Received by NSD/FARA Registration Unit 08/14/2024 11:23:33 AM

8/13/24 Tuesday

This material is distributed by Ghebi LLC on behalf of Kart LLC. Additional information is on file with the Department of Justice, Washington, District of Columbia.

In Choosing Sides, US Says 'Embassies Are Fair Game'

Israel, which is currently waging a war in the Gaza Strip that has killed tens of thousands since October, has provoked Iran with attacks in April as well as recently. Iran has said it plans to retaliate as the US continues to stock Israel with military arms.

Fears of a regional war in the Middle East have been growing since the assassination of Hamas political leader Ismail Haniyeh, who was killed in an attack on his residence in Tehran. Just hours prior, Israel also struck south Beirut and killed Hezbollah commander Fuad Shukr. Hamas and Iran have blamed Israel for the assassination and have vowed retaliation.

Mohammad Marandi, a professor of English literature and Orientalism at the University of Tehran, joined Sputnik's Fault Lines on Tuesday to discuss the tension in the Middle East, and how the West has been playing a role in that tension by fortifying their support for Israel.

"The Israelis, when they bombed the Iranian consulate in Damascus, killing 12 people, the expectation, of course, for the international community was universal condemnation. But when Iran took its complaint to the UN Security Council, the US, France, and Britain supported - and so did the Germans, supported the Israeli regime. So, the message that the West was saying was that the embassies are fair game," Marandi explained.

"Thus, the Iranians recognized that the only way to force the regime to think twice and to 'create deterrence' was to strike it directly, and that's why in April Iran did attack the Israeli regime. That deterrence worked for two, three months, but, apparently, it's not enough because of the assassination in Tehran," the educator added. "That was a violation of Iranian sovereignty, that was a crime. That was a violation of international law."

"So Iran will definitely strike. It will strike very hard," he continued. "...if the Israeli regime tries to retaliate or tries to strike back after the retaliation, Iran will punish it again. At the end of the day, the only way in which this will end is under circumstances where the Israeli regime recognizes that attacking Iran is not worth it."

Sputnik's Jamarl Thomas then asked the radio guest if Iran will plan to strike in coordination with Hezbollah and the Houthis.

"I am sure that there is full coordination with the collective Axis of Resistance - Yemen, Hezbollah, Iraq, and Syria, as well as the Palestinians. And, therefore, it's going to be something that the Israeli regime will have to be worried about, this collective response. Now, I don't know what that means exactly," Marandi responded. "But it could happen at any time."

"The Iranians so far, they've been playing psychological warfare with the Israelis, putting pressure on the regime, canceling flights, canceling all sorts of ordinary events that would take place in that entity. And when the time is right and when the Iranians feel that their defenses are down, Iran will strike hard," he added.

The White House released a joint statement on Monday in which the US, the UK, France, Germany and Italy spoke on the current situation in the Middle East. The Western leaders

Received by NSD/FARA Registration Unit 08/14/2024 11:23:33 AM

Received by NSD/FARA Registration Unit 08/14/2024 11:23:33 AM

expressed their “full support” for ongoing efforts to “de-escalate tensions and reach a ceasefire and hostage deal in Gaza”.

The joint statement added that “unfettered delivery and distribution of aid is needed” and that they will support the “defense of Israel against Iranian aggression and against attacks by Iran-backed terrorist groups”. These Western nations also called on Iran to “stand down its ongoing threats of a military attack against Israel and discussed the serious consequences for regional security should such an attack take place.”

“The US and the European leaders, American and European leaders, are guilty as much as the Israeli regime. It's under normal circumstances with normal countries, and these are, of course, abnormal regimes. In normal countries, the condemnation would be directed towards the aggressor,” Marandi explained. “The US, France, and Britain, when the Israeli regime bombed the Iranian consulate in Damascus, they supported the regime.”

“So, this simply reinforces the logic of Iran, that Iran must punish the regime. Because when the US and the Europeans fail to criticize, let alone condemn the regime, and blame Iran for this situation, then that means you're on your own. You have to punish the Israelis yourself,” he added.

“So this is all just dishonesty and corruption and it's going to lead to a very painful situation because the Americans and the Europeans, by supporting the Zionists throughout this genocide and the aggressions on Lebanon, Syria and Iran, it is going to lead the region towards a major crisis, and that crisis could be hours away.”

On Monday, Palestinian President Mahmoud Abbas arrived in Russia in preparation for talks with Russian President Vladimir Putin. The two leaders are expected to discuss developing bilateral cooperation and will exchange views on the situation in the Middle East in light of the escalating Palestinian-Israeli conflict and unprecedented humanitarian disaster in the region, Sputnik reported.

Putin said on Tuesday that Russia is monitoring the humanitarian catastrophe in Palestine with “great pain and anxiety”. Abbas added that the US has failed to create a Palestinian state due to US pressure.

“Being invited by the government there. Hamas representatives, Islamic Jihad representatives, and representatives of other groups go to Moscow as well,” Marandi explained. “...the Global South, which includes the whole of Asia, countries like Russia and China, are moving away from the West. And so the West is not seen as an honest broker.”

“The US and the Europeans are seen as complicit in this genocide. They are partners in this genocide and in other conflicts across the region and across the world. So, you are seeing how non-Western countries are gradually replacing the West.”

“In the past, people, whether they liked it or not, had to go and negotiate in the West or with the West. Now they are increasingly seeking alternatives, just like trade has moved away from the West to China and to other parts of the world. We are seeing politics also moving away from the West and we see new international institutions like the BRICS and the Shanghai Cooperation Organization and others gradually growing and ultimately, I think, diminishing the power of the World Bank, the IMF, and even the United Nations,” he added.

Thomas pointed to the irony that the US has been stockpiling the Middle East with military arsenals but at the same time has been encouraging Iran to stand down and de-escalate tensions with Israel.

Received by NSD/FARA Registration Unit 08/14/2024 11:23:33 AM

Received by NSD/FARA Registration Unit 08/14/2024 11:23:33 AM

The US State Department announced on Tuesday that they had approved $20 billion in arms sales to Israel, including a number of fighter jets and advanced air-to-air missiles, US media reported. The sale includes more than 50 F-15 fighter jets, Advanced Medium Range Air-to-Air Missiles 120 mm tank ammunition and high explosive mortars and tactical vehicles. However, the sales will take years to fulfill and are meant to help Israel militarily in the long term.
It was also reported on Monday that the US will resume sales of offensive weapons to Saudi Arabia following more than three years of imposing limits on the kingdom in response to human rights issues after thousands of civilians were killed in Saudi-led airstrikes against Houthi rebels. But now, it is the US, Britain and Israel that have been striking Houthi targets in Yemen after the rebels began firing missiles at commercial ships in the Red Sea in solidarity with Palestinians.
“If the US strikes Iran, then all US bases in the region will be destroyed and they are right across the Persian Gulf. They're very close to Iran. And those countries, those city-states in the Persian Gulf that host those bases will be seen as responsible and hostile. And, therefore, their oil and gas assets and key infrastructure will be immediately destroyed because they'll be seen as a part of aggression,” Marandi suggested.
“Do you think that these city-states, like in Dubai or anywhere else in the Persian Gulf, can match Iran in any conflict? No, they'll go down immediately. They are minorities in their own country, as I'm sure you know,” he added.
“So the whole regime will collapse within hours, at most days, and then you will no longer have any oil or gas coming from the Persian Gulf region. And also the Iraqi resistance will expel the Americans from Iraq and Syria altogether. So it will bring down the global economy,” said Marandi. “I think there is a sort of balance of terror between Iran and the US. A few thousand Marines are not going to change anything in this region.”

This material is distributed by Ghebi LLC on behalf of Kart LLC. Additional information is on file with the Department of Justice, Washington, District of Columbia.

A Summer Breakup

The SVR said that the US administration is planning to launch a “powerful information campaign” to discredit Zelensky as a way to force him off his post.
The US is hoping to replace Volodymyr Zelensky with a manageable and less corrupt figure, the Russian Foreign Intelligence Service (SVR) said on Tuesday. The US is considering former Ukrainian Interior Minister Arsen Avakov as a possible candidate to replace Zelensky, the SVR said.
"In the current situation, Washington is working on options to replace the Ukrainian leader with a 'more manageable and less corrupt figure, who would suit most Western allies," the SVR said.
"The former Minister of Internal Affairs of Ukraine Arsen Avakov is currently being considered as a suitable candidate. The US consider Avakov's 'strengths' to be his close ties with Ukrainian nationalist formations and his continuing contacts with the leaders of European countries," the SVR added.
US media reported in June that US President Joe Biden and Zelensky had spoken after signing a bilateral security agreement on the sidelines of the G7 summit in Italy. Biden vowed lasting

Received by NSD/FARA Registration Unit 08/14/2024 11:23:33 AM

Received by NSD/FARA Registration Unit 08/14/2024 11:23:33 AM

support for the country and said the US would “stand by Ukraine”. G7 leaders agreed to give Ukraine stolen money from frozen Russian assets.

