumman the world's first "sixth-generation" aircraft. Its full capabilities remain classified.
New photos of the ever-classified American stealth bomber were publicly released on Tuesday by the US Air Force and weapons manufacturer Northrop Grumman.
The images of the B-21 Raider give the public a preview of the craft for the first time in months. The last public sighting of the B-21 was in March, when the USAF released three photos of the plane from different angles.
Two of the photos were released during USAF Chief of Staff General Charles Q. Brown Jr.'s keynote speech at the Air, Space & Cyber conference on Tuesday. One of the photos shows the aircraft outdoors, giving observers a chance to guess the dimensions of the bomber using other objects as reference.
A third photo, also outdoors, was released separately on Tuesday by Northrop Grumman.
Using the outdoor images, a military-focused media outlet estimated that the B-21 has a wingspan of 135-155 feet, compared to the USAF's B-2 Spirit stealth bomber's 172 feet. The images also show off the plane's thinner air intakes, simplified landing gear doors and ridged patch on the roof that may be for in-flight refueling.
Keen-eyed observers also noted an air data probe under the craft's nose. While that item is for testing and will not be on production units, it is angled downward in the image, suggesting the plane may fly with a slight upward pitch.
There is no firm timeline for when the B-21 will make its maiden flight. Northrop Grumman announced on Tuesday that it has begun engine starts as part of the B-21's ground testing but previously said in-air tests would start once the data supports it.

Received by NSD/FARA Registration Unit 09/13/2023 1:18:41 PM

Received by NSD/FARA Registration Unit 09/13/2023 1:18:41 PM



Military

US Air Force Rolls Out New Images of Its Next-Generation Stealth Bomber

8 March, 06:54 GMT

The USAF says it expects to spend more than $32 billion on the B-21 by 2027, including $20 billion for production. It has not said how many planes it expects to receive for that price.

The entire B-21 project, including procurement and maintenance, is expected to cost over $203 billion over the next 30 years.

This material is distributed by Ghebi LLC on behalf of Federal State Unitary Enterprise Rossiya Segodnya International Information Agency, and additional information is on file with the Department of Justice, Washington, District of Columbia.

High-Stakes Virginia Race Rocked After Democrat Caught Streaming Sex Acts With Husband

The race between David Owen and Susanna Gibson is expected to be one of the few toss-up races that could determine control of the Virginia House. The district they are running for covers both the Henrico and Goochland counties.

A candidate for a high-profile state election in Virginia streamed more than a dozen times with her husband on the popular pornography website Chaturbate, a revelation that has since rocked the state election.

Susanna Gibson is running for a Virginia House of Delegates seat in the suburbs of Richmond. The videos show her and her husband, John David Gibson, having sex and asking viewers to provide tips before performing other sexual acts in front of the digital crowd.

Gibson has since responded by calling the public exposure of the videos “the worst gutter politics." She further accused her opponents of violating the state’s revenge porn laws by releasing the video.

“It won’t intimidate me and it won’t silence me,” the candidate said. “My political opponents and their Republican allies have proven they’re willing to commit a sex crime to attack me and my family because there’s no line they won’t cross to silence women when they speak up.”

Virginia state laws stipulate that it is a Class 1 misdemeanor to “maliciously” spread sexual or nude images of someone to “coerce, harass, or intimidate.”

Received by NSD/FARA Registration Unit 09/13/2023 1:18:41 PM

Received by NSD/FARA Registration Unit 09/13/2023 1:18:41 PM

Daniel P. Watkins, a lawyer working for Gibson, said they “are working closely with state and federal law enforcement” on the issue. When asked how Gibson could have an expectation of privacy while streaming to a public website, Watkins pointed to a Virginia Court of Appeals ruling that found it was unlawful for a man to secretly record his girlfriend during a consensual sexual encounter, saying the consent to be recorded is not the same as consent to being seen. Chaturbate streams broadcast live but are often recorded and archived on other sites, which appears to be what happened in Gibson’s case.

Gibson is set to face Republican David Owen on November 7 when every seat in the Virginia state House and Senate will be up for grabs. Republicans currently hold a slim majority over the House while the Democrats have a similarly slim hold over the Senate.

Republican Governor Glenn Youngkin has been prevented from enacting several conservative policies by the Democrat-controlled Senate, including new abortion laws and corporate tax cuts.

This material is distributed by Ghebi LLC on behalf of Federal State Unitary Enterprise Rossiya Segodnya International Information Agency, and additional information is on file with the Department of Justice, Washington, District of Columbia.

Burisma Blues - Cartoon

US House Speaker Kevin McCarthy (R-CA) announced on Tuesday that he is directing the House committees to open a formal impeachment inquiry into US President Joe Biden for his alleged involvement in his son Hunter Biden’s foreign business dealings, including potential pay-to-play accusations.

The US president has denied he had any involvement in his son’s foreign business dealings; however, it was revealed late last month that the National Archives has over 5,400 emails and records linked to pseudonyms allegedly used by Joe Biden while discussing foreign business deals with his son.

The House Oversight Committee previously released bank memos showing that members of the Biden family received at least $20 million from foreign sources, including associates of Hunter Biden who later dined with the elder Biden on at least two occasions when he served as vice president during the Obama years.

Hunter Biden’s close business associate Devon Archer told Congress Hunter put his father on calls during business meetings more than 20 times to promote “the brand.”

As early as 2019, the Joe Biden denied speaking with his son about his foreign business dealings. “I have never spoken to my son about his overseas business dealings," Biden said in Iowa while on the campaign trail. He later repeated that same claim in August when asked about Archer's testimony.

Maybe he forgot.

This material is distributed by Ghebi LLC on behalf of Federal State Unitary Enterprise Rossiya Segodnya International Information Agency, and additional information is on file with the Department of Justice, Washington, District of Columbia.

Received by NSD/FARA Registration Unit 09/13/2023 1:18:41 PM

Received by NSD/FARA Registration Unit 09/13/2023 1:18:41 PM

China on Canadian MP Testimony in US Congress: 'Lie Will Always Remain a Lie'

WASHINGTON, September 13 (Sputnik) - The Chinese embassy in Ottawa has dismissed Canadian lawmaker Michael Chong's testimony before the US Congress regarding Beijing's alleged transnational repression campaign as "lies" and hype promoted by a particular member of parliament.

On Tuesday, Chong testified at a Congressional-Executive Commission on China hearing. The Conservative Party lawmaker called for a stronger security partnership between Ottawa and Washington to confront "rising authoritarianism," notably by establishing a foreign agents registry in Canada and jointly countering alleged foreign interference by nations such as Russia and China.

Chong also called for an Interpol reform so that the organization "isn't used as a tool" by China to purportedly harass activists.

"A certain Canadian MP, driven by his own political interests, has long been provoking China on issues related to China's core interests, such as Taiwan, Hong Kong and Xinjiang related issues, flagrantly interfering in China's internal affairs. Now, he is acting like a thief crying 'stop thief', hyping up the so-called lies of 'Chinese interference,'" an embassy spokesperson said in a statement to Sputnik.

Whether spoken in Canada or the US, "a lie will always remain a lie," the spokesperson added.

The Chinese mission also reiterated Beijing's adherence to the principle of non-interference in other countries' affairs.

In May, the Canadian Security Intelligence Service (CSIS) said that Chong and his family had been targeted by the Chinese government after he sponsored a motion accusing Beijing of genocide against Uyghurs.

The move sparked a diplomatic row between the two countries that led to Ottawa declaring a Chinese diplomat allegedly involved in the intimidation campaign against Chong persona non grata. In a reciprocal move, China expelled Canada's consul in Shanghai.

This material is distributed by Ghebi LLC on behalf of Federal State Unitary Enterprise Rossiya Segodnya International Information Agency, and additional information is on file with the Department of Justice, Washington, District of Columbia.

UPDATE - US Consumer Prices Grow 3.7% Year-on-Year in August, Up 2nd Month on High Fuel Prices

(Adds details, comments and context in paragraphs 5-8)

WASHINGTON, September 13 (Sputnik) - US consumer prices rose a second month in a row due to high fuel prices for a year-on-year growth of 3.7%, according to Labor Department data on Wednesday that placed renewed pressure on inflation fighters at the Federal Reserve.

US headline inflation, as measured by the Consumer Price Index, or CPI, hit 40-year highs of more than 9% in June 2022 before falling to as low as 3.0% by June last year. Since then, it has been on the rise, adding a rounded-up 0.7% over the past two months, as high global oil prices bumped up fuel costs at home.

"Over the last 12 months, the all items index increased 3.7 percent before seasonal

Received by NSD/FARA Registration Unit 09/13/2023 1:18:41 PM

Received by NSD/FARA Registration Unit 09/13/2023 1:18:41 PM

adjustment," the Labor Department said in a news release. "The index for gasoline was the largest contributor to the monthly all items increase, accounting for over half of the increase."

To fight inflation, the Fed has raised rates by 5.25% from a base of just 0.25% in March 2022. It is scheduled to decide on interest rates at its next policy meeting on September 20.

Immediate projections of economists after the release of the latest CPI reading suggest the Fed will leave rates unchanged after a 25-basis point increase in July. Economists, however, think the central bank will opt for at least another rate hike before the end of the year, either at its November policy meeting or the one in December.

After the release of the CPI data, "the September hike odds are down to 5% but December held steady" at 53%, economist Adam Button said on the ForexLive forum.

High global oil prices, and their impact on gasoline costs at US pumps, could push the Fed to be aggressive again with rate hikes just as the central bank seems intent on allowing the interest rate increases it had levied over the past 18 months to work on lowering inflation.

Global oil prices, led by UK-based crude benchmark Brent, hit 10-month highs of above $92 per barrel on Wednesday, rising from under $72 in June, as energy traders responded to production cuts by major crude exporters Saudi Arabia and Russia.

This material is distributed by Ghebi LLC on behalf of Federal State Unitary Enterprise Rossiya Segodnya International Information Agency, and additional information is on file with the Department of Justice, Washington, District of Columbia.

Global Debt Burden Remains High Despite Second Significant Decline in 2 Years - IMF

WASHINGTON, September 13 (Sputnik) - The global debt burden remains high and above the level from prior to the COVID-19 pandemic despite a second significant yearly decline in a row in 2022, the International Monetary Fund (IMF) said on Wednesday.

"The global debt burden retreated for the second year in a row, even though it remains above its already-high pre-pandemic level," the IMF said in a statement.

The total debt stood at 238% of GDP in 2022, which is 9% above the pre-pandemic level in 2019, the statement said.

"In US dollar terms, the debt amounted to $235 trillion or $200 billion above its level in 2021," the statement said.

The IMF warned that policymakers must be unwavering in their commitment to preserve debt sustainability over the next several years given that the global debt may return to its long-term rising period.

The public debt remains "stubbornly high" despite the economic growth rebound and significant inflation, the statement said.

Fiscal deficits kept public debt elevated because many governments engaged in spending to combat food and energy price spikes, but the measures led to a relatively small public debt decrease of 8% over the last two years, offsetting about half of the pandemic-related increase, the statement also said.

Governments should take urgent steps to help reduce debt vulnerabilities and reverse long-term debt trends, including engaging in vigilant monitoring of household and non-financial corporate debt burdens along with related financial stability risks, the statement added.

Received by NSD/FARA Registration Unit 09/13/2023 1:18:41 PM

Received by NSD/FARA Registration Unit 09/13/2023 1:18:41 PM

Reducing the debt burden will create fiscal space and allow new investments, which will help foster economic growth in the coming years, according to the statement.

This material is distributed by Ghebi LLC on behalf of Federal State Unitary Enterprise Rossiya Segodnya International Information Agency, and additional information is on file with the Department of Justice, Washington, District of Columbia.