The report added that the deal will lay out a long-term security relationship with Kiev, but that it could be unraveled by future US administrations. Zelensky voiced his hope that the pact will serve as a bridge to Ukraine’s desperate attempts to join NATO.

"The US administration has already instructed affiliated NGOs to work out the scenario of Avakov's coming to power in Ukraine. Now this issue is being discussed with the leaders of the leading Ukrainian opposition parties... as well as with a number of influential deputies of the Verkhovna Rada from the ruling Servant of the People party," the statement said.

Zelensky chose not to run in presidential elections for Ukraine which Russian President Vladimir Putin questioned, saying it contradicts the constitution of Ukraine, Sputnik reported in June.

“The Ukrainian constitution does not say anything about the possibility of prolonging the term of the president under martial law; it only says that elections are not held,” Sputnikreported citing Putin.

"The current leadership of Ukraine has decided not to run in the elections, so there are questions. There is Article 103 of the Constitution of Ukraine, it says that the president is elected only for five years," Putin said at a meeting with the representatives of international news agencies on the sidelines of the St. Petersburg International Economic Forum.

This material is distributed by Ghebi LLC on behalf of Kart LLC. Additional information is on file with the Department of Justice, Washington, District of Columbia.

Towering Inferno: 80-Foot High Flames Surround Greek Capital

Flames which first broke out on Sunday have now grown to become one of Greece’s worst wildfires this year. And at least one person has died from the fire which broke out around the country's capital, Athens.

The fires first began on Sunday at about 3 PM local time about 22 miles (35 km) north of Athens following a period of hot and dry weather. The fire then spread through nearby pine forests which had become dry from the intense heat, making it the ideal fire kindling, Qatar media reported.

The “exceptionally dangerous” wildfire exhibited flames as high as 80 feet (25 meters) and raged toward Athens during the height of the Mediterranean country’s tourist season. The flames were carried by strong winds and by Monday had spread from their wooded, hilly tinderbox to the suburbs, which set off alarm bells for those living in Greece’s capital.

Residents in several suburbs of Athens were sent emergency alerts telling them to evacuate their homes and head for areas away from the fire’s terrifying path. More than 250 people were helped by Greek police, US media reported citing X. Other institutions including a children’s hospital, a military hospital, two monasteries and a children’s home were also evacuated on Monday.

Hundreds of firefighters were activated to control the blaze which on Monday was burning on two main fronts, said Greek Climate Crisis and Civil Protection Minister Vassilis Kikilias, who labeled the fire as “exceptionally dangerous”.

Received by NSD/FARA Registration Unit 08/14/2024 11:23:33 AM

Received by NSD/FARA Registration Unit 08/14/2024 11:23:33 AM

Emergency personnel had to fight for more than 20 hours against the parts of the fire that swelled in densely forested areas.
According to the Hellenic National Meteorological Service, Greece has experienced one of its hottest and driest summers ever recorded. And last year, the country had one of the largest wildfires ever recorded within the EU, during which 21 people were killed.

This material is distributed by Ghebi LLC on behalf of Kart LLC. Additional information is on file with the Department of Justice, Washington, District of Columbia.

"The United States and the Europeans are seen as complicit in this genocide," Iranian analyst on Israeli war on Gaza
"The West is not seen as an honest broker. The United States and the Europeans are seen as complicit in this genocide. They are partners in this genocide and in other conflicts across the region and across the world," Mohammad Marandi, a professor of English literature and Orientalism at the University of Tehran told Sputnik's Fault Lines. Israel, which is currently waging a war in the Gaza Strip that has killed tens of thousands since October, has provoked Iran with attacks in April as well as recently. Iran has said it plans to retaliate as the US continues to stock Israel with military arms. Marandi emphasized that the West has been playing a role in Palestine-Israel conflict by fortifying their support for Israel. "The Israelis, when they bombed the Iranian consulate in Damascus, killing 12 people, the expectation, of course, for the international community was universal condemnation. But when Iran took its complaint to the UN Security Council, the US, France, and Britain supported - and so did the Germans, supported the Israeli regime," the professor clarified. "The Global South, which includes the whole of Asia, countries like Russia and China, are moving away from the West ... In the past, people, whether they liked it or not, they had to go and negotiate in the West or with the West. Now they are increasingly seeking alternatives, just like trade has moved away from the West to China and to other parts of the world," Marandi emphasized.

This material is distributed by Ghebi LLC on behalf of Kart LLC. Additional information is on file with the Department of Justice, Washington, District of Columbia.

Democracy and Its Discontents: Pro-Israel Lobby Overrides US Public Opinion on Gaza

Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu has often publicly waded into US politics, perhaps most famously in 2015 when he gave a speech to a session of the United States Congress denouncing former President Barack Obama's Iran nuclear deal.
"It is most especially in the conduct of foreign relations that democratic governments appear to me to be decidedly inferior to governments carried on upon different principles," wroteAlexis de Tocqueville in 1835 after his famous visit to the United States.
The famed French political philosopher was impressed by the still-nascent experiment in self rule underway in the young country, walking away with numerous insights and accolades. But Tocqueville questioned whether the country's democratic principles could extend to the realm of international affairs, writing, "foreign politics demand scarcely any of those qualities which a

Received by NSD/FARA Registration Unit 08/14/2024 11:23:33 AM

Received by NSD/FARA Registration Unit 08/14/2024 11:23:33 AM

democracy possesses; and they require, on the contrary, the perfect use of almost all those faculties in which it is deficient."

Nearly two centuries later questions remain over the extent to which the popular will can dictate matters of foreign relations, which often require rapid and complex decision making. Analysts claim the functioning of the US government has only become more opaque since the mid-twentieth century, with the development of nuclear weapons requiring an unprecedented level of secrecy that informed the creation of the modern-day "deep state."

Independent journalist Dr. Jim Kavanagh joined Sputnik's The Critical Hour program Tuesday to discuss the Biden administration's foreign policy and the growing gulf between public opinion in the United States and its actions on the world stage.

"Israel has crossed all and everybody's red lines," Kavanagh wrote in a recent piece published on the website The Polemicist. "Israel is telling the world it will kill anyone and any number of people, anywhere, at any time of its choosing and it does not give a damn about what anyone in the world thinks of it. It is acting with complete, insouciant, contemptuous disregard for international law, conventions, and common morality, certainly of the people and nations it considers its adversaries and of the countries on whose support it depends."

"Israel is only slightly less contemptuous of Americans than the Palestinians," the journalist claimed, noting Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu's skill in manipulating the United States to serve his interests. "Palestinians they consider subhuman and dispensable persons versus the Americans they consider necessary fools whom they have to pretend they're interested in ceasefires and two-state solutions for because the Americans are stupid enough to believe it."

"They just got to keep the Americans around because the Americans are their patrons," he continued. "The United States of America is the indispensable patron of Israel. They could not do anything that they're doing without it. And we are completely complicit in it."

The longtime Israeli Prime Minister once claimed the United States is "a thing you can move very easily" in private comments secretly recorded in 2001. Since then the controversial leader has often publicly waded into US politics, perhaps most famously in 2015 when he gave a speech to a session of the United States Congress denouncing former President Barack Obama's Iran nuclear deal.

Israel has used its soft power in other countries as well, with many observers blaming the influence of pro-Israel interests for the defeat of pro-Palestinian UK Labour leader Jeremy Corbyn in 2019. Corbyn's French ally Jean-Luc Melenchon identified "networks of influence from Likud,"Netanyahu's right-wing political party, as having been instrumental in spreading the narrative of an alleged antisemitism crisis under Corbyn's leadership.

"The American people don't back this move," said host Wilmer Leon of the United States' lockstep support for Israel, most recently demonstrated by the approval of another $4.7 billion in funding for the country. "When you look at the numbers, and particularly as we're in the 2024 presidential season, some would think that candidates would be listening to the electorate. But this is one of the issues that as it relates to those in elected positions or our elected representatives, they're not listening."

"It's not a democracy, it's an oligarchy," insisted Kavanagh. "The donor class gets what it wants."