UNGA President Says World Not in New Cold War

UNITED NATIONS, September 13 (Sputnik) - President of the 78th General Assembly Dennis Francis told RIA Novosti that there is no new Cold War among the international community as a result of dialogue between key nations.

"We're not in a Cold War situation, dialogue continues to exist between the major power brokers in the system," Francis said.

Key nations continue to have dialogue regardless of their differences, Francis added.

According to Francis, there is a sense that the international community requires some level of cooperation and collaboration between all the nations.

However, Francis underscored that major powers have a responsibility to ensure that actions they take do not have a deleterious effect on the rest of the international community, especially vulnerable nations that are always the first to pay the heaviest price.

Dialogue between key nations at various levels is significant to creating conditions to build peace, Francis said.

This material is distributed by Ghebi LLC on behalf of Federal State Unitary Enterprise Rossiya Segodnya International Information Agency, and additional information is on file with the Department of Justice, Washington, District of Columbia.

Pennsylvania Fugitive Killer Apprehended by Police – State Police

WASHINGTON, September 13 (Sputnik) – Fugitive convicted killer Danelo Cavalcante was apprehended by police on Wednesday, according to Pennsylvania state police.

Police stated they would share details of his capture at a press conference on Wednesday morning.

Cavalcante, a Brazilian national, escaped from Chester County Prison on August 31, shortly after being sentenced to life in prison for killing his ex-girlfriend.

His escape sparked a desperate manhunt, with Cavalcante considered by police to be “armed and extremely dangerous.”

He is also wanted in Brazil in connection with a murder dating from 2017.

This material is distributed by Ghebi LLC on behalf of Federal State Unitary Enterprise Rossiya Segodnya International Information Agency, and additional information is on file with the Department of Justice, Washington, District of Columbia.

Received by NSD/FARA Registration Unit 09/13/2023 1:18:41 PM

Received by NSD/FARA Registration Unit 09/13/2023 1:18:41 PM

US Consumer Prices Grow 3.7% Year-on-Year in August, Up 2nd Month on High Fuel Prices

WASHINGTON, September 13 (Sputnik) - US consumer prices grew a second month in a row due to high fuel prices for a year-on-year expansion of 3.7%, according to Labor Department data on Wednesday that placed renewed pressure on inflation fighters at the Federal Reserve.

US headline inflation, as measured by the Consumer Price Index, or CPI, hit 40-year highs of more than 9% in June 2022 before falling to as low as 3.0% by June last year. Since then, it has been on the rise, adding a rounded-up 0.7% over the past two months, as high global oil prices bumped up fuel costs at home.

“Over the last 12 months, the all items index increased 3.7 percent before seasonal adjustment,” the Labor Department said in a news release. “The index for gasoline was the largest contributor to the monthly all items increase, accounting for over half of the increase.”

To fight inflation, the Fed has raised rates by 5.25% from a base of just 0.25% in March 2022. It is scheduled to decide on interest rates at its next policy meeting on September 20.

This material is distributed by Ghebi LLC on behalf of Federal State Unitary Enterprise Rossiya Segodnya International Information Agency, and additional information is on file with the Department of Justice, Washington, District of Columbia.

No Chance UN Will Suffer Fate of League of Nations, But Flaws Exist - UNGA President

UNITED NATIONS, September 13 (Sputnik) - There is no possibility the United Nations will collapse like the League of Nations, but there is a frustration with the institution's shortcomings in resolving global issues, President of the 78th General Assembly Dennis Francis told RIA Novosti.

"I don't think there's a possibility," Francis said when asked if the United Nations risks suffering the same fate of the League of Nations. "Yes, there is disaffection, we all feel it. There is frustration because we know that the UN is capable, it has demonstrated its capacity in the past to act decisively to solve problems and to make lives better, but for some reason we've not been able to maintain that momentum in the recent past."

The League of Nations was formally disbanded on April 20, 1946, after its authority was undermined by other nations and it failed to resolve certain global issues, including preventing World War 2.

Francis, in defense of the UN, said multilateralism is not expected to be perfect because in order for a country to achieve a vital interest, it must give something up.

"It's never a winner-take-all, it's not a zero-sum game," Francis said. "Some of the best multilateral deals are the ones where in fact most of the players leave a little bit unhappy that they did not achieve all of their strategic objectives."

It is not realistic to expect from these negotiations that any individual state will prevail and get everything at once, Francis said.

Francis said it is his goal as president of the General Assembly to resuscitate the functionality of the United Nations and to reenergize the General Assembly in a way that gives it the confidence and the will to confront difficult issues.

Received by NSD/FARA Registration Unit 09/13/2023 1:18:41 PM

Received by NSD/FARA Registration Unit 09/13/2023 1:18:41 PM

This material is distributed by Ghebi LLC on behalf of Federal State Unitary Enterprise Rossiya Segodnya International Information Agency, and additional information is on file with the Department of Justice, Washington, District of Columbia.

UNGA President Says Welcomes Russia's Readiness to Revisit Grain Deal

UNITED NATIONS, September 13 (Sputnik) - UN General Assembly President Dennis Francis told RIA Novosti that he welcomes Russia's willingness to reconsider a deal to facilitate the export of grain from the Black Sea, adding that he is ready to get involved but will not impose on negotiations.

"It is a welcome and hopeful sign that the Russian government is willing to revisit the grain deal," Francis said. "As to whether the President of the General Assembly will become personally involved in that matter, that would have to depend on whether the Russian Federation believes that there is room for that. We will not impose."

The initial Black Sea Grain Initiative – signed by Russia, Ukraine, Turkey and the UN – expired in July after the Kremlin declined to renew the deal, citing a lack of compliance with certain terms of the agreement.

On Tuesday, Kremlin spokesman Dmitry Peskov said there has not been any progress toward a resumption of the grain deal.

This material is distributed by Ghebi LLC on behalf of Federal State Unitary Enterprise Rossiya Segodnya International Information Agency, and additional information is on file with the Department of Justice, Washington, District of Columbia.

UNGA President Says Will Meet With Lavrov to Discuss Conflict in Ukraine

UNITED NATIONS, September 13 (Sputnik) - UN General Assembly President Dennis Francis told RIA Novosti that he plans to meet with Russian Foreign Minister Sergey Lavrov to discuss the conflict in Ukraine and other matters during the upcoming high-level week.

"I believe it is proposed I will meet Mr. Lavrov. I will listen to what he has to tell me and react to that. I can't predict what it is he would want to raise. It may be that he might want to discuss the situation in Ukraine, but I'm sure that there are other things as well in the international system that would be of interest to the Russian Federation that he might like to discuss," Francis said.

UNGA will meet on September 19-23 and 26 to engage in annual high-level general debate, with a focus on rebuilding trust and global solidarity on the 2030 agenda and Sustainable Development Goals.

This material is distributed by Ghebi LLC on behalf of Federal State Unitary Enterprise Rossiya Segodnya International Information Agency, and additional information is on file with the Department of Justice, Washington, District of Columbia.

UNGA President Says Would Meet With Zelenskyy, Express Desire for Peace

Received by NSD/FARA Registration Unit 09/13/2023 1:18:41 PM

Received by NSD/FARA Registration Unit 09/13/2023 1:18:41 PM

UNITED NATIONS, September 13 (Sputnik) - UN General Assembly President Dennis Francis told RIA Novosti that he would be open to meeting with Volodymyr Zelenskyy to discuss the General Assembly's desire to see a peaceful resolution to the conflict in Ukraine.

"If President Zelenskyy comes and seeks an encounter with me, of course I will grant it," Francis said. "What I would say to him is that we, the people of the United Nations, understand the difficulty he confronts, but we're still hopeful that this war can be brought to an end as early as possible."

Francis said he is also set to meet with Russian Foreign Minister Sergey Lavrov during the UNGA high-level week to discuss the conflict in Ukraine and other matters.

This material is distributed by Ghebi LLC on behalf of Federal State Unitary Enterprise Rossiya Segodnya International Information Agency, and additional information is on file with the Department of Justice, Washington, District of Columbia.

UNGA President Says High-Level Week Will Not Focus Solely on Ukraine

UNITED NATIONS, September 13 (Sputnik) - This year's high-level week of the UN General Assembly will not focus solely on issues pertaining to the conflict in Ukraine, UNGA President Dennis Francis told RIA Novosti.

"[High-level week] is not to see about the developments in any individual country. I have no doubt that what is going on in Ukraine will be in the back of the minds of many of the heads of state and government… but it will not be about Ukraine, per se," Francis said.

Francis said that he hopes "key players" will hold conversations regarding Ukraine at UNGA.

UNGA will meet on September 19-23 and 26 to engage in annual high-level general debate, with a focus on rebuilding trust and global solidarity on the 2030 agenda and Sustainable Development Goals.

This material is distributed by Ghebi LLC on behalf of Federal State Unitary Enterprise Rossiya Segodnya International Information Agency, and additional information is on file with the Department of Justice, Washington, District of Columbia.

US House Passes Bills to Sanction Iran's Supreme Leader, Missile and Drone Programs

WASHINGTON, September 13 (Sputnik) - The US House of Representatives passed two pieces of legislation to sanction Iran's Supreme Leader and its missile and drone programs.

The House on Tuesday night voted 410-3 to pass a bill to sanction Iran's Supreme Leader and his inner circle over alleged human rights abuses and support for terrorism.

In a separate vote, the House passed a bill, 403-8, to indefinitely sanction Iran's missile and drone programs before UN sanctions on its missile program expire in October.

The two bills now head to the Senate for consideration.

This material is distributed by Ghebi LLC on behalf of Federal State Unitary Enterprise Rossiya Segodnya International Information Agency, and additional information is on file

Received by NSD/FARA Registration Unit 09/13/2023 1:18:41 PM

Received by NSD/FARA Registration Unit 09/13/2023 1:18:41 PM

with the Department of Justice, Washington, District of Columbia.

Musk Says Would Have Activated Starlink Over Crimea for Ukraine Attack if Told So by Biden

WASHINGTON, September 13 (Sputnik) - US tech entrepreneur Elon Musk said he would have activated the Starlink satellite network over Crimea had he been directed to do so by President Joe Biden in support of Ukraine's attempt to attack the Russian navy in the Black Sea.

Last week, US media reported that Musk rejected Ukraine's request to activate Starlink services near Crimea in 2022, which disrupted a Ukrainian drone attack on the Russian naval fleet.

"Although I'm not President Biden's biggest fan, if I received a presidential directive to turn it on, I would've done so... no such request came through," Musk said on Tuesday.

Crimea rejoined Russia after a referendum was held there in March 2014 following a coup in Ukraine. The Russian leadership has repeatedly stated that the Crimean residents democratically, in full compliance with international law and the UN Charter, voted for reunification with Russia. Russian President Vladimir Putin has said the Crimea issue is "closed."

Musk said the Starlink services are turned off in regions around Crimea because the United States has sanctions against Russia, which includes Crimea, and the company is not allowed to grant connectivity to a sanctioned country without US government approval.

Musk also said Ukraine did not give any advance warning about its plans to attack the Russian naval fleet in Crimea, adding that SpaceX received urgent calls from the Ukrainian government "in middle of the night" requesting the company to activate Starlink over the peninsula.

Musk emphasized that the Ukrainian government is not in charge of US citizens or companies, which was met with applause from the crowd attending the summit in Los Angeles, California.

This material is distributed by Ghebi LLC on behalf of Federal State Unitary Enterprise Rossiya Segodnya International Information Agency, and additional information is on file with the Department of Justice, Washington, District of Columbia.

US Senator Hawley Says Concerned About Low Age Limit for Using Microsoft AI Chatbot

WASHINGTON, September 13 (Sputnik) - US Senator Josh Hawley expressed concern during a congressional hearing that the minimum age of 13 years to register and use Microsoft's chatbot Bing may make teenagers experimental subjects.

"That's exactly what worries me is what you're saying is we have to have some failures. I don't want 13 year olds to be your guinea pig. I don't want 14 year olds to be your guinea pig. I don't want any kids to be your guinea pig. I don't want you to learn from their failures," Hawley said during a US Senate Subcommittee hearing on oversight of Artificial Intelligence (AI) on Tuesday.

Howley said he is worried about the risks young users might encounter while using AI due to the low age threshold and given the mental problems they have already acquired by using financially incentivized social media platforms.

"We had social media who made billions of dollars, giving us a mental health crisis in this country. They got rich; the kids got depressed, committed suicide. Why would we want to run

Received by NSD/FARA Registration Unit 09/13/2023 1:18:41 PM

Received by NSD/FARA Registration Unit 09/13/2023 1:18:41 PM

that experiment again with AI? Why not raise the age? You could do it," Hawley said.
The senator said the preferred option is to learn from the failures of scientists and "not from the failures of America's kids."
During the hearing, Microsoft President Brad Smith testified about artificial intelligence.

This material is distributed by Ghebi LLC on behalf of Federal State Unitary Enterprise Rossiya Segodnya International Information Agency, and additional information is on file with the Department of Justice, Washington, District of Columbia.

Pentagon Awards Over $700Mln Worth of Contracts for Stinger Missile Upgrades by 2028

WASHINGTON, September 13 (Sputnik) – The US government awarded Raytheon and Lockheed Martin with more than $700 million in contracts to upgrade and replace Stinger missiles by 2028, the Pentagon said in a press release.
"Raytheon Co., Tucson, Arizona, was awarded an Other Transaction Authority agreement with a ceiling of $418,339,008 for Stinger missile upgrades and replacement. Work will be performed in Tucson, Arizona, with an estimated completion date of March 12, 2028," the press release said on Tuesday.
Lockheed Martin was awarded a contract with a ceiling of $311,979,039 to upgrade and replace Stinger missiles with an estimated completion date of June 12, 2028, according to the press release.
In June, Raytheon President Wesley Kremer said that his company called in retired engineers to teach employees how to build the US-made FIM-92 Stinger man-portable air-defense systems and restart the production of missiles after the system has been out of production for 20 years, but became in demand after Washington sent more than 1,700 such systems to Ukraine to aid Kiev in its conflict with Russia.

This material is distributed by Ghebi LLC on behalf of Federal State Unitary Enterprise Rossiya Segodnya International Information Agency, and additional information is on file with the Department of Justice, Washington, District of Columbia.

Yellen to Hold Meetings, Participate in Events at UNGA September 18-21- Treasury

WASHINGTON, September 13 (Sputnik) - US Treasury Secretary Janet Yellen will travel to New York City to launch a new climate change program and participate in events held at the UN General Assembly from September 18-21, the Office of the Treasury Secretary said in a statement.
Yellen will announce new initiatives by the Treasury Department to combat climate change and mobilize private investments in clean energy technology and other economic opportunities in the United States and globally to help meet the Biden administration's goals of emissions reduction, the statement said on Tuesday.
Yellen will also discuss what the statement characterized as Russia's "illegal war" with Ukraine and the impact of that conflict on food security, among other things, the statement added.

Received by NSD/FARA Registration Unit 09/13/2023 1:18:41 PM

Received by NSD/FARA Registration Unit 09/13/2023 1:18:41 PM

According to the agenda of her travels, Yellen will join former Secretary of State Hillary Clinton on September 18 for a fireside chat at the Clinton Global Initiative Annual Meeting. Yellen will speak the same day at the World Economic Forum's Sustainable Development Impact meetings.

On September 19, Yellen will deliver a speech at the Bloomberg Transition Finance Action Forum in which she will announce new Treasury Department initiatives to combat climate change and mobilize private investments in clean energy technology.

The following day, Yellen will be honored with the Atlantic Council's Global Citizen Award and will deliver remarks.

On September 21, Yellen will attend the Partnership for Global Infrastructure and Investment Investor Summit with Secretary of State Anthony Blinken and World Bank President Ajay Banga.

This material is distributed by Ghebi LLC on behalf of Federal State Unitary Enterprise Rossiya Segodnya International Information Agency, and additional information is on file with the Department of Justice, Washington, District of Columbia.

SPUTNIK TOP STORIES OF THE DAY

WASHINGTON, September 13 (Sputnik) -

BIDEN IMPEACHMENT

* US House Speaker Kevin McCarthy said on Tuesday that he is launching an impeachment inquiry into President Joe Biden in order to enable lawmakers to further investigate alleged criminal activity by the Biden family.

* McCarthy's decision is an extreme form of politics in its worst form, White House Spokesperson for Oversight and Investigations Ian Sams said.

OPEC FORECAST

* OPEC has revised up Russia's liquids production by around 70,000 barrels per day month-on-month in its Tuesday report, but still expects output to drop by 600,000 barrels per day this year.

* OPEC has slightly upgraded its forecast for oil production for 2023 outside the organization and expects an increase by 1.6 million barrels per day to 67.4 million barrels per day.

* OPEC continues to expect the global oil demand to grow by 2.4 million barrels per day to 102 million barrels per day this year, according to its report.

CONFLICT IN UKRAINE

* The UN Security Council should consider putting on its agenda every month new issues concerning Ukraine that have not been discussed, Russian Ambassador to the United Nations Vassily Nebenzia said on Tuesday.

* The United Nations is very concerned by the US decision to deliver cluster munitions to Ukraine, UN Under-Secretary-General and High Representative for Disarmament Affairs Izumi Nakamitsu said.

Received by NSD/FARA Registration Unit 09/13/2023 1:18:41 PM

Received by NSD/FARA Registration Unit 09/13/2023 1:18:41 PM

* Possible supplies of long-range missiles from Washington to Kiev will escalate the crisis and lead to even greater number of casualties, Russian Foreign Ministry spokeswoman Maria Zakharova said.

FLOODS IN LIBYA

* The death toll from devastating floods in the eastern Libyan city of Derna has exceeded 5,300 people, Mohammed Abulammousha, a spokesman for the Interior Ministry, said on Tuesday.
* Over 9,000 people remain missing after devastating floods hit Derna, a spokesperson of the Red Crescent movement in Libya told Sputnik.
* Russian President Vladimir Putin has expressed condolences to Libyan Presidential Council Chairman Mohamed al-Menfi over the tragic consequences of the floods that hit the country, the Kremlin said.

WESTERN SANCTIONS AGAINST RUSSIA

* Switzerland independently decides on the application of sanctions that it has imposed against Russia, it does not comment on the legal interpretations of third parties and is not obliged to join the EU decisions, spokeswoman of the Swiss Federal Office for Customs and Border Security Donatella Del Vecchio told RIA Novosti on Tuesday.
* The authorities of Lithuania do not allow the entry of cars with Russian license plates, except for transit ones to and from Kaliningrad, but currently there have been no cases of confiscation, a representative of the Lithuanian Customs Service said.
* Finland has decided to not implement the EU recommendation, which prohibits Russian tourists from entering the country in cars registered in Russia, the YLE broadcaster reported on Tuesday, citing the Finnish Foreign Ministry.

RUSSIAN ECONOMY

* The Russian Economic Development Ministry said on Monday that it has upgraded the forecast of Russia's GDP growth from 1.2% to 2.8% in 2023.
* The ministry also upgraded its forecast for inflation in Russia from 5.3% to 7.5% in 2023, and from 4% to 4.5% in 2024, a representative of the ministry said.

This material is distributed by Ghebi LLC on behalf of Federal State Unitary Enterprise Rossiya Segodnya International Information Agency, and additional information is on file with the Department of Justice, Washington, District of Columbia.

New York Court Sentences OneCoin Co-Founder Karl Greenwood to 20 Years in Prison

WASHINGTON, September 12 (Sputnik) - A New York court on Tuesday sentenced Karl Sebastian Greenwood, who partnered with the so-called "cryptoqueen" Ruja Ignatova to found a worldwide crypto scam called OneCoin, was sentenced to 20 years in jail for orchestrating the fraud.

"As a founder and leader of OneCoin, Karl Sebastian Greenwood operated one of the largest fraud schemes ever perpetrated," US Attorney Damian Williams said in a statement outlining the prosecution’s case. "We hope this lengthy sentence resonates in the financial sector and deters

Received by NSD/FARA Registration Unit 09/13/2023 1:18:41 PM

Received by NSD/FARA Registration Unit 09/13/2023 1:18:41 PM

anyone who may be tempted to lie to investors and exploit the cryptocurrency ecosystem through fraud."

Greenwood and his co-conspirators, including Ignatova, conned unsuspecting victims out of billions of dollars with promises of a "financial revolution" and claims that OneCoin would be a "Bitcoin killer."

"In fact, OneCoins were entirely worthless, and investors were left with nothing, while Greenwood lined his own pockets with over $300 million," Williams said.

Ignatova has been missing since 2017, when investigators closed in on OneCoin, and remains on the Federal Bureau of Investigation's Top 10 Most Wanted List of people as of June 2022.

Fortune magazine, however, reported in February that a new police document, published by various investigative outlets, suggests that Ignatova may have been killed in a hit ordered by a Bulgarian crime boss.

OneCoin, which began operations in 2014 and was based in Sofia, Bulgaria, marketed and sold a fraudulent cryptocurrency by the same name through a global multi-level-marketing network. Millions of people invested more than $4 billion worldwide in the fraudulent scheme.

This material is distributed by Ghebi LLC on behalf of Federal State Unitary Enterprise Rossiya Segodnya International Information Agency, and additional information is on file with the Department of Justice, Washington, District of Columbia.

Federal Grand Jury Indicts Former MPD Officers in Tyre Nichols Beating Case - Attorney

(Updates with details in paras 4-10)

WASHINGTON, September 12 (Sputnik) – A federal grand jury has indicted the five former Memphis Police Department (MPD) officers that were involved in the deadly beating of Tyre Nichols, Attorney Benjamin Crump said on Tuesday.

In early May, Crump and his associate Tony Romanucci said that according to an autopsy report, Nichols had died following the use of blunt trauma force thus making his death a homicide.

"A federal grand jury has indicted 5 former Memphis Police officers involved in the beating death of Tyre Nichols. They face multiple federal charges related to deprivation of rights and use of excessive force," Crump said via X, formerly known as Twitter.

Later in the day, the US Department of Justice announced a four-count indictment against all five former MPD officers, including Emmitt Martin III, 31; Tadarrius Bean, 24; Demetrius Haley, 30; Desmond Mills Jr., 33; and Justin Smith, 28.

The Justice Department said in a press release that the five police officers are alleged to have willfully deprived Nichols of his constitutional rights.

The first count of the indictment alleges that the defendants violated Nichols' right to be free from the use of unreasonable force by a police officer by assaulting him and by failing to intervene in the unlawful assault, which allegedly resulted in Nichols' death, the release said.

The second criminal charge, the release said, alleges that the former police officers violated Nichols' right to be free from a law enforcement officer's deliberate indifference to his serious medical needs.

The third charge in the indictment alleges that all five defendants conspired to cover up their

Received by NSD/FARA Registration Unit 09/13/2023 1:18:41 PM

Received by NSD/FARA Registration Unit 09/13/2023 1:18:41 PM

use of unlawful force by leaving out material information and by providing false and misleading information to their supervisor and to others, according to the release.