"People are seeing what Zionism is and they don't really want to go to war for it," he continued, noting the ample evidence of apparent Israeli war crimes easily found on social media. "They were tired of the forever wars anyway. Everybody knew all of this stuff that we did with Libya

Received by NSD/FARA Registration Unit 08/14/2024 11:23:33 AM

Received by NSD/FARA Registration Unit 08/14/2024 11:23:33 AM

and Iraq and Syria was baloney. There was nothing democratic about it. And in fact, they were wars for Israel, and they were wars to get those states, those Arab states, out of the Axis of Resistance and they succeeded. They weren't mistakes and they weren't blunders. They had a goal and they achieved that goal."

This material is distributed by Ghebi LLC on behalf of Kart LLC. Additional information is on file with the Department of Justice, Washington, District of Columbia.

Serbia Remains Island of Independence From 'Globalist' US Empire – Analyst

The country's history provides Serbians with a unique perspective on the machinations of Western imperialism.

Relations between Serbia and the United States have remained strained for a number of years. The country's independent-minded president Slobodan Milošević attracted the ire of Western leaders during the 1990s as the country resisted calls to fully liberalize its economy after the collapse of the Socialist Federal Republic of Yugoslavia. Milošević would controversially be prosecuted on war crimes charges as ethnic strife pervaded the region, and the Serbian capital of Belgrade would find itself targeted by NATO bombs during a 1999 campaign that killed hundreds and left the land despoiled by depleted uranium that has led to elevated rates of cancer and birth defects decades later.

Serbia has maintained a healthy skepticism of a creeping Western hegemony in the years since, with Chinese President Xi Jinping recognizing the country's relative autonomy during a diplomatic trip tour through Europe earlier this year.

Serbian-American journalist Nebojsa Malic joined Sputnik's The Backstory program Monday to discuss the latest developments in the Central European country, which still struggles to maintain a fragile sovereignty as it navigates a path independent from the influence of its larger and more powerful neighbors.

"Ever since the color revolution of 2000 any sort of mass protest, no matter how legitimate, always gets hijacked by elements sort of recruited by foreign governments," said Malic, referring to the so-called "Bulldozer Revolution" that overthrew Milošević.

"They always end up on high alert for any sort of mass event, and that was the case this time," he continued, referring to recent protests over the Serbian government's signing of a deal with a German conglomerate to exploit the country's lithium reserves. "Russia actually took the unprecedented step of warning Belgrade… that there are some foreign services that might be plotting to use this as an anti-government [riot], basically hijacking this protest for the purpose of regime change. So, the Serbian government played with relative kid gloves."

Central and Eastern Europe have been rocked by several so-called "color revolutions" since the 1990s during which Western-backed political forces have succeeded in overthrowing governments deemed to be working against US interests. Among such events have been Ukraine's 2014 Euromaidan coup, Georgia's 2003 "Rose Revolution" and Ukraine's 2004 "Orange Revolution."

These events utilize and perfect so-called non-violent protest tactics developed by the American political scientist Gene Sharp, who advised protestors to aggressively bait security forces into an overreaction to achieve a propaganda victory over a government targeted for regime change.

Received by NSD/FARA Registration Unit 08/14/2024 11:23:33 AM

Received by NSD/FARA Registration Unit 08/14/2024 11:23:33 AM

By training and providing unlimited resources to a small cadre of dedicated US-backed influencers and activists, Western interests are able to create the conditions for regime change through societal destabilization and careful manipulation of the media.

Frequently such protest movements are co-opted by the United States to implement neoliberal policy, noted analyst Marcie Smith, with wealthy donors like George Soros standing to benefit from the ensuing economic deregulation.

"As it turns out, those were led by these pro-Western, Soros-funded activists, thereby sort of justifying the government's fears," Malic said of Serbia's most recent protests. "The problem with people who want to stage another color revolution in Serbia is that people here are always on the alert for one of these things. It's because of the events of 2000 – they've sort of been sold a bill of goods back then and are extremely, extremely cautious of trying to get that to happen to them again."

"The opposition [has] been very fragmented and is basically – their policy is 'we'll do whatever the West says to do or tells us to do,'" he added. "It doesn't really have much traction in the population.

"But it concerns me that these people might do something terribly stupid in order to bolster their domestic political rating or show their commitment to the official ideology of the globalist American empire or whatnot and that could create problems."

This material is distributed by Ghebi LLC on behalf of Kart LLC. Additional information is on file with the Department of Justice, Washington, District of Columbia.

US Contemplates Forced Breakup of Google's Holding Company Alphabet – Reports

WASHINGTON, August 14 (Sputnik) – The United States is contemplating a forced breakup of Google's parent company Alphabet over illegal monopolization concerns, Bloomberg reported, citing people in the know.

The US Justice Department is considering breaking up Alphabet as one of the possible ways to restore competitors, while other options include coercing Google to share more data with competitors as well as measures that would prevent it from gaining an unfair advantage in AI products, the report said.

If the Justice Department chooses the tough option of splitting up the company, the most likely units it would target for divestment would include the Android operating system and Google's web browser Chrome, the report said.

If successful, the breakup would become the biggest one since 1980s, when the US government dismantled telecommunications holding AT&T, according to the report.

On August 5, US district judge Amit Mehta ruled that Google has illegally monopolized general search services and general search text ads and had therefore violated US antitrust laws. Google has already announced its plans to appeal the ruling.

In October 2015, Google shareholders restructured the company, transferring its assets and those of several subsidiaries to Alphabet, making it the second-largest technology company in the world.

Received by NSD/FARA Registration Unit 08/14/2024 11:23:33 AM

Received by NSD/FARA Registration Unit 08/14/2024 11:23:33 AM

This material is distributed by Ghebi LLC on behalf of Kart LLC. Additional information is on file with the Department of Justice, Washington, District of Columbia.

Hunter Biden Sought Help From US Embassy in Italy on Behalf of Ukrainian Firm - Reports

WASHINGTON, August 14 (Sputnik) - Hunter Biden sought help from the US State Department to secure a potential energy project in Italy while his father was vice president, The New York Times reported, citing interviews and records newly released to the newspaper under a contentious Freedom of Information Act request.

The records show that in 2016, the younger Biden wrote at least one letter to the US ambassador to Italy, seeking an introduction between Ukrainian gas company Burisma, whose board he was a member of, and the president of Italy's Tuscany region, where Burisma was pursuing a geothermal deal.

A Commerce Department official based in the US Embassy in Rome wrote back cautiously that "This is a Ukrainian company and, purely to protect ourselves, U.S.G. should not be actively advocating with the government of Italy without the company going through the D.O.C. Advocacy Center" – a Commerce Department program that supports US companies seeking to do business with foreign governments.

Abbe Lowell, a lawyer for Hunter Biden, said that the only request he made was for an introduction, that it was a "proper request," and no meeting or project materialized as a result.

A White House spokesperson said that US President Joe Biden was unaware when he was vice president that Hunter Biden had reached out to the Italian embassy on behalf of Burisma.

The New York Times initially filed a FOIA request in June 2021. After almost eight months without a response, the newspaper filed a lawsuit. The State Department only released the records in question after Joe Biden withdrew his presidential reelection bid, timing which the department said was coincidental.

This material is distributed by Ghebi LLC on behalf of Kart LLC. Additional information is on file with the Department of Justice, Washington, District of Columbia.

US Consumer Prices Below 3% First Time Since Pandemic Highs, Reaching for Fed's 2% Target

WASHINGTON, August 14 (Sputnik) - US consumer prices grew 2.9% in the year to July, dipping below 3% the first time since the highs of the COVID-19 outbreak and inching towards the Federal Reserve's 2% target.

Forecasters on Wall Street had widely expected the Consumer Price Index for All Urban Consumers, simply known as CPI, to grow 3% per annum last month, unchanged from June. The last time the CPI was below 3% was in April 2021, when it grew at 2.6% per annum. It reached a four-decade high of 9.1% in June 2022 from runaway inflation triggered by the pandemic.

The closer the CPI gets to the Fed's 2%-per-year target, the higher the chance of the central bank cutting interest rates in September, for the first time since the end of the outbreak of COVID-19.

Received by NSD/FARA Registration Unit 08/14/2024 11:23:33 AM

Received by NSD/FARA Registration Unit 08/14/2024 11:23:33 AM

This material is distributed by Ghebi LLC on behalf of Kart LLC. Additional information is on file with the Department of Justice, Washington, District of Columbia.

Mars Inc. Says Will Buy Kellanova in $36Bln Deal to Increase Share in Food Markets

WASHINGTON, August 14 (Sputnik) – One of the largest US food and pet care producers, Mars Inc., announced on Wednesday a $36 billion deal to acquire snacking company Kellanova.

"Mars, Incorporated, a family-owned, global leader in pet care, snacking and food, and Kellanova (NYSE: K), a leading company in global snacking, international cereal and noodles, North American plant-based foods and frozen breakfast foods, today announced that they have entered into a definitive agreement under which Mars has agreed to acquire Kellanova for $83.50 per share in cash, for a total consideration of $35.9 billion, including assumed net leverage," Mars said in a statement.

The deal will enable Mars to further shape the future of snacking and serve more consumers globally, it added.

The chairman, president, and CEO of Kellanova, Steve Cahillane, highlighted that the two companies made a historic deal that allows them to accelerate the realization of Kellanova's goal to become the world's best snacking company.

"The transaction maximizes shareholder value through an all-cash transaction at an attractive purchase price and creates new and exciting opportunities for our employees, customers, and suppliers," he added.

The deal will also allow Mars to reach its goal of doubling its share in the global snacking market and expanding the company's health and wellness snacking portfolio, according to the statement.

This material is distributed by Ghebi LLC on behalf of Kart LLC. Additional information is on file with the Department of Justice, Washington, District of Columbia.

US Consumer Prices Grow 2.9% in Year to July, Below 3% First Time Since Pandemic - Labor Dept.

This material is distributed by Ghebi LLC on behalf of Kart LLC. Additional information is on file with the Department of Justice, Washington, District of Columbia.

US Has Not Discussed Ukraine's Kursk Offensive or Middle East Issue With Russia - Official

WASHINGTON, August 14 (Sputnik) - US officials have had no discussions with their Russian counterparts recently to discuss issues related to Ukraine's offensive in the Kursk region and increased tensions in the Middle East, a US official told Sputnik.

"No contacts that I'm aware of," the official said on Tuesday when asked if US and Russian officials have consulted on these two key issues.

The White House and Pentagon over the last several days have repeatedly said that the United States continued to have discussions with Ukraine about its military operation in the Kursk region but has not expanded beyond that.

Received by NSD/FARA Registration Unit 08/14/2024 11:23:33 AM

Received by NSD/FARA Registration Unit 08/14/2024 11:23:33 AM

Last week, a US Defense Department spokesperson told Sputnik that there were no plans for Defense Secretary Austin Lloyd Austin to speak with Russian Defense Minister Andrei Belousov about the Kursk offensive. The two defense leaders recently had a telephone call last month to reportedly avert a potential escalation in the Ukraine conflict, but it was unclear what the details of the issue were about.

Twelve civilians have been killed in the attack, and 121 others injured, including ten children, acting Kursk region governor Alexei Smirnov said on Monday.

Russian President Vladimir Putin said Ukraine's operation is another large-scale provocation, accusing Ukraine of firing indiscriminately at civilians.

Regarding the unrest in the Middle East, US investigative journalist Seymour Hersh reported earlier on Tuesday that leaders outside of the United States, including some in Russia and Turkey, were playing a "significant role" in preventing Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu from dragging the Biden administration into a full-scale war across the Middle East.

The region is currently facing heightened fears of further escalations toward a full-scale war after Israel carried out provocative dual assassinations of Hezbollah and Hamas leaders in Beirut and Tehran, respectively, at the end of July. Iran and Hezbollah are expected to launch retaliatory attacks on Israel.

This material is distributed by Ghebi LLC on behalf of Kart LLC. Additional information is on file with the Department of Justice, Washington, District of Columbia.

Super-Imaging Nancy Grace Roman Telescope Shipped to NASA For 2027 Mission - BAE

WASHINGTON, August 14 (Sputnik) - BAE Systems has successfully shipped the Nancy Grace Roman Space Telescope's Wide Field Instrument (WFI) to NASA's Goddard Space Flight Center in Greenbelt, Maryland, and has completed integrating and testing it, the company announced in a press release.

"The [WFI] is an advanced visible-to-near-infrared imager with additional spectral capabilities that will capture highly detailed images over wide swaths of the sky, offering a field of view at least 100 times greater than its predecessor, the Hubble Space Telescope, with a similar resolution," the release said on Tuesday.

The WFI will dramatically improve the speed and scale of astronomical surveys to allow more advanced exploration of dark matter and dark energy, distant galaxies and exoplanets, and studying how the universe has formed over billions of years, BAE Systems said.

“The Wide Field Instrument is one of the most sophisticated instruments ever constructed, and once it’s in orbit it will provide the scientific community with the most comprehensive surveys of the sky we’ve ever captured,” said Bonnie Patterson, BAE Systems Space & Mission Systems Senior Director of Civil Space Programs Bonnie Patterson said in the release.

The Goddard team will lead the effort to integrate the WFI into the instrument carrier and mate it to the spacecraft bus later this year. The Roman Space Telescope is scheduled to launch by May 2027, BAE Systems said.

Received by NSD/FARA Registration Unit 08/14/2024 11:23:33 AM

Received by NSD/FARA Registration Unit 08/14/2024 11:23:33 AM

This material is distributed by Ghebi LLC on behalf of Kart LLC. Additional information is on file with the Department of Justice, Washington, District of Columbia.

US Special Operations Orders New $50Mln High-Power Laser Aiming System - Pentagon

WASHINGTON, August 14, (Sputnik) - The US Special Operations Command has ordered an almost $50 million new high power laser aiming system for its troops from BE Meyers & Company, the Defense Department said.

"BE Meyers & Company [of] Redmond, Washington is being awarded a contract for ... the Miniature Aiming Systems - Laser (MAS-L) Squad Aiming Laser - Ultra High Power (SAL-UHP)," the Defense Department said in a press release on Tuesday.

The contract is being awarded with a maximum ceiling of $49.9 million in support of the Special Operations Command, the release said.

The contract will extend over a five year period, the release added.

This material is distributed by Ghebi LLC on behalf of Kart LLC. Additional information is on file with the Department of Justice, Washington, District of Columbia.

Harris Campaign Says FBI Notified Them They Were Targeted By Foreign Hackers - Reports

WASHINGTON, August 14 (Sputnik) - The Harris campaign has been notified by the FBI that it was targeted by a foreign actor influence operation in July but it appears there was no security breach of its network, NBC News reported, citing a statement it obtained from the campaign.

"In July, the campaign legal and security teams were notified by the FBI that we were targeted by a foreign actor influence operation," the campaign said as quoted by an NBC News correspondent on Tuesday.

The campaign further said it has robust cybersecurity measures in place and is not aware of any security breaches of its systems by the foreign hacking attempt.

The FBI declined to comment on this matter.

The Trump campaign said over the weekend that it had reportedly been targeted by Iranian hackers who allegedly stole several sensitive materials and distributed them to several US media outlets that have refused to publish them.

This material is distributed by Ghebi LLC on behalf of Kart LLC. Additional information is on file with the Department of Justice, Washington, District of Columbia.

Harris Campaign Editing News Headlines as Part of Google Advertising Effort - Reports

WASHINGTON, August 14 (Sputnik) - US Vice President Kamala Harris' 2024 presidential campaign is sharing edited headlines from major news outlets as part of its advertising effort via Google, Axios reported, citing found examples of the practice.

The campaign is editing headlines from outlets like CBS News, the Guardian and Reuters to positively portray Harris and her campaign, the report said on Tuesday.

The practice is common in commercial advertising, does not violate Google's policies and has

Received by NSD/FARA Registration Unit 08/14/2024 11:23:33 AM

Received by NSD/FARA Registration Unit 08/14/2024 11:23:33 AM

been done by campaigns in the past.

However, a Guardian spokesperson reportedly said that they will reach out to Google to learn more about the practice.

"While we understand why an organization might wish to align itself with the Guardian's trusted brand, we need to ensure it is being used appropriately and with our permission," the report quotes the spokesperson as having said.

Spokespeople for other news outlets, including CNN, NPR and USA Today, said that they were unaware the Harris campaign was engaging in such a practice with their content.

The Harris campaign is using advertisements with edited news headlines to give voters context when they search for information about Harris, the report said, citing a source familiar with the campaign's advertisement team.

Former President Donald Trump's campaign is not running such advertisements, according to the report.

This material is distributed by Ghebi LLC on behalf of Kart LLC. Additional information is on file with the Department of Justice, Washington, District of Columbia.

Vance Says 'Happy' to Debate Walz as 2024 US Vice Presidential Contenders

WASHINGTON, August 14 (Sputnik) - Republican US Senator JD Vance said that he would be happy to debate Democratic Minnesota Governor Tim Walz as their respective parties' nominees for vice president in the 2024 election.

Vance criticized Walz for purportedly lying about the details of his military service but thanked him for serving.