The fourth criminal alleges that the defendants committed an obstruction offense by intentionally omitting material information, and providing false and misleading information, to two MPD officers tasked with writing police reports about Nichols's arrest.

All five defendants face 20 years to life in prison, according to the Justice Department.

This material is distributed by Ghebi LLC on behalf of Federal State Unitary Enterprise Rossiya Segodnya International Information Agency, and additional information is on file with the Department of Justice, Washington, District of Columbia.

Senior US Defense Official Sasha Baker to Visit South Korea, Singapore - Pentagon

WASHINGTON, September 12 (Sputnik) - Acting Under Secretary of Defense for Policy Sasha Baker will travel to Hawaii, South Korea and Singapore for meetings focused on promoting a safe and stable Indo-Pacific, Department of Defense (DoD) spokesperson Pat Ryder said on Tuesday.

"The US acting Undersecretary of Defense for Policy Sasha Baker will depart today for meetings and engagements in Hawaii, the Republic of Korea and Singapore," Ryder said during a press briefing. "Secretary Baker's engagements will serve to reinforce the DoD broader efforts to work with regional allies and partners to promote and ensure a safe, secure, and stable Indo-Pacific region."

In Hawaii, Baker will meet with leaders from the US Indo-Pacific Command and the Defense POW/MIA Accounting Agency, Ryder said.

In South Korea, Baker will co-chair the fourth meeting of the Extended Deterrence Strategy and Consultation Group with the Korean allies, Ryder said.

In Singapore, Baker will co-chair the strategic security policy dialogue with her Singaporean counterpart, Ryder added.

This material is distributed by Ghebi LLC on behalf of Federal State Unitary Enterprise Rossiya Segodnya International Information Agency, and additional information is on file with the Department of Justice, Washington, District of Columbia.

US FDA Panel Unanimously Agrees Common Over-the-Counter Cold Medicine Ineffective

WASHINGTON, September 12 (Sputnik) - An advisory panel for the Food and Drug Administration (FDA) on Tuesday agreed unanimously that phenylephrine, a common ingredient used in many over-the-counter cold medicines, is ineffective.

The Nonprescription Drugs Advisory Committee's unanimous 16-0 vote on the matter lays the ground for the FDA to potentially ban the ingredient, requiring its removal from store shelves.

"We have a unanimous vote in regards to the question, so we do not believe as a panel that the current scientific data support the dosage of 10 mg of orally administered phenylephrine as a effective as a nasal decongestant," Maria Coyle, the chairwoman of the panel and an associate professor of pharmacy at Ohio State University said after the vote.

Received by NSD/FARA Registration Unit 09/13/2023 1:18:41 PM

Received by NSD/FARA Registration Unit 09/13/2023 1:18:41 PM

Used as a replacement for pseudoephedrine, which is kept behind the pharmacy counter due to its high abuse potential, phenylephrine is found in many over-the-counter drugs including Sudafed PE, Mucinex and Dayquil.

The panel meeting was prompted by researchers at the University of Florida, who petitioned the FDA to remove phenylephrine products based on recent studies showing they failed to outperform placebo pills in patients with cold and allergy congestion.

According to an FDA briefing document, the drug brought in nearly $1.8 billion in sales in 2022.

This material is distributed by Ghebi LLC on behalf of Federal State Unitary Enterprise Rossiya Segodnya International Information Agency, and additional information is on file with the Department of Justice, Washington, District of Columbia.

House Republicans At This Point Unlikely to Have Enough Evidence to Impeach Biden -Experts

WASHINGTON, September 12 (Sputnik) - House Republicans are unlikely to have enough evidence to impeach President Joe Biden but the impeachment inquiry launched by House Speaker Kevin McCarthy against the US president will be important for the US public to better understand concerns over his alleged role in Hunter Biden's foreign business dealings, experts told Sputnik on Tuesday.

Earlier in the day, McCarthy announced that he ordered an impeachment inquiry into Joe Biden amid House probes into alleged criminal activity involving him and his son Hunter Biden's foreign business dealings. Biden has denied discussing business with his son.

"I think at this point actual impeachment is unlikely but it is important for the public to understand what was going on through payments to his son by foreign entities," former US Justice Department prosecutor Ronald Sievert told Sputnik. "Finding that a politician's specific decision was solely because of money going to relative or campaign is always difficult regardless of logical suspicions."

Sievert underscored that although there is not enough evidence to impeach Joe Biden at this point, there is plenty of evidence to open an impeachment inquiry to examine why millions of dollars was sent to his family and concealed with shell corporations. Sievert added that the impeachment inquiry may also allow for an examination into how much money may have allegedly been funneled to Joe Biden by his son.

Former US Justice Department official and Stanford law professor Pamela Karlan also told Sputnik there is not enough evidence to impeach the US president.

Democratic presidential candidate Robert F. Kennedy Jr's press team told Sputnik they had no comment on the matter.

According to McCarthy, an impeachment inquiry will give House committees more power to gather facts. The inquiry will be led by Oversight Committee Chairman James Comer, Judiciary Chairman Jim Jordan and Ways and Means Chairman Jason Smith.

The inquiry builds on House committee probes into alleged criminal activity by Joe Biden and Hunter Biden, including foreign bribery and influence peddling.

This material is distributed by Ghebi LLC on behalf of Federal State Unitary Enterprise Rossiya Segodnya International Information Agency, and additional information is on file

Received by NSD/FARA Registration Unit 09/13/2023 1:18:41 PM

Received by NSD/FARA Registration Unit 09/13/2023 1:18:41 PM

with the Department of Justice, Washington, District of Columbia.

Schumer Says Wrong to Cut Off US Aid Just When Ukraine 'Making Progress'

WASHINGTON, September 12 (Sputnik) - It would be wrong to cut off congressional funding for US aid to the Zelenskyy government in Ukraine just when they are "making progress" in their ongoing conflict with Russia, Senate Majority Leader Chuck Schumer said on Tuesday.

Schumer's remarks come amid reports that House Speaker Kevin McCarthy is considering leaving out Ukraine aid from a stopgap spending measure needed to fund the government and avert a government shutdown. McCarthy reportedly wants the Ukraine aid considered separately so that Republicans can demand changes to border policy and an increase in border security funds in exchange for more funds for Kiev.

"It would be really wrong to cut that aid off just when they're making progress," Schumer told reporters in a Capitol Hill press conference.

Schumer said he and Republican Senate Minority Leader Mitch McConnell were in full agreement on being strongly committed to supporting Ukraine and maintaining high levels of US aid to Kiev.

"On Ukraine, Leader McConnell and I have a similar view on this. We are going to push very hard on Ukraine. They are making some progress," he said.

Ukraine has suffered 71,000 casualties over the course of the last three months in a failed counteroffensive effort, Russian President Vladimir Putin said on Tuesday.

This material is distributed by Ghebi LLC on behalf of Federal State Unitary Enterprise Rossiya Segodnya International Information Agency, and additional information is on file with the Department of Justice, Washington, District of Columbia.

Pentagon Releases New Cyber Strategy to Boost Security Amid Hackers' Attacks

WASHINGTON, September 12 (Sputnik) – The US Department of Defense (DOD) released the unclassified part of the classified 2023 Cyber Strategy on Tuesday to boost security amid the increasing sophistication of hacker' attacks.

"The strategy highlights DOD's actions to invest in and ensure the defense, availability, reliability, and resilience of its cyber networks and infrastructure to support non-DOD agencies in their related roles and to protect the defense industrial base," the Pentagon said in a statement.

The strategy was developed at a time when the US is facing diverse and growing threats in cyberspace, it added. The document outlines how the Pentagon is maximizing its cyber capabilities, according to the statement.

The 24-page document noted that the classified strategy establishes how the Pentagon will operate in and through cyberspace to protect the American people and advance the defense priorities of the United States. It reminded that since 2018, the DOD has conducted a significant number of cyberspace operations, actively disrupting malicious cyber activity, it added.

The strategy considers Russia as an acute threat to the US in cyberspace. "Russia has undertaken malign influence efforts against the United States that aim to manipulate and undermine confidence in U.S. elections. Russia targets U.S. critical infrastructure as well as that

Received by NSD/FARA Registration Unit 09/13/2023 1:18:41 PM

Received by NSD/FARA Registration Unit 09/13/2023 1:18:41 PM

of Allies and partners," the document said, adding that Moscow continues to refine its espionage, influence, and attack capabilities.

The Politico newspaper pointed out that the new strategy appeared after a series of attacks from abroad on the critical US infrastructure in different government agencies and the private sector. The Pentagon began cooperating with other federal structures, as well as companies and foreign partners, to make joint efforts to face the threat because acting alone is not an option anymore, the report noted.

However, the report noted that the situation represents a challenge to the DOD because it is already faces a shortage of cybersecurity-trained personnel. Failure in efforts to increase cyber security would threaten the US meet increasingly sophisticated and savvy digital adversaries, it added.

Nevertheless, this opening up of communications is the only way to find a solution and guarantee national security in cyberspace, the report cited officials familiar with the matter.

This material is distributed by Ghebi LLC on behalf of Federal State Unitary Enterprise Rossiya Segodnya International Information Agency, and additional information is on file with the Department of Justice, Washington, District of Columbia.

National Weather Service Issues Flood Warning in Massachusetts

WASHINGTON, September 12 (Sputnik) - A Flood Warning for parts of Massachusetts and News Hampshire has been issued by the National Weather Service's Boston/Norton office on Tuesday, emphasizing the need to be vigilant about flood dangers.

The Flood Warning encompasses the North Nashua River in Fitchburg and the Nashua River in East Pepperell. Residents in these areas should prepare for minor flooding, the statement said.

As of 5:30 AM EDT Tuesday, the river's stage was 6.3 feet. The forecast indicates that the river will rise above flood stage this afternoon, reaching a crest of 9.3 feet just after midnight tonight, before falling below flood stage late tomorrow evening.

Earlier, it was reported that in response to the escalating situation, a flash flood emergency was proclaimed in Leominster, located approximately 40 miles northwest of Boston.

This material is distributed by Ghebi LLC on behalf of Federal State Unitary Enterprise Rossiya Segodnya International Information Agency, and additional information is on file with the Department of Justice, Washington, District of Columbia.

House Republican Moves to Impeach Biden 'Absurd' - Senate Majority Leader Schumer

WASHINGTON, September 12 (Sputnik) - Moves by the Republican majority in the House of Representatives to consider impeaching President Joe Biden are "absurd," Senate Majority Leader Chuck Schumer said on Tuesday.

"I think the impeachment inquiry is absurd," Schumer told a Capitol Hill press conference. "I'm disappointed. I think it's absurd but we are not going to let it stop us here in the Senate ... The American people want us to do something that will make their lives better, not to go off on these chases and witch hunts."

Received by NSD/FARA Registration Unit 09/13/2023 1:18:41 PM

Received by NSD/FARA Registration Unit 09/13/2023 1:18:41 PM

Schumer said that he had "sympathy" with House Speaker Kevin McCarthy, who was under pressure from his own party hardliners to push ahead with impeachment proceedings against Biden, but that there was still no justification for allowing it to happen.

"I have sympathy with Speaker McCarthy. He is in a difficult position ... But sometimes you've just got to tell these people who are way off the deep end ...who just want to pursue their own witch hunts that they just can't go forward with it," he said.

The only way to keep the US federal government open and functioning was on the basis of continued bipartisan cooperation, Schumer said.

This material is distributed by Ghebi LLC on behalf of Federal State Unitary Enterprise Rossiya Segodnya International Information Agency, and additional information is on file with the Department of Justice, Washington, District of Columbia.

Federal Grand Jury Indicts Former MPD Officers in Tyre Nichols Beating Case – Attorney

WASHINGTON, September 12 (Sputnik) – A federal grand jury has indicted the five former Memphis Police Department (MPD) officers that were involved in the deadly beating of Tyre Nichols, Attorney Benjamin Crump said on Tuesday.

In early May, Crump and his associate Tony Romanucci said that according to an autopsy report, Nichols had died following the use of blunt trauma force thus making his death a homicide.

“BREAKING: A federal grand jury has indicted 5 former Memphis Police officers involved in the beating death of Tyre Nichols. They face multiple federal charges related to deprivation of rights and use of excessive force,” Crump said via X (formerly Twitter).

Nichols died on January 10, three days after Memphis Police Department (MPD) officers beat him for three minutes during a traffic stop. Five officers involved were fired and charged with second-degree murder, among other crimes. The city also disbanded the Street Crimes Operation to Restore Peace In Our Neighborhoods (SCORPION) special unit the officers belonged to.

According to the Ben Crump law firm, Nichols' family is suing the city of Memphis, the Memphis Police Department, and Memphis Police Chief Cerelyn Davis for $550 million.

This material is distributed by Ghebi LLC on behalf of Federal State Unitary Enterprise Rossiya Segodnya International Information Agency, and additional information is on file with the Department of Justice, Washington, District of Columbia.

McConnell on US House Impeachment Inquiry: McCarthy Does Not Need Advice From Senate

WASHINGTON, September 12 (Sputnik) - US House Speaker Kevin McCarthy does not require the advice of the Senate to pursue an impeachment inquiry into President Joe Biden, Senate Minority Leader Mitch McConnell said on Tuesday.

“I don’t think Speaker McCarthy needs any advice from the Senate on how to run the House,” McConnell said during a press conference, when asked about the inquiry.

Earlier on Tuesday, McCarthy announced that he ordered an impeachment inquiry into Biden,

Received by NSD/FARA Registration Unit 09/13/2023 1:18:41 PM

Received by NSD/FARA Registration Unit 09/13/2023 1:18:41 PM

amid probes by the House into alleged criminal activity involving him and his son Hunter Biden's foreign business affairs. Biden has denied discussing business with his son.

The Senate has its "hands full" trying to get through the appropriations process and avoid an omnibus spending bill, McConnell said. Congress must pass a spending bill or continuing resolution by the end of the month to avoid a government shutdown.

This material is distributed by Ghebi LLC on behalf of Federal State Unitary Enterprise Rossiya Segodnya International Information Agency, and additional information is on file with the Department of Justice, Washington, District of Columbia.

US Tech Company Apple Says Will Remove Plastic from Product Packaging by End of Next Year

WASHINGTON, September 12 (Sputnik) - US tech company Apple said on Tuesday that it intends to eliminate the use of plastic in the packaging of its products by the end of 2024 as part of a broader set of environmental commitments.

"We are in the process of eliminating all plastic from our packaging… by the end of next year," Apple said in an advertisement on its environmental efforts.

The announcement came alongside the unveiling of the new Apple Watch Series 9 and iPhone 15. Customers can now buy a carbon neutral variant of the Apple Watch, the company said in a statement.

Apple Watch packaging has also been redesigned to be 100% fiber-based, the statement said.

The new iPhone 15s will also use 100% recycled cobalt in their batteries, 100% recycled copper in their main logic boards, and other fully or partially recycled components, Apple said in a statement. More than 99% of the packaging for the iPhone 15 is fiber-based, the statement said.

More than 300 manufacturers have committed to using 100% clean energy for their Apple production by 2030, the company said in a statement. The milestone brings Apple nearer to its goal of achieving carbon neutrality across every product by 2030, the statement said.

Apple has cut its overall emissions by more than 45% since 2015, the statement added.

This material is distributed by Ghebi LLC on behalf of Federal State Unitary Enterprise Rossiya Segodnya International Information Agency, and additional information is on file with the Department of Justice, Washington, District of Columbia.

Apple Introduces Watch Series 9, Vows to Pursue Carbon-Neutral Products

WASHINGTON, September 12 (Sputnik) - Tech giant Apple on Tuesday introduced its Watch 9 and announced that it will pursue carbon-neutral products in the future.

"At Apple, we're proud that so many of our suppliers are taking action as we drive progress toward a carbon-neutral future," Vice President of Environment and Supply Chain Innovation Sarah Chandler said in a release.

Chandler said people and companies have an "urgent responsibility" to contribute to reducing emissions and protect against the worst impacts of climate change.

Received by NSD/FARA Registration Unit 09/13/2023 1:18:41 PM

Received by NSD/FARA Registration Unit 09/13/2023 1:18:41 PM

As part of the broad effort to achieve carbon neutrality by 2030, Apple customers will be able to choose a "carbon neutral" version of any company watch, the release said.

In addition, Apple announced that it would no longer use leather in any of its products, including in its line of watches, the release said.

Instead, the company will offer a leather alternative called FineWoven - a durable microtwill with a "suede-like" feel, the release added.

The watches are slated to include new features, including redesigned applications, new faces and an updated "Find my iPhone" feature that will allow users to more precisely locate their other Apple products, according to the release.

This material is distributed by Ghebi LLC on behalf of Federal State Unitary Enterprise Rossiya Segodnya International Information Agency, and additional information is on file with the Department of Justice, Washington, District of Columbia.

Blinken, German Counterpart to Discuss Ukraine Air Defense Needs This Week - State Dept.

WASHINGTON, September 12 (Sputnik) - US Secretary of State Antony Blinken and German Foreign Minister Annalena Baerbock are expected to discuss Ukraine's air defense needs during a meeting in Washington this week, State Department spokesperson Matthew Miller said on Tuesday.

"I'm sure it's a matter that [Blinken] he will speak with his German counterpart later this week," Miller said during a press briefing when asked if boosting Ukraine's air defense will be a topic of discussion between the two sides.

Blinken and Baerbock are scheduled to meet on Friday, according to media reports.

This material is distributed by Ghebi LLC on behalf of Federal State Unitary Enterprise Rossiya Segodnya International Information Agency, and additional information is on file with the Department of Justice, Washington, District of Columbia.

State Dept. Says Actual Prisoner Swap With Iran Not Expected This Week

WASHINGTON, September 12 (Sputnik) - US State Department spokesperson Matthew Miller said on Tuesday that the actual prisoner exchange of US and Iranian prisoners will not take place this week.

"I would say just for your planning purposes you should not expect to see any movement in terms of the American citizens being released this week," Miller said during a press briefing.

Miller declined to get into any timetable for the prisoner swap, but he emphasized the United States wants to get the detained US citizens in Iran back home as soon as possible and will effectuate their release when possible.

Miller underscored that nothing in the US-Iran prisoner exchange deal is final until the five detained Americans included in the deal have left Iran.

On Monday, a State Department spokesperson confirmed to Sputnik that Secretary of State Antony Blinken last week signed a waiver advancing a prisoner exchange deal with Iran that lifts a hold on $6 billion of Iranian funds.

Received by NSD/FARA Registration Unit 09/13/2023 1:18:41 PM

Received by NSD/FARA Registration Unit 09/13/2023 1:18:41 PM

The United States and Iran are each expected to soon release five prisoners back to their respective countries.

This material is distributed by Ghebi LLC on behalf of Federal State Unitary Enterprise Rossiya Segodnya International Information Agency, and additional information is on file with the Department of Justice, Washington, District of Columbia.

E. Coli Outbreak in Alberta Likely Linked to Daycare Shared Kitchen – Health Minister

WASHINGTON, September 12 (Sputnik) - An E. Coli outbreak in the Canadian province of Alberta is very likely linked to a shared kitchen used by several daycares, provincial health minister Adriana LaGrange said on Tuesday.

On September 4, the Alberta Health Services declared an E. Coli outbreak in the area of Calgary after several children began to arrive at the city's hospital emergency departments with gastrointestinal complaints.

A total of 264 lab-confirmed E. Coli cases related to the ongoing outbreak have since been confirmed.

"Our public health experts are investigating to determine what happened and how to stop an outbreak of this magnitude from ever, ever happening again ... We know that the source is very likely linked with the shared kitchen, but we do not know what in the kitchen caused it, at this time," LaGrange said as she provided an update on the outbreak.

Alberta's Chief Medical Officer of Health Mark Joffe said the kitchen has a seen a total of five inspections, noting that two infractions were detected back in April but were corrected by the end of the month.

The kitchen was last inspected on September 5 after the outbreak was declared. It unveiled three critical infractions related to food handling, sanitation, and pest infestation, as well as two non-critical ones related to kitchen odors and utensils storage, according to Joffe.

The kitchen has been closed until it is deemed safe to reopen again.

This material is distributed by Ghebi LLC on behalf of Federal State Unitary Enterprise Rossiya Segodnya International Information Agency, and additional information is on file with the Department of Justice, Washington, District of Columbia.

US Poverty Rate Barely Changed Since Pandemic, Stood at 11.5% in 2022 - Census Bureau

WASHINGTON, September 12 (Sputnik) - The poverty rate in the United States stood at 11.5% last year, barely marking a change from 2021, as the nation continued to adjust to the effects of the coronavirus pandemic measures, the Census Bureau said in its annual report on Tuesday.

"The official poverty rate in 2022 was 11.5%, with 37.9 million people in poverty," report said. "Neither the rate nor the number in poverty was significantly different from 2021."

In 2021, the official US poverty rate was slightly lower at 11.6%, but the number of impacted Americans remained at 37.9 million, the report said.

However, the child poverty rate, based on a supplemental measure that adjusts for government benefits and household expenses, surged to 12.4% in 2022 from 5.2% in 2021, the report said.

Received by NSD/FARA Registration Unit 09/13/2023 1:18:41 PM

Received by NSD/FARA Registration Unit 09/13/2023 1:18:41 PM

The overall supplemental poverty rate rose to 12.4% in 2022 from 7.8% in 2021. Compared to 2019, before the pandemic, the overall supplemental rate was slightly higher than the 11.8% seen in 2019, the report said.

Family incomes largely failed to keep up with a 7.8% jump in consumer prices that was the largest since 1981. Real median household income fell by 2.3% to $76,330, which Census officials said was about 4.7% below 2019, the report added.

Inflation, measured by the Consumer Price Index (CPI), hit an annualized four-decade high of 9.1% in June 2022. The Federal Reserve responded by adding 5.25% to interest rates, which previously stood at just 0.25%. As a result of the most aggressive rate hikes in 20 years, CPI growth has slowed to just above 3% per year. The Fed has said it remains focused on bringing inflation back to the pre-pandemic level of at least 2% per year.

This material is distributed by Ghebi LLC on behalf of Federal State Unitary Enterprise Rossiya Segodnya International Information Agency, and additional information is on file with the Department of Justice, Washington, District of Columbia.

US Has Ability to Freeze Newly Unfrozen Iranian Funds Again If Needed - State Dept.

WASHINGTON, September 12 (Sputnik) - The United States has the ability to freeze $6 billion of newly unfrozen Iranian funds if it deems it necessary, State Department spokesperson Matthew Miller said on Tuesday.

"The money can only be used for humanitarian purposes, and we will remain vigilant in watching the spending of those funds and have the ability to freeze them again if we need to," Miller said during a press briefing.

On Monday, a State Department spokesperson confirmed to Sputnik that Secretary of State Antony Blinken last week signed a waiver advancing a prisoner exchange deal with Iran that lifts a hold on $6 billion of Iranian funds.

This material is distributed by Ghebi LLC on behalf of Federal State Unitary Enterprise Rossiya Segodnya International Information Agency, and additional information is on file with the Department of Justice, Washington, District of Columbia.