"You shouldn't have said you went to war when you didn't. Nor should you have said that you didn't know when your unit was going to Iraq. Happy to discuss more in a debate," Vance said on Tuesday via social media platform X.

US Vice President and 2024 Democratic presidential nominee Kamala Harris selected Walz as her running mate earlier this month. Former US President Donald Trump selected Vance as his running mate during the Republican National Convention in July.

Prior to their political careers, Walz served in the Army National Guard and Vance served in the Marine Corps.

This material is distributed by Ghebi LLC on behalf of Kart LLC. Additional information is on file with the Department of Justice, Washington, District of Columbia.

UPDATE - Oil Prices Dip First Time in Week After Halt in Middle East Escalation

(Updates with more details, background in paras 6-9, 13, 14)

NEW YORK, August 14 (Sputnik) - Crude prices fell on Tuesday for the first time in a week as the absence of a counterattack after Israel's killing of senior Palestinian and Lebanese leaders signaled a halt to the escalation of tensions in the oil-rich Middle East.

After a blistering five-session rally that added almost 10% to the prices of US West Texas Intermediate (WTI) and UK-origin Brent, the two crude benchmarks eased around 2% each on

Received by NSD/FARA Registration Unit 08/14/2024 11:23:33 AM

Received by NSD/FARA Registration Unit 08/14/2024 11:23:33 AM

Tuesday.

Analysts cautioned of further corrections, especially if weekly inventory data due on Wednesday showed a fading in the hot consumption streak seen in US crude since June. As a sign of trepidation, WTI on Tuesday fell back below the key $80 per barrel mark critical to the confidence of oil bulls.

Brent could be vulnerable too without another spike in Middle East tensions, with US and Iraqi peacemakers continuing efforts for a ceasefire to the Israel-Hamas war - despite Iran's vow to retaliate on behalf of its Palestinian ally.

"The US … has ordered the deployment of a guided missile submarine to the Middle East and suggests that Iran could attack Israel within hours," said Phil Flynn, energy analyst at Chicago's Price Futures Group. "Yet oil prices are easing because it appears the market is wondering whether this attack will happen or is it 'the little boy that cried wolf.'"

WTI settled Tuesday's trade down $1.71, or 2.1%, at $78.35 per barrel in New York trading. With the exception of Monday, the US crude benchmark had stayed below the $80 zone since July 18.

Analysts said oil traders will be seeking proof hereon that Monday's 4% surge in WTI was not just a flash in the pan. That run-up came after last week's rally of almost 5% - which itself followed a 12% slump over four prior weeks. Year-to-date, the US crude benchmark is up around 7%, after rallying 18% earlier.

UK-origin Brent crude was down $1.61, or 2%, in Tuesday's New York settlement to finish at $80.69. Like WTI, Brent regained its $80 foothold on Monday for the first time since August 1, managing to cling to that key support level in the latest session.

In Monday's trade, Brent rallied 3.2% adding to last week's 3.7% gain. Prior to that, the global crude benchmark lost 12% over four previous weeks, just like WTI. Year-to-date, Brent is up almost 3% for 2024, after an earlier rally of nearly 20%.

August has been a volatile month for the oil trade. Global markets initially tanked on fears of a US recession and potential contagion effects around the world, sending WTI to a six-month low of $71.69 and Brent set a new 2024 bottom of $76.16.

Oil prices began recovering late last week on signs of receding US inflation and increasing odds for the Federal Reserve to cut interest rates in September in what would be its first reduction since 2020. An escalation in Middle East tensions added to last week's rebound.

Healthy weekly consumption numbers for crude reported by the US Energy Information Administration (EIA) have also helped the recovery. US inventories for crude dropped by some 30 million barrels over the past six weeks in spite of builds in gasoline and distillates. The EIA's weekly update on crude inventory numbers is due on Wednesday.

On the global front, the International Energy Agency, which looks out for the interest of oil consumers, kept its demand growth forecast for 2024 unchanged while trimming the outlook for next year, citing consumption by top crude importer China.

The Organization of the Petroleum Exporting Countries and its allies, a 23-nation alliance that includes Saudi Arabia and China and is known as OPEC+, cut its 2024 demand forecast though it aims to raise output in October.

Received by NSD/FARA Registration Unit 08/14/2024 11:23:33 AM

Received by NSD/FARA Registration Unit 08/14/2024 11:23:33 AM

This material is distributed by Ghebi LLC on behalf of Kart LLC. Additional information is on file with the Department of Justice, Washington, District of Columbia.

US Says It 'Strongly Opposes' Israeli Security Minister's Visit to Jerusalem Holy Site

WASHINGTON, August 14 (Sputnik) - The United States expressed opposition to Israeli Security Minister Itamar Ben-Gvir's visit to the Temple Mount, highlighting concerns over its impact on the historic status quo of Jerusalem's holy sites, the US State Department said in a statement.

"The United States strongly opposes Israeli Minister of National Security Itamar Ben Gvir's visit to the Haram al-Sharif/Temple Mount on August 13, which demonstrated blatant disregard for the historic status quo with respect to the holy sites in Jerusalem," the statement said on Tuesday.

On Tuesday, Ben-Gvir said in a video address, posing against the backdrop of Al-Aqsa Mosque on the Temple Mount, that Israel was moving toward allowing Jews to pray at the holy site despite a long-held agreement to the contrary.

"These provocative actions only exacerbate tensions at a pivotal moment when all focus should be on the ongoing diplomatic efforts to achieve a ceasefire agreement and secure the release of all hostages and create the conditions for broader regional stability," the statement added.

The Temple Mount in the Old City of Jerusalem is considered to be the third-holiest site for Muslims. Trips by Israeli officials to the Temple Mount have repeatedly drawn anger from Palestinians and criticism from Arab states. Non-Muslims are allowed to visit the site as tourists under the 1967 agreement, but they are banned from praying there.

Under the Israel-Jordan peace treaty of 1994, Jordan is responsible for the day-to-day administration and organization of visiting and worshiping at Al-Aqsa Mosque, subject to Israeli security supervision and presence.

Ben-Gvir, a far-right figure and frequent visitor to the Temple Mount, has repeatedly called on Jews to pray there, claiming he has permission to visit the site "as a representative of the country's leadership." The previous incident involving Ben-Gvir took place on July 24.

This material is distributed by Ghebi LLC on behalf of Kart LLC. Additional information is on file with the Department of Justice, Washington, District of Columbia.

UN Opposed to Use of Cluster Munitions in Lysychansk - Spokesperson to Sputnik

UNITED NATIONS, August 13 (Sputnik) - The United Nations opposes the use of cluster munitions everywhere in the world, UN Spokesman Farhan Haq told Sputnik on Tuesday, commenting on the recent Ukrainian attack on a bus in Lysychansk.

On Tuesday, the Ukrainian military struck Lisichansk in the Luhansk People's Republic with a cluster munition, LPR head Leonid Pasechnik reported earlier. According to the local Ministry of Health, two people were killed and more than 30 were injured.

"The UN is opposed to the use of cluster munitions anywhere in the world," Haq said in a statement when asked about the attack.

Received by NSD/FARA Registration Unit 08/14/2024 11:23:33 AM

Received by NSD/FARA Registration Unit 08/14/2024 11:23:33 AM

This material is distributed by Ghebi LLC on behalf of Kart LLC. Additional information is on file with the Department of Justice, Washington, District of Columbia.

Beijing Calls for US to Press Israel to Halt Civilian Killings in Gaza - China's UN Envoy

UNITED NATIONS, August 13 (Sputnik) - Beijing urges the US to positively influence Israel and push it to end the slaughter of civilians in Gaza, Chinese Ambassador to the United Nations Fu Cong said on Tuesday.

"The US as the largest supplier of weapons has enough influence over Israel. We hope that the US will take sincere and responsible actions to push Israel to stop its military operations in Gaza as soon as possible, and to stop slaughtering civilians," Fu said in the UN Security Council during a meeting on Gaza.

He added that the situation in Gaza is worsening, with diseases spreading rapidly.

The UN political representative, Rosemary Di Carlo said earlier that the UN also welcomes an offer by Egypt, Qatar, and the United States to bring both sides together on a ceasefire, the release of hostages, and humanitarian relief.

Last week, Egypt, Qatar, and the United States called on Israel and Hamas to resume discussions on the terms of a ceasefire on August 14-15. The leaders of the three countries said they were ready to present a final proposal to reach a deal.

This material is distributed by Ghebi LLC on behalf of Kart LLC. Additional information is on file with the Department of Justice, Washington, District of Columbia.