UN Hopes to Restart Grain Deal Operations - Spokesperson

UNITED NATIONS, September 12 (Sputnik) - The United Nations hopes that it can again restart the operations of exporting grain under the Black Sea Grain Initiative, the UN Spokesperson Stephane Dujarric said on Tuesday.

"We continue to hope that we can restart those operations," Dujarric told a briefing.

The grain deal also serves as a good platform for dialogue between Russia and Ukraine, he added.

Moscow let the UN-and-Turkey-brokered grain deal lapse in July because its condition of reciprocal market access for Russian food and fertilizer exports had been repeatedly ignored.

Guterres promised that those limits would be lifted in earnest. He suggested reconnecting Russian agricultural bank RusAg to the Swift banking system, insuring Russian grain and

Received by NSD/FARA Registration Unit 09/13/2023 1:18:41 PM

Received by NSD/FARA Registration Unit 09/13/2023 1:18:41 PM

fertilizer cargo ships against Ukrainian attacks, helping Russian fertilizer firms recover assets frozen in EU banks, and negotiating with Germany, Belgium, Spain and the Netherlands docking permits for Russian ships.

This material is distributed by Ghebi LLC on behalf of Federal State Unitary Enterprise Rossiya Segodnya International Information Agency, and additional information is on file with the Department of Justice, Washington, District of Columbia.

Russia Rejecting UN Chief's Letter on Grain Deal Does Not Stop Dialogue - Spokesperson

UNITED NATIONS, September 12 (Sputnik) - Russia not considering the United Nations Secretary General's letter to Foreign Minister Sergei Lavrov does not stop dialogue, the UN Spokesperson Stephane Dujarric said on Tuesday.

"That does not stop dialogue," Dujarric told a briefing, when answering a question saying that Russia has rejected the UN Secretary General's letter, sent to Russian Foreign Minister Sergei Lavrov, with new proposals regarding Black Sea Grain Initiative.

In a letter dated August 28, the United Nations has offered to deliver on what was promised to Russia when it struck a deal with Ukraine last year to unlock grain exports via the Black Sea.

Moscow pulled out of the UN- and Turkey-brokered grain deal in July because its condition of reciprocal market access for Russian food and fertilizer exports had been repeatedly ignored.

This material is distributed by Ghebi LLC on behalf of Federal State Unitary Enterprise Rossiya Segodnya International Information Agency, and additional information is on file with the Department of Justice, Washington, District of Columbia.

UN Determined to Continue Work, Facing Criticism 'Nothing New' - Spokesperson

UNITED NATIONS, September 12 (Sputnik) - Criticism of the work of the United Nations is "nothing new" and the world body is determined to continue its work as in the past, UN spokesperson Stephane Dujarric said on Tuesday.

"Pointed criticism of the United Nations is nothing new. We continue our work determined as ever," Dujarric said during a press briefing.

Dujarric made the comment in response to a question about recent comments by an adviser of Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelenskyy that the United Nations is one of the "dummy organizations" who produce "junk assessments."

Earlier on Tuesday, the United Nations said it has taken note of reports about the United States transferring anti-tank munitions containing depleted uranium to Ukraine.

The United Nations has also expressed concern about the United States delivering cluster munitions to Ukraine.

This material is distributed by Ghebi LLC on behalf of Federal State Unitary Enterprise Rossiya Segodnya International Information Agency, and additional information is on file with the Department of Justice, Washington, District of Columbia.

Received by NSD/FARA Registration Unit 09/13/2023 1:18:41 PM

Received by NSD/FARA Registration Unit 09/13/2023 1:18:41 PM

Training of Ukrainians on F-16 Fighter Jets to Take From 6 to 9 Months - US General

WASHINGTON, September 12 (Sputnik) - The training of Ukrainian pilots to fly F-16 fighter jets will take about six to nine months after they reach the required level of English language proficiency, President Joe Biden's nominee to serve as the next US Air Force chief Gen. David Allvin said during his Senate confirmation hearing on Tuesday.

"The course that we are putting through usually takes approximately six months. So, if they were to start here next month or so it would be early into the spring," Allvin told the Senate Armed Services Committee. "[W]ith respect to just learning the F-16, and then the follow on, I would imagine that's somewhere between six and nine months."

Training of more than six months will be required in cases where Denmark and the Netherlands transfer the jets, which have special features, and will result in an increase in the training period for Ukrainian pilots of up to nine months instead of six, Allvin said.

In August, the US Defense Department said Denmark and the Netherlands would start the transfer of F-16 fighter jets to Ukraine within the coming months after the Ukrainian pilots' appropriate training in the United States.

The US government said it will start training Ukrainian pilots how to operate F-16 jets in October once they complete the required English language training in September.

In mid-July, Russian Foreign Minister Sergey Lavrov said the delivery of the F-16 fighter jets would lead to a further escalation of the conflict in Ukraine because the aircraft have been modified to make them nuclear-capable and as such represent a direct threat to Russia.

This material is distributed by Ghebi LLC on behalf of Federal State Unitary Enterprise Rossiya Segodnya International Information Agency, and additional information is on file with the Department of Justice, Washington, District of Columbia.

Health Canada Greenlights Use of Moderna Vaccine Against Omicron XBB.1.5 Subvariant

WASHINGTON, September 12 (Sputnik) – Health Canada has approved the use of the new Moderna's COVID-19 vaccine targeting Omicron subvariant XBB.1.5, Chief Medical Advisor at Health Canada Supriya Sharma said on Tuesday.

"Today I'm here to talk to you about Health Canada's optimization of the new Moderna SPIKEVAX COVID-19 vaccine targeting the Omicron XBB.1.5 subvariant ... he vaccine was authorized after an independent and thorough scientific review for safety, efficacy and quality," Sharma said during a federal health officials briefing on COVID-19 vaccines.

The Advisor said that following the analysis of the compiled data, the health authority concluded that evidence proving the vaccine's benefit is strong and outweighs potential risks.

Accordingly, guidelines recommend that individuals aged five and older should get one dose regardless of their vaccination status, whereas children between 6 months and 4 years who have never been vaccinated should receive two doses, one if it has already received a prior dose.

Canada's Chief Public Health Officer Theresa Tam also provided an update from the National Advisory Committee on Immunization (NACI) where it continues to recommend the authorized groups to update get a new vaccine dose.

Received by NSD/FARA Registration Unit 09/13/2023 1:18:41 PM

Received by NSD/FARA Registration Unit 09/13/2023 1:18:41 PM

"This improved immune response is expected to better protect against the strains that are circulating in our communities," Tam said.

Tam further noted that in the past weeks there has been a spike of COVID-19 indicators in several parts of the country, some of which have led to hospitalization. The Health Chief adding that eleven cases of Omicron subvariant BA.2.86 have been detected in Canada.

In a statement, Health Canada said it was currently reviewing submission from Pfizer-BioNTech for the use of its vaccine against the XBB.1.5 subvariant for individuals six months and older, whereas Novavax is seeking the same permission to vaccinate people over 12 years of age.

This material is distributed by Ghebi LLC on behalf of Federal State Unitary Enterprise Rossiya Segodnya International Information Agency, and additional information is on file with the Department of Justice, Washington, District of Columbia.

Interpol Should Not Serve China to Arrest Activists, Must Be Reformed - Canadian Lawmaker

WASHINGTON, September 12 (Sputnik) - The International Criminal Police Organization (Interpol) should undergo reforms and must not serve the Chinese government as a tool to arrest activists, Canadian Conservative lawmaker Michael Chong said in a testimony to the US Congress on Tuesday.

"Well, I think we do need to take a look at reforming Interpol in light of the bounties and demands for arrest of eight pro Hong-Kong democracy activists who are abroad. I think, you know, we've got to make sure that Interpol isn't used as a tool by the PRC to arrest and detain these individuals," Chong told the US House Congressional-Executive Commission on China during a session dubbed Countering China's Global Transnational Repression Campaign.

Chong noted the case of Canadian national Huseyin Celil - an Uyghur human rights activist who was arrested in Turkmenistan and later extradited to China where he has been held for nearly 17 years.

The Canadian lawmaker said improvement in coordination with like-minded countries is needed in an effort to avoid extradition of individuals sought by China.

Chong made the comments in response to a question by US Congressman Jim McGovern on whether Interpol was in need of reforms given that its powers can be abused for transnational repression that include deportations and abductions, among other activities.

In early May, the Canadian Security Intelligence Service (CSIS) said Chong and his family had been targeted by the Chinese government after he sponsored a motion accusing Beijing of genocide against the Uyghurs.

The incident sparked a diplomatic row between Canada and China and led Ottawa to declare a Chinese diplomat allegedly involved in an intimidation campaign against Chong persona non grata. China responded by expelling the Canadian consul in Shanghai.

This material is distributed by Ghebi LLC on behalf of Federal State Unitary Enterprise Rossiya Segodnya International Information Agency, and additional information is on file with the Department of Justice, Washington, District of Columbia.

Received by NSD/FARA Registration Unit 09/13/2023 1:18:41 PM

Received by NSD/FARA Registration Unit 09/13/2023 1:18:41 PM

Escaped Killer Shot by Homeowner During Robbery in Pennsylvania, Still on Run - Police

WASHINGTON, September 12 (Sputnik) - An escaped convicted murderer found himself facing gunfire from a vigilant homeowner in Pennsylvania after breaking into the homeowner's garage, but still managed to flee with the rifle, the Pennsylvania State Police said on Tuesday.

The convict is Danelo Cavalcante, who has been evading capture since his escape on August 31. On August 16, Cavalcante, 34, was found guilty of first-degree murder and then received a life sentence for the 2021 fatal stabbing of his former girlfriend.

"At 10:10 p.m. [on Monday], a call was received from a resident on Coventryville Road indicating a short Hispanic male, no shirt and wearing dark pants, had entered his home while the homeowner was in it. And that he grabbed the 22 rifle that was leaning in the corner of the garage. The homeowner drew a pistol and fired at Cavalcante as he fled with the rifle," police spokesperson George Bivens said at a briefing.

Earlier on the same evening, at 8 p.m. on Monday, a motorist reported an individual crouching in the woodline along the south side of Fairview Road, west of Route 100, Bivens added.

The driver turned her vehicle around to investigate further. However, upon her return, the mysterious figure had vanished from view.

The search for Cavalcante continues, the spokesperson said.

This material is distributed by Ghebi LLC on behalf of Federal State Unitary Enterprise Rossiya Segodnya International Information Agency, and additional information is on file with the Department of Justice, Washington, District of Columbia.

US Libertarian Party Says Intends to File for Conservatorship Over Biden, McConnell

WASHINGTON, September 12 (Sputnik) - The Libertarian Party said on Tuesday that it intends to file for conservatorship over President Joe Biden and Senate Minority Leader Mitch McConnell, amid concerns about the the two politicians' ability to carry out their duties.

"We're all aware of the gaffes, the lapses in memory, the freezes and the incoherent statements made by these two powerful men. These aren't mere quirks; they're red flags… Conservatorship is a legal mechanism designed to protect individuals who cannot take care of themselves. While it's an extreme measure, we believe the situation calls for it," the Libertarian Party said in a statement via X (formerly known as Twitter).

The political leaders' mental health is a priority that should transcend political affiliation and cognitive ability should be a necessary qualification to hold public office, the statement said.

The Libertarian Party cites in the statement recent "verbal missteps" and confusion by Biden as indicators that his mental fitness may not meet the needs of the presidency.

The statement also points to recent incidents during press conferences with McConnell, during which the senator has frozen in silence, as reason to question the lawmaker’s mental fitness.

The increasing US national debt, continued involvement in the conflict in Ukraine and "lack of awareness to the state of the United States domestically" make the conservatorships an urgent matter, the statement said.