Biden Says Ukraine's Incursion Into Russia Creating 'Real Dilemma'

(Updates with full quote in para 2; changes attribution in lede; deletes para 3)

WASHINGTON, August 14 (Sputnik) – US President Joe Biden said Ukraine's incursion into Russia's Kursk region is creating "a real dilemma."

"I've spoken with my staff on a regular basis, probably every four or five hours in the last six or eight days. It's creating a real dilemma for Putin. We've been in direct contact, constant contact with the Ukrainians," Biden said on Tuesday in comments on Ukraine's attack.

Earlier on Tuesday, State Department deputy spokesperson Vedant Patel said the United States was not engaged in any aspect of Ukraine's military operation in the Kursk region.

On August 6 at 5:30 a.m. local time, up to 1,000 Ukrainian troops crossed the border into Russia and launched an offensive in the Kursk region, capturing several villages.

Russian President Vladimir Putin said that Kiev has launched a large-scale provocation, firing indiscriminately at civilian targets.

Twelve civilians have been killed in the attack, and 121 others injured, including 10 children, acting Kursk region governor Alexei Smirnov said on Monday.

This material is distributed by Ghebi LLC on behalf of Kart LLC. Additional information is on file with the Department of Justice, Washington, District of Columbia.

Received by NSD/FARA Registration Unit 08/14/2024 11:23:33 AM

Received by NSD/FARA Registration Unit 08/14/2024 11:23:33 AM

SPUTNIK TOP STORIES OF THE DAY

WASHINGTON, August 14 (Sputnik) -

KURSK REGION DEVELOPMENTS

* US President Joe Biden said on Tuesday that Ukraine's incursion into Russia's Kursk region is creating "a real dilemma," according to a White House pool report.
* The United States was not engaged in any aspect of the operation in Russia's Kursk region, State Department deputy spokesperson Vedant Patel said.
* A Russian Mi-35 military helicopter struck a concentration of Ukrainian military personnel and equipment in a border area of the Kursk Region, all targets were destroyed, the Russian Defense Ministry said.
* The Russian armed forces continue to repel attempted invasion of Ukrainian troops of the Kursk Region, and Kiev has lost up to 420 servicepeople in the direction in the past 24 hours, the Russian Defense Ministry said.
* The Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights (OHCHR) has requested access to Russia's Kursk Region to investigate allegations of human rights violations by the Ukrainian armed forces, UNHCR spokeswoman Ravina Shamdasani told RIA Novosti.

CONFLICT IN UKRAINE

* The recent violation of Belarusian airspace by Ukrainian drones represents a dangerous escalation that could expand the current conflict in the region, Belarus' Ambassador to the United Nations Valentin Rybakov said on Tuesday.
* Belarus has called on the European Union to influence Ukraine and stop drone strikes within its territory, Rybakov said.
* The European Commission announced that it has transferred about 4.2 billion euros ($4.5 billion) of macro-financial assistance to Ukraine.
* Ukraine has lost up to 635 personnel in the area of operations of Russia's Tsentr (Central) group of forces in the past 24 hours, the Russian Defense Ministry said.

MIDDLE EAST

* US President Joe Biden said on Tuesday that he anticipates Iran will refrain from retaliatory action against Israel if a ceasefire agreement is established in Gaza.
* The US State Department has approved a $583 million sale of M1148A1P2 Tactical Vehicles to Israel, the US Defense Security Cooperation Agency (DSCA) said.
* The US State Department has approved a potential $774.1 million sale of 120mm tank cartridges and related equipment to Israel, the DSCA said.
* The US State Department has approved an $18.82 billion sale of 50 F-15IA multirole fighter jets and related equipment to the government of Israel, the DSCA said.
* Palestinian movement Hamas' military wing, Al Qassam Brigades, said that it had fired two rockets at Tel Aviv and its surroundings.
* Palestinian President Mahmoud Abbas said that the United Nations had failed in its mission to create a Palestinian state.

Received by NSD/FARA Registration Unit 08/14/2024 11:23:33 AM

Received by NSD/FARA Registration Unit 08/14/2024 11:23:33 AM

RUSSIAN ECONOMY

* The Investment Chamber said on Tuesday that it has completed the first stage of settlements for the exchange of blocked foreign securities of Russian citizens.

* The surplus of Russia's foreign trade in goods in July increased by 30.6% year-on-year and amounted to $8.1 billion, the Central Bank said.

This material is distributed by Ghebi LLC on behalf of Kart LLC. Additional information is on file with the Department of Justice, Washington, District of Columbia.

China Urges Probe Into Reports of Israeli Soldiers' Abuse of Palestinian Detainees- Envoy

UNITED NATIONS, August 13 (Sputnik) - Beijing is concerned about reports of sexual abuse by Israeli soldiers against Palestinian detainees and is calling for an investigation, Chinese Ambassador to the United Nations Fu Cong said on Tuesday.

"We are greatly concerned about the incidence of sexual abuse by Israeli soldiers against Palestinian detainees," Fu said at the UN Security Council during a meeting of Gaza's members. "We call for an investigation and accountability."

He also noted that China has called on Israel to cease all settlement activities.

The UN political representative, Rosemary Di Carlo, said earlier today that the UN also welcomes an offer by Egypt, Qatar, and the United States to bring both sides together on a ceasefire, the release of hostages, and humanitarian relief.

Last week, Egypt, Qatar, and the United States called on Israel and Hamas to resume discussions on the terms of a ceasefire on August 14-15. The leaders of the three countries said they were ready to present a final proposal to reach a deal.

This material is distributed by Ghebi LLC on behalf of Kart LLC. Additional information is on file with the Department of Justice, Washington, District of Columbia.

Russia's UN Mission Says Growing Consensus Israeli School Strikes Are Deliberate Choice

UNITED NATIONS, August 13 (Sputnik) - The situation in Gaza is the result of deliberate actions by the Israeli government, and simple condemnations are insufficient, Russian Deputy Ambassador to the United Nations Dmitry Polyanskiy said on Tuesday.

"There's a growing conclusion that what is happening is not anything else than a deliberate choice by the Israeli leadership. Condemnation of specific acts of Western Jerusalem and calls for restraint will not work," Polyanskiy said in the UN Security Council room to his colleagues during a meeting on Gaza.

This material is distributed by Ghebi LLC on behalf of Kart LLC. Additional information is on file with the Department of Justice, Washington, District of Columbia.

UN Security Council Should Consider Measures to De-Escalate Gaza Conflict - Russian Envoy

Received by NSD/FARA Registration Unit 08/14/2024 11:23:33 AM

Received by NSD/FARA Registration Unit 08/14/2024 11:23:33 AM

UNITED NATIONS, August 13 (Sputnik) - The United Nations Security Council should consider measures that could help de-escalate the conflict in Gaza, including by possibly making a joint trip to the region, Russian Deputy Representative to the United Nations Dmitry Polyanskiy said on Tuesday.

"We should think together about what measures can be taken to de-escalate in Gaza and the region as a whole," Polyanskiy said. "If for that we need a Security Council visit to the field, then that's what should happen."

Polyanskiy added that US-sponsored efforts to achieve peace in the Israel-Palestinian conflict have been counterproductive, adding that Washington is concerned only about protecting Israel's interests and its own profits from delivering weapons.

This material is distributed by Ghebi LLC on behalf of Kart LLC. Additional information is on file with the Department of Justice, Washington, District of Columbia.

New US Military Deployments in Middle East Not Sign of Things to Come - US Envoy to UN

UNITED NATIONS, August 13 (Sputnik) - The latest US military deployments in the Middle East are not a sign of things to come and do not mean that a broader conflict in the region is inevitable, US Ambassador to the United Nations Linda Thomas-Greenfield said on Tuesday.

“Let me be clear, our deployment of additional military assets is not a prediction of what is to come,” Thomas-Greenfield told the Security Council during a meeting on Gaza. “A broader regional conflict is not inevitable.”

US Defense Secretary Lloyd Austin has ordered additional ballistic missile defense-capable Navy ships to head to the Middle East amid fears of an Iranian retaliatory strike on Israel in response to the killing of Hamas political chief Ismail Haniyeh in Tehran.

This material is distributed by Ghebi LLC on behalf of Kart LLC. Additional information is on file with the Department of Justice, Washington, District of Columbia.

deployment of additional us military assets in middle east not a prediction of what is to come, broader conflict not inevitable - un ambassador

This material is distributed by Ghebi LLC on behalf of Kart LLC. Additional information is on file with the Department of Justice, Washington, District of Columbia.

Biden Says Expects Iran to Refrain from Israel Retaliation if Gaza Ceasefire Reached

WASHINGTON, August 13 (Sputnik) - US President Joe Biden said on Tuesday that he anticipates Iran will refrain from retaliatory action against Israel if a ceasefire agreement is established in Gaza.