"The decisions made in the Oval Office and on the Senate floor have far-reaching implications, affecting both domestic policy and international relations. If the individuals making these

Received by NSD/FARA Registration Unit 09/13/2023 1:18:41 PM

Received by NSD/FARA Registration Unit 09/13/2023 1:18:41 PM

decisions aren't at their cognitive best, the consequences could be dire," the statement said.
The Libertarian Party is seeking legal representation from a Washington probate attorney to assist in the action, the statement added.
The party also encourages other aggrieved entities to file for conservatorship of as many "incompetent geriatric" government officials as possible, according to the statement.

This material is distributed by Ghebi LLC on behalf of Federal State Unitary Enterprise Rossiya Segodnya International Information Agency, and additional information is on file with the Department of Justice, Washington, District of Columbia.

Canada, US Need Strong Security Partnership to Preserve Freedoms, Democracy – Lawmaker

WASHINGTON, September 12 (Sputnik) – Ottawa, Washington and other allies need to work toward an enhanced defence and security partnership to preserve freedoms and democracy amid "rising authoritarianism", Canadian Conservative Lawmaker Michael Chong said on Tuesday.
Chong is currently testifying at the Countering China's Global Transnational Repression Campaign Congressional-Executive Commission on China.
"Foreign interference is a serious national security threat to Canada. It threatens our economy, our long-term prosperity, social cohesion, our parliament, and our elections ... Canada must work toward a stronger defence and security partnership with the United States, and allies. We must look for every opportunity to strengthen this partnership, to meet the challenge of rising authoritarianism and to preserve our fundamental freedoms, our democracy, and the rule of law," Chong said.
Chong pointed out two areas in which Canada, the US and allies could deepen cooperation, the first one being that Ottawa should follow on their partners steps and establish a foreign agents registry that already exists in the US, Australia, and the United Kingdom respectively since 1938, 2018 and 2023.
Moreover, as Ottawa has been mulling the establishment of such a registry since allegations of Chinese foreign interference in the country's elections of 2019 and 2021 surfaced, Chong said it would give Canadian law enforcement agencies the tools to prosecute Beijing's "agents" operating on Canadian soil.
Chong pursued saying that a way of deepening cooperation would be to exchange information and what legislative models work best.
The second area with prospects for enhanced cooperation would be that of using transparency in a bid to counter foreign interference. Chong said that as security agencies and experts in the field have many times expressed that meddling and transnational repression are no grounds for criminal prosecution, making the collected intelligence public could serve as protection.
"Go public with the intelligence to tell members of the public, members of Congress, members of parliament - here's what exactly is going," Chong said.
In early May Canadian Security Intelligence Service (CSIS) said that Chong and his family had been targeted by the Chinese government after he sponsored a motion accusing Beijing of genocide against Uighurs.
The incident sparked a diplomatic row between both countries which lead to Ottawa declaring a

Received by NSD/FARA Registration Unit 09/13/2023 1:18:41 PM

Received by NSD/FARA Registration Unit 09/13/2023 1:18:41 PM

Chinese diplomat allegedly involved in the intimidation campaign against Chong, persona-non grata. In a reciprocal move, China proceeded to expel Canada's Consul to Shanghai.

This material is distributed by Ghebi LLC on behalf of Federal State Unitary Enterprise Rossiya Segodnya International Information Agency, and additional information is on file with the Department of Justice, Washington, District of Columbia.

White House Says US House Impeachment Inquiry Into Biden 'Extreme Politics at Its Worst'

WASHINGTON, September 12 (Sputnik) - US House Speaker Kevin McCarthy's decision to order an impeachment inquiry into President Joe Biden is an extreme form of politics in its worst form, White House spokesman for oversight and investigations Ian Sams said on Tuesday.

"House Republicans have been investigating the President for 9 months, and they've turned up no evidence of wrongdoing," Sams said in a statement via social media platform X (formerly known as Twitter). "Extreme politics at its worst."

Earlier on Tuesday, McCarthy announced that he directed the launch of an impeachment inquiry into Biden, led by three House committee chairs.

The inquiry comes following House probes into alleged criminal activity involving Joe Biden and his son Hunter Biden's foreign business affairs. Biden has denied discussing business with his son.

This material is distributed by Ghebi LLC on behalf of Federal State Unitary Enterprise Rossiya Segodnya International Information Agency, and additional information is on file with the Department of Justice, Washington, District of Columbia.

US Signs $90Mln Mining Deal With Albemarle to Boost Lithium Production - Pentagon

WASHINGTON, September 12 (Sputnik) - The Biden administration has signed a $90 million deal with the Albemarle Corporation to expand the domestic production of lithium for use in batteries within the United States, the US Defense Department announced on Tuesday.

'The Office of the Assistant Secretary for Industrial Base Policy, through its Manufacturing Capability Expansion and Investment Prioritization (MCEIP) office, entered an agreement with Albemarle Corporation to support the expansion of domestic mining and production of lithium," the Defense Department said in a press release.

The $90 million agreement was signed under the Defense Production Act Title III and it used funds appropriated by the Inflation Reduction Act, the release said.

"[The deal] will help support Albemarle's planned re-opening of their Kings Mountain, North Carolina lithium mine to increase domestic production of lithium for the nation's battery supply chain," the release added.

The Albemarle Company has estimated that the new Kings Mountain facility will become operational between 2025 and 2030, according to the release.

This material is distributed by Ghebi LLC on behalf of Federal State Unitary Enterprise Rossiya Segodnya International Information Agency, and additional information is on file

Received by NSD/FARA Registration Unit 09/13/2023 1:18:41 PM

Received by NSD/FARA Registration Unit 09/13/2023 1:18:41 PM

with the Department of Justice, Washington, District of Columbia.

US Signs $20Mln Deal With Talon to Boost Domestic Nickel Production - Pentagon

WASHINGTON, September 12 (Sputnik) - The Biden administration has signed a more than $20 million agreement with the Talon Nickel Company to expand the domestic production of the metal within the United States, the US Defense Department announced on Tuesday.

"The Office of the Deputy Assistant Secretary of Defense for Industrial Base Resilience, through its Manufacturing Capability Expansion and Investment Prioritization (MCEIP) office, entered an agreement with Talon Nickel (USA) (Talon) to increase the domestic production of nickel," the Defense Department said in a press release.

The $20.6 million agreement was concluded under the authority of the Defense Production Act Title III authorities and it used funds from the Additional Ukraine Supplemental Appropriations Act, the release said.

The Defense Department explained in the release that nickel is an essential mineral input to produce high-temperature aerospace alloys, stainless steel and chemicals for lithium-ion batteries.

"The United States has only one operating nickel-cobalt mine with a current, publicly announced life of mine extending through 2026," the release said.

Talon has developed a proprietary suite of geophysical mapping tools, called advanced exploration system, which allows it to rapidly identify and demonstrate economically recoverable nickel minerals, the release added.

This material is distributed by Ghebi LLC on behalf of Federal State Unitary Enterprise Rossiya Segodnya International Information Agency, and additional information is on file with the Department of Justice, Washington, District of Columbia.

US House Speaker McCarthy Says Launching Impeachment Inquiry Into Biden

(Update: adds background in paras 5-6)

WASHINGTON, September 12 (Sputnik) - US House Speaker Kevin McCarthy said on Tuesday that he is launching an impeachment inquiry into US President Joe Biden in order to enable lawmakers to further investigate alleged criminal activity by the Biden family.

"I am directing our House committees to open a formal impeachment inquiry into President Joe Biden. Over the past several months, House Republicans have uncovered serious and credible allegations into President Biden's conduct – a culture of corruption," McCarthy said in a statement.

An impeachment inquiry will give House committees more power to gather facts, McCarthy said. The inquiry will be led by Oversight Committee Chairman James Comer, Judiciary Chairman Jim Jordan and Ways and Means Chairman Jason Smith.

Biden and his team should fully cooperate with the probe in the interest of transparency, McCarthy added.

McCarthy directed the launch of the inquiry without holding a vote, for which he had previously expressed support. However, there is no constitutional rule requiring lawmakers hold a vote to

Received by NSD/FARA Registration Unit 09/13/2023 1:18:41 PM

Received by NSD/FARA Registration Unit 09/13/2023 1:18:41 PM

launch an inquiry.

The inquiry builds on House committee probes into alleged criminal activity by Joe Biden and Hunter Biden, including foreign bribery and influence peddling. Joe Biden has denied discussing business with his son.

This material is distributed by Ghebi LLC on behalf of Federal State Unitary Enterprise Rossiya Segodnya International Information Agency, and additional information is on file with the Department of Justice, Washington, District of Columbia.

US Officials to Brief Republican Senators Wednesday on Ukraine Aid Oversight - McConnell

WASHINGTON, September 12 (Sputnik) - Inspector generals with the State Department, Pentagon, and USAID will brief Republican senators on Wednesday about their oversight efforts on assistance sent to Ukraine, US Senate Minority Leader Mitch McConnell said on Tuesday.

"At my request, the IGs [Inspector Generals] for the Pentagon, State Department and USAID will come to brief Republican Senators on the state of their own independent oversight of these assistance efforts [tomorrow]," McConnell said during remarks on the Senate floor.

US media reported earlier in the day that the White House confirmed the United States has provided Ukraine with more than $100 billion in assistance since the start of Russia's special military operation in February 2022.

More than 30 senate Republicans reached out to the White House in January demanding a full report on US funds spent in Ukraine.

In August, the White House sent a supplemental budget request to Congress, which included $24 billion in additional assistance for Ukraine.

This material is distributed by Ghebi LLC on behalf of Federal State Unitary Enterprise Rossiya Segodnya International Information Agency, and additional information is on file with the Department of Justice, Washington, District of Columbia.

US Sanctions 7 Hezbollah Members, Companies Active in South America - Treasury

WASHINGTON, September 12 (Sputnik) - The United States has sanctioned seven individuals and associated companies in Hezbollah's network that enable the organization's activities in South America, the US Treasury Department said in a press release on Tuesday.

"Today's action underscores the US government's commitment to pursuing Hizballah operatives and financiers no matter their location," Under Secretary of the Treasury for Terrorism and Financial Intelligence Brian Nelson said in the release.

The targets include Amer Mohamed Akil Rada, a longtime Hezbollah member in Lebanon who had served for more than a decade in South America, the release said.

Rada coordinated the activities of various commercial enterprises for Hezbollah, including charcoal exports from Colombia to Lebanon, using as much as 80% of the proceeds to benefit Hezbollah, the release said. Rada is alleged to have been involved in terrorist attacks in

Received by NSD/FARA Registration Unit 09/13/2023 1:18:41 PM

Received by NSD/FARA Registration Unit 09/13/2023 1:18:41 PM

Argentina in 1992 and 1994.

The sanctions also target his brother, Samer Akil Rada, a member of Hezbollah linked to illicit drug trafficking and money laundering in South America. Samer Akil Rada serves as CEO of the Venezuela-based BCI Technologies C.A., which was also sanctioned, the release said.

In addition, Amer's son Mahdy Akil Helbawi, who is alleged to conduct business activities in Colombia to circumvent US-imposed sanctions, has also been targeted with restrictive measures, the release said.

Helbawi is CEO of the Colombia-based charcoal company Zanga S.A.S., which has been the main supplier for companies controlled by Hezbollah and is also being sanctioned, the release added.

In addition, the Treasury Department sanctioned the Lebanon-based company Black Diamond SARL and its owner Ali Ismail Ajrouch, according to the statement.

This material is distributed by Ghebi LLC on behalf of Federal State Unitary Enterprise Rossiya Segodnya International Information Agency, and additional information is on file with the Department of Justice, Washington, District of Columbia.