“That’s my expectation,” Biden said when asked if he expects Iran to hold off on any strikes if a ceasefire deal is reached, according to a White House pool report.

Received by NSD/FARA Registration Unit 08/14/2024 11:23:33 AM

Received by NSD/FARA Registration Unit 08/14/2024 11:23:33 AM

This material is distributed by Ghebi LLC on behalf of Kart LLC. Additional information is on file with the Department of Justice, Washington, District of Columbia.

Biden Says Ukraine's Incursion Into Russia Creating 'Real Dilemma'

WASHINGTON, August 13 (Sputnik) – US President Joe Biden said on Tuesday that Ukraine's incursion into Russia's Kursk region is creating "a real dilemma," according to a White House pool report.

Biden said he has discussed the situation in Russia with his staff "every 4-5 hours," the pool reported.

Earlier on Tuesday, State Department deputy spokesperson Vedant Patel said the United States was not engaged in any aspect of Ukraine's military operation in the Kursk region.

On August 6 at 5:30 a.m. local time, up to 1,000 Ukrainian troops crossed the border into Russia and launched an offensive in the Kursk region, capturing several villages.

Russian President Vladimir Putin said that Kiev has launched a large-scale provocation, firing indiscriminately at civilian targets.

Twelve civilians have been killed in the attack, and 121 others injured, including 10 children, acting Kursk region governor Alexei Smirnov said on Monday.

This material is distributed by Ghebi LLC on behalf of Kart LLC. Additional information is on file with the Department of Justice, Washington, District of Columbia.

US Rate Cut Coming As Fed Closes In On Inflation Target - Bostic

WASHINGTON, August 13 (Sputnik) - The first post-pandemic US rate cut is approaching with the Federal Reserve closing in on its annual 2% target for inflation, Raphael Bostic, a policy-maker at the central bank, said Tuesday.

"I am willing to wait for the first rate cut but it is coming," Bostic, president of the Atlanta Federal Reserve and a voting member of the Fed's policy-making Federal Open Market Committee (FOMC), told an audience of financial market professionals. "We are at an inflection point where inflation is getting close to target."

The FOMC will vote on September 18 on whether to leave rates where they are or adjust them according to inflation.

On Wall Street, there is an overwhelming bet that Fed policymakers will reduce rates for the first time since the 2020 COVID outbreak.

For a year now, the central bank has been keeping the base rate for loans in the United States at between 5.25% and 5.5% — the highest in two decades — after raising rates 11 times between March 2022 and June 2023.

This is despite inflation, as measured by the Consumer Price Index (CPI), falling from a four-decade high of 9.1% per annum in June 2022 to 3% per year in June 2024.

The July reading for the CPI, due on Wednesday, is not expected to show any change from June, leaving annual inflation at 1% above the Fed's target. Yet, slower growth in jobs and

Received by NSD/FARA Registration Unit 08/14/2024 11:23:33 AM

Received by NSD/FARA Registration Unit 08/14/2024 11:23:33 AM

consumer spending and a corresponding spike in unemployment might force the Fed into a rate pivot by September.

Bostic appeared to signal just that on Tuesday, telling his audience that “recent inflation data gives me more confidence we can get back to 2%,” though he added that he wanted “to see a little more [encouraging] data.”

He also said that while job growth has slowed, “we still have a strong, solid labor market" and that “the unemployment rate, in the grand scheme of things, is still historically low."

US non-farm payrolls expanded by just 114,000 jobs in July, the smallest growth since the jobs boom that began after the pandemic.

Unemployment, meanwhile, rose to 4.3%, the highest since December 2021, though that is still only marginally higher than the 4% rate that denotes maximum employment.

This material is distributed by Ghebi LLC on behalf of Kart LLC. Additional information is on file with the Department of Justice, Washington, District of Columbia.

US Congressman Asks Pentagon About Walz’s China Trips While Serving in Military - Letter

WASHINGTON, August 13 (Sputnik) - US Congressman Jim Banks sent a letter to Defense Secretary Lloyd Austin on Tuesday to express concerns and request information about 2024 vice presidential candidate Tim Walz’s trips to China while serving in the military.

"I write to raise concerns that Governor Tim Walz of Minnesota may not have complied with foreign travel reporting requirements for his security clearance during his many trips to the People’s Republic of China while serving with the Nebraska and Minnesota National Guards," the letter said.

Walz likely traveled to China at least a dozen times while he was a guardsman, the letter said. Any person who travels dozens of times to an adversary nation in a personal capacity while having access to classified information poses an obvious security risk, the letter said.

The letter requests information on whether Walz held a security clearance during his time in the Minnesota National Guard, how many times he traveled to China while holding a security clearance and whether he ever failed to report any of the trips.

US Vice President and 2024 Democratic presidential nominee Kamala Harris chose Walz as her running mate earlier this month.

This material is distributed by Ghebi LLC on behalf of Kart LLC. Additional information is on file with the Department of Justice, Washington, District of Columbia.

biden when asked if he expects iran to hold off on retaliatory strike if gaza ceasefire deal reached: that's my expectation

This material is distributed by Ghebi LLC on behalf of Kart LLC. Additional information is on file with the Department of Justice, Washington, District of Columbia.

All Parties in Gaza Conflict Need to Cease Escalatory Rhetoric and De-escalate-UN Official

Received by NSD/FARA Registration Unit 08/14/2024 11:23:33 AM

Received by NSD/FARA Registration Unit 08/14/2024 11:23:33 AM

UNITED NATIONS, August 13 (Sputnik) - All parties in the Gaza conflict must halt their hostile rhetoric towards each other to enable the cessation of the conflict, the Under-Secretary-General for the UN Political Department Rosemary Di Carlo said on Tuesday.

"If the slide towards an even greater catastrophe is to be halted, the parties must end all escalatory rhetoric and actions. I reiterate the Secretary General's call for all to work vigorously towards regional de-escalation in the interest of long-term peace and stability," Di Carlo said in the UN Security Council room during a meeting on Gaza.

The UN also welcomes an offer by Egypt, Qatar, and the United States to bring both sides together on a ceasefire, the release of hostages, and humanitarian relief, she added.

Last week, Egypt, Qatar and the United States called on Israel and Hamas to resume discussions on the terms of a ceasefire on August 14-15. The leaders of the three countries said they were ready to present a final proposal to reach a deal.

According to media reports, Hamas rejected earlier reports claiming the group planned to attend the meeting on Thursday.

This material is distributed by Ghebi LLC on behalf of Kart LLC. Additional information is on file with the Department of Justice, Washington, District of Columbia.

US Approves $583Mln Sale of Tactical Vehicles to Israel - Pentagon

WASHINGTON, August 13 (Sputnik) - The US State Department has approved a $583 million sale of M1148A1P2 Tactical Vehicles to Israel, the US Defense Security Cooperation Agency said on Tuesday.

"The Secretary of State has approved a possible Foreign Military Sale to the Government of Israel of modified M1148A1P2 Family of Medium Tactical Vehicles (FMTV) and related equipment for an estimated cost of $583.1 million," the Pentagon said in a press release.

The release did not specify the number of vehicles included in the package but said deliveries were expected to begin in 2026.

This material is distributed by Ghebi LLC on behalf of Kart LLC. Additional information is on file with the Department of Justice, Washington, District of Columbia.

US State Dept. Approves $774Mln Sale of 120mm Tank Cartridges to Israel - Pentagon

WASHINGTON, August 13 (Sputnik) - The US State Department has approved a potential $774.1 million sale of 120mm tank cartridges and related equipment to Israel, the Defense Security Cooperation Agency (DSCA) said on Tuesday.

"The Secretary of State has approved a possible Foreign Military Sale to the Government of Israel of 120mm Tank Cartridges and related equipment for an estimated cost of $774.1 million. The Defense Security Cooperation Agency delivered the required certification notifying Congress of this possible sale today," DSCA said in a press release.

Israel has requested the purchase of 32,739 120mm tank cartridges, including High Explosive Multi-Purpose and Anti-Tank variants, in a deal valued at $774.1 million. The request also covers additional munitions, logistics, and support services, with deliveries expected to start in

Received by NSD/FARA Registration Unit 08/14/2024 11:23:33 AM

Received by NSD/FARA Registration Unit 08/14/2024 11:23:33 AM

2027, according to the release.

This material is distributed by Ghebi LLC on behalf of Kart LLC. Additional information is on file with the Department of Justice, Washington, District of Columbia.