US Spends Over $100 Bln on Ukraine Conflict - Reports

WASHINGTON, September 12 (Sputnik) – The Biden administration confirmed that the United States spent more than $100 billion on the conflict in Ukraine, Fox News Digital said on Tuesday, citing documents from the White House's Office of Management and Budget (OMB).

This information became the administration's response to a request from over 30 Senate Republicans who asked in January for a full report on the US security assistance to Ukraine, the report said.

The total amount of money provided by Washington to Kiev exceeded $101 billion, according to the OMB documents shared in the report.

OMB Director Shalanda Young, in a letter to lawmakers, noted that bipartisan Congressional support allowed the White House to provide Ukraine with important security, economic, and humanitarian assistance. "This support has been critical to Ukraine's success on the battlefield, as well as the ability of its people to endure under harsh conditions," Young said.

She also pointed out that President Joe Biden "has made clear" that the US will not waver in its commitment to Ukraine. "This assistance has included mechanisms for accountability and transparency to ensure appropriated funds are being used as intended," Young added.

The report reminded that the White House asked Congress in August to authorize providing an additional $24 million in economic and humanitarian assistance for Ukraine.

This material is distributed by Ghebi LLC on behalf of Federal State Unitary Enterprise Rossiya Segodnya International Information Agency, and additional information is on file with the Department of Justice, Washington, District of Columbia.

US House Speaker McCarthy Says Launching Impeachment Inquiry Into Biden

Received by NSD/FARA Registration Unit 09/13/2023 1:18:41 PM

Received by NSD/FARA Registration Unit 09/13/2023 1:18:41 PM

WASHINGTON, September 12 (Sputnik) - US House Speaker Kevin McCarthy said on Tuesday that he is launching an impeachment inquiry into US President Joe Biden in order to enable lawmakers to further investigate alleged criminal activity by the Biden family.

"I am directing our House committees to open a formal impeachment inquiry into President Joe Biden. Over the past several months, House Republicans have uncovered serious and credible allegations into President Biden's conduct – a culture of corruption," McCarthy said in a statement.

An impeachment inquiry will give House committees more power to gather facts, McCarthy said. The inquiry will be led by Oversight Committee Chairman James Comer, Judiciary Chairman Jim Jordan and Ways and Means Chairman Jason Smith.

Biden and his team should fully cooperate with the probe in the interest of transparency, McCarthy added.

This material is distributed by Ghebi LLC on behalf of Federal State Unitary Enterprise Rossiya Segodnya International Information Agency, and additional information is on file with the Department of Justice, Washington, District of Columbia.

UN Says Aware of Reports on Transfer of Depleted Uranium Tank Ammunition to Ukraine Forces

UNITED NATIONS, September 12 (Sputnik) - The United Nations has taken note of reports about depleted uranium tank ammunition being transferred to Ukraine, UN Under-Secretary-General and High Representative for Disarmament Affairs Izumi Nakamitsu said on Tuesday.

"We also take note of reports related to the transfer of depleted uranium tank ammunition to the Ukrainian forces," Nakamitzu told the Security Council members during a meeting on Ukraine.

The United Nations also added that it is very concerned by the US decision to deliver cluster munitions to Ukraine, she added.

Last week, US media reported that the United States is going to send another batch of cluster munitions to Ukraine in the near future to support Kiev's counteroffensive.

Cluster munitions are not equipped with self-destruction devices. According to data from the US military, 5% to 14% of such munitions may not detonate at all because they are stored for too long. As a result, they could lie around for years, much like land mines, posing a threat to civilians long after the conflict has ended.

This material is distributed by Ghebi LLC on behalf of Federal State Unitary Enterprise Rossiya Segodnya International Information Agency, and additional information is on file with the Department of Justice, Washington, District of Columbia.

Russia Urges UN Security Council to Consider New Issues on Ukraine Every Month - Nebenzia

UNITED NATIONS, September 12 (Sputnik) - The UN Security Council should consider putting on its agenda every month new issues concerning Ukraine that have not been discussed, Russian Ambassador to the United Nations Vassily Nebenzia said on Tuesday.

Received by NSD/FARA Registration Unit 09/13/2023 1:18:41 PM

Received by NSD/FARA Registration Unit 09/13/2023 1:18:41 PM

"We would urge the [Security] Council to consider this every month as each time there are new issues that have not been discussed," Nebenzia said during a UN Security Council meeting on Ukraine.

This material is distributed by Ghebi LLC on behalf of Federal State Unitary Enterprise Rossiya Segodnya International Information Agency, and additional information is on file with the Department of Justice, Washington, District of Columbia.

Trudeau, Delegation Flying Back to Canada After Plane Mechanical Failure Solved – Reports

WASHINGTON, September 12 (Sputnik) – Canadian Prime Minister Justin Trudeau and the delegation that accompanied him to the G20 Summit in New-Delhi, India are on their way back home after the plane's mechanical failure was resolved, CBC News reported on Tuesday.

On Sunday, media reported that following the G20 summit in India, Trudeau and his entire delegation, including journalists, were stranded in New Delhi after a pre-departure inspection of the Royal Canadian Air Force (RCAF) CC-150 Polaris found a problem with one of the plane's components.

Trudeau has left for Canada after being stranded with his delegation for two days in New-Delhi after the plane flying him suffered a mechanical problem, the report said.

A technician with the relevant plane replacement part was also sent to New-Delhi, on a commercial flight, and was able to solve the issue shortly after his arrival.

Trudeau was on an Indo-Pacific tour, which kicked off with an ASEAN summit in Jakarta. Trudeau then left for Singapore to meet with Prime Minister Lee Hsien Loong and business stakeholders. On the final leg, he participated in the G20 summit in New Delhi from September 9-10.

This material is distributed by Ghebi LLC on behalf of Federal State Unitary Enterprise Rossiya Segodnya International Information Agency, and additional information is on file with the Department of Justice, Washington, District of Columbia.

Musk Considers Biden 'Boring as Hell,' Has Disdain for Trump - Biography

WASHINGTON, September 12 (Sputnik) - The latest Elon Musk biography offers a glimpse into his political views, portraying the tech entrepreneur as neither a Trump supporter nor someone impressed by Joe Biden.

The much-anticipated biography authored by Walter Isaacson was officially released on Tuesday.

Isaacson writes that Musk had a "deep disdain" for former President Donald Trump, "whom he considered a con man." However, the tech tycoon was not impressed by Joe Biden either.

"When he was vice president, I went to a lunch with him in San Francisco where he droned on for an hour and was boring as hell, like one of those dolls where you pull the string and it just says the same mindless phrases over and over," Musk told Isaacson.

Nevertheless, Musk said he would have voted for Biden in 2020, but he decided not to vote since he was registered in California and saw it as a waste of time because it was not a

Received by NSD/FARA Registration Unit 09/13/2023 1:18:41 PM

Received by NSD/FARA Registration Unit 09/13/2023 1:18:41 PM

contested state.

This material is distributed by Ghebi LLC on behalf of Federal State Unitary Enterprise Rossiya Segodnya International Information Agency, and additional information is on file with the Department of Justice, Washington, District of Columbia.

Space Domain More Contested Now Than at Any Point in History - US Space Operations Chief

WASHINGTON, September 12 (Sputnik) - The space domain is more contested now than at any other point in history and achieving operational control in that domain has become an imperative, US Chief of Space Operations Gen. Chance Saltzman said on Tuesday.

"It should be noted that no domain is immune from these circumstances [security], and as an integral part of our security environment, the space domain is now more contested than any other point in history," Saltzman said. "This was the genesis of the Space Force, a military service focused on addressing the challenges and opportunities we face in the space domain."

Saltzman explained that the US Space Force was created for the new space era that is increasingly characterized by great power competition and must undergo updates in design, development, generation and employment.

The United States must plan by factoring in future challenges amid the evolving nature of warfighting and find a relevant structure and composition of the forces to address traditional and non-traditional threats, he said.

Saltzman emphasized the need to develop the Space Force and its capabilities through war games, enhanced training and education.

"It is not just about acquiring new weapons and equipment, but also about fostering a culture of continuous improvement," he said.

Saltzman explained that force generation means meeting specific operational requirements and ensuring the Space Force has the needed skills and resources to fulfil its missions.

Force employment is the culmination of all the aforementioned elements - "simply put force employment as the application of our military power to achieve our nation's interests," he added.

Saltzman made the comments during the Air, Space and Cyber Conference organized by the Air and Space Forces Association.

This material is distributed by Ghebi LLC on behalf of Federal State Unitary Enterprise Rossiya Segodnya International Information Agency, and additional information is on file with the Department of Justice, Washington, District of Columbia.

UN Very Concerned by Delivery of Cluster Munitions to Ukraine - Deputy Secretary General

UNITED NATIONS, September 12 (Sputnik) - The United Nations is very concerned by the US decision to deliver cluster munitions to Ukraine, UN Under-Secretary-General and High Representative for Disarmament Affairs Izumi Nakamitsu said on Tuesday.

“Reports related to the transport and use of cluster munitions throughout the war, are also very concerning. The Secretary General has repeatedly called for an immediate end to the use of cluster munitions, in line with his long -standing position. These weapons must be consigned to

Received by NSD/FARA Registration Unit 09/13/2023 1:18:41 PM

Received by NSD/FARA Registration Unit 09/13/2023 1:18:41 PM

history," Nakamitzu said during a UN Security Council meeting on Ukraine.

This material is distributed by Ghebi LLC on behalf of Federal State Unitary Enterprise Rossiya Segodnya International Information Agency, and additional information is on file with the Department of Justice, Washington, District of Columbia.

US House Panel Demands Info on Then-VP Biden's 'Sudden Shift on Ukraine Policy' - Letter

WASHINGTON, September 12 (Sputnik) - The US House Oversight Committee has asked the State Department to provide documents and information to explain the "sudden foreign policy changes" on Ukraine while Joe Biden was vice president, according to a letter published on Tuesday.

"The Committee seeks information from the US Department of State to provide context for certain sudden foreign policy changes that occurred while Joe Biden was Vice President, particularly regarding Ukraine while then-Vice President Biden's son served on the board of directors of a company being investigated for corruption," Committee Chairman James Comer said in a letter to Secretary of State Antony Blinken.

The committee is specifically seeking information on foreign policy decisions surrounding the dismissal of Ukrainian prosecutor Victor Shokin when Joe Biden was president and his son Hunter Biden served on the board of directors of the Ukrainian natural gas company Burisma.

Comer noted that in June 2014 then-assistant Secretary of State for European and Eurasian Affairs Victoria Nuland sent a letter to Shokin "applauding his office's progress in anti-corruption efforts."

Other senior officials including then-US Ambassador to Ukraine Geoffrey Pyatt publicaly praised Shokin for "leading the fight against corruption," Comer noted.

But by late 2015, Shokin's removal as prosecutor general became a condition of a loan guarantee for Ukraine by the United States.

The timing of this policy change is of interest to the committee in view of testimony it received from Hunter Biden's former business associate Devon Archer, Comer said.

Archer testified that "by late 2015, Vadym Pozharsky, Burisma's corporate secretary, was increasingly pushing Hunter Biden to deliver help from the US government regarding pressure Zlochevsky was facing from the Office of the Prosecutor General and abroad."

The House Oversight Committee is therefore demanding that the State Department hand over by September 26 all records, transcripts and notes made during phone calls between Biden and Ukrainian officials from January 2014 through December 21, 2016, as well as records between State Department staff and Blue Star Strategies regarding Burisma and other documents.

Received by NSD/FARA Registration Unit 09/13/2023 1:18:41 PM