Trump-Musk Conversation Garnered 25Mln Views, Billions of Impressions - Trump Campaign

WASHINGTON, August 13 (Sputnik) - Former US President Donald Trump's conversation with billionaire entrepreneur Elon Musk has garnered at least 25 million views and nearly three billion impressions on social media platform X, the Trump campaign said on Tuesday.

"Last night, a record breaking-number of viewers streamed President Trump's interview with Elon Musk on X Spaces. While weak, failed, and dangerously liberal Kamala Harris has avoided answering questions for 23 days, President Trump delivered his message directly to the people in a historic, two-hour interview that generated millions of posts and impressions related to President Trump and Elon Musk's unfiltered conversation," the campaign said in a statement.

As of 12 p.m. ET (16:00 GMT), 25 million people listened to the entire conversation from start to finish, the statement said, citing statistics gathered by X.

There were approximately 1.5 million concurrent listeners during the live broadcast, the statement said.

The conversation also garnered 2.9 billion impressions and generated 9.6 million posts related to the event, the statement said.

US Vice President Kamala Harris' campaign accused Musk of attempting to use his platform to control democracy in the United States.

This material is distributed by Ghebi LLC on behalf of Kart LLC. Additional information is on file with the Department of Justice, Washington, District of Columbia.

US Approves $61Mln Sale of High Explosive Mortar Cartridges to Israel - Pentagon

WASHINGTON, August 13 (Sputnik) - The US State Department approved a $61.1 million sale of 50,000 120mm high explosive mortar cartridges to Israel, US Defense Security Cooperation Agency said on Tuesday.

"The Secretary of State has approved a possible Foreign Military Sale to the Government of Israel of M933A1 120mm High Explosive Mortar Cartridges and related equipment for an estimated cost of $61.1 million," the agency said in a press release. "The Government of Israel has requested to buy fifty thousand (50,000) M933A1 120mm High Explosive (HE) mortar cartridges."

This material is distributed by Ghebi LLC on behalf of Kart LLC. Additional information is on file with the Department of Justice, Washington, District of Columbia.

US Coast Guard Will Stay Short of Ships, Aircraft in Polar Regions for Years - GAO

Received by NSD/FARA Registration Unit 08/14/2024 11:23:33 AM

Received by NSD/FARA Registration Unit 08/14/2024 11:23:33 AM

WASHINGTON, August 13 (Sputnik) - The US Coast Guard's new Polar region cutters and aircraft will not be available for years and major cutter deployments north of the Bering Strait have been limited in recent years because of budget and resource constraints, the Government Accountability Office (GAO) reported on Tuesday.

"The Coast Guard has ... initiated plans to acquire new major cutters and polar icebreakers to enhance its capabilities in the region," the GAO said. "However, the new assets will not be available for years and major cutter deployments north of the Bering Strait have been limited in recent years."

The delay in acquiring and deploying the new ships and aircraft are caused by the resource constraints that affect the Coast Guard's ability to meet its strategic commitments in the US Arctic region, the GAO explained.

Currently, the Coast Guard continues to try and manage these risks by deploying its immediately available cutters and aircraft in the US Arctic region during peak maritime activity, according to the report.

This material is distributed by Ghebi LLC on behalf of Kart LLC. Additional information is on file with the Department of Justice, Washington, District of Columbia.

US Approves $102Mln Sale of Advanced Medium Range Air-to-Air Missiles to Israel - Pentagon

WASHINGTON, August 13 (Sputnik) - The US State Department has approved a possible $102.5 million sale of 30 AIM-120C-8 Advanced Medium Range Air-to-Air Missiles (AMRAAM) and related equipment to the government of Israel, the Defense Security Cooperation Agency (DSCA) said on Tuesday.

"The Secretary of State has approved a possible Foreign Military Sale to the Government of Israel of Advanced Medium Range Air-to-Air Missiles and related equipment for an estimated cost of $102.5 million," DSCA said in a press release.

The Israeli government has also requested to buy one AMRAAM guidance spare section, AMRAAM control sections and containers, common munitions built-in-test/reprogramming equipment (CMBRE) and spare parts, among other equipment, the release said.

This material is distributed by Ghebi LLC on behalf of Kart LLC. Additional information is on file with the Department of Justice, Washington, District of Columbia.

Pentagon Says Continues to Seek Information From Ukraine About Kursk Offensive

WASHINGTON, August 13 (Sputnik) - The US Defense Department continues to seek information from Ukraine about its offensive in Russia's Kursk region, Defense Department spokesperson Patrick Ryder said on Tuesday.

"We are in contact with our Ukrainian counterparts to get additional details in terms of their objectives as it relates to their operation, but I don't have anything beyond that," Ryder said during a press briefing.

The White House also told reporters on Monday that it continued to seek details from Ukraine about its offensive.

Received by NSD/FARA Registration Unit 08/14/2024 11:23:33 AM

Received by NSD/FARA Registration Unit 08/14/2024 11:23:33 AM

A US Defense Department spokesperson told Sputnik on Monday that it had no updates on whether Ukraine has used US-supplied weapons for its offensive in the Kursk region.

Russian President Vladimir Putin said Ukraine's operation is another large-scale provocation, accusing Ukraine of firing indiscriminately at civilians.

Twelve civilians have been killed in the attack, and 121 others injured, including ten children, acting Kursk region governor Alexei Smirnov said on Monday.

Several high-level Russian officials have warned that Ukraine should expect severe consequences for carrying out its operation in the Kursk region.

This material is distributed by Ghebi LLC on behalf of Kart LLC. Additional information is on file with the Department of Justice, Washington, District of Columbia.

News Outlets Chose Not to Print Leaked Info About Trump Campaign - Reports

WASHINGTON, August 13 (Sputnik) - At least three separate news organizations decided not to report confidential information about the Trump campaign after it was leaked to them, including a report vetting JD Vance as a vice presidential candidate, AP reported on Tuesday.

Instead, the report maintains that some of the outlets, including The New York Times, The Washington Post, and Politico wrote about a potential breach of the campaign - an act that contrasts with actions taken by outlets in 2016, when emails between then-presidential candidate Hillary Clinton and her campaign manager John Podesta were exposed and widely published.

The leaked information was received from a person identified as "Robert," whose identity is unknown and who told one of the news outlets "don't be curious" about where the information came from, the report said.

A day after a Microsoft report revealed alleged efforts by the Iranian military to compromise the email account of a former senior advisor to an undisclosed presidential campaign, the Trump campaign said that it had been hacked, claiming without evidence that the Iranians were responsible, the report added. The FBI is investigating the matter.

"Any media or news outlet reprinting documents or internal communications are doing the bidding of America’s enemies," a Trump campaign spokesperson is quoted as saying in the report.

According to the report, neither The New York Times nor Politico offered explanations as to why they didn't print the details of the leaked communications, while The Washington Post said in the report that they take into account the authenticity of materials, the motive of the source, and assess public interest before making publishing decisions.

On July 17, US Sen. JD Vance accepted the nomination to be Republican presidential nominee Donald Trump's vice president if the ex-US president is elected in November.

This material is distributed by Ghebi LLC on behalf of Kart LLC. Additional information is on file with the Department of Justice, Washington, District of Columbia.

Poland Signs Agreement to Buy 96 Boeing AH-64E Apache Helicopters - Statement

Received by NSD/FARA Registration Unit 08/14/2024 11:23:33 AM

Received by NSD/FARA Registration Unit 08/14/2024 11:23:33 AM

WASHINGTON, August 13 (Sputnik) - Poland has signed a deal with Boeing to buy 96 AH-64E Apache combat helicopters making it the largest operator of the tactical ground support aircraft in the world outside the United States, the US defense contractor announced on Tuesday.

"Poland has signed a Foreign Military Sales (FMS) Letter of Offer and Acceptance (LOA) for 96 Boeing AH-64E Apache combat helicopters, as part of the Polish KRUK Attack Helicopter program," Boeing said on a press release.

The LOA was signed a week after the Polish Ministry of National Defense announced an offset agreement with Boeing for the maintenance and support of the Polish fleet of Apache helicopters by the Polish defense industry along with setting up training programs, the release said.

"The AH-64E Apache helicopters will strengthen Poland's operational capability and interoperability with the US, NATO and allied nations. We look forward to delivering this unmatched capability," the release added.

The offset projects have the goal of expanding the sustainment capabilities of the Polish defense industry, according to the release.

This material is distributed by Ghebi LLC on behalf of Kart LLC. Additional information is on file with the Department of Justice, Washington, District of Columbia.

US Approves $18.82Bln Sale of 50 F-15IA Aircraft to Israel - Pentagon

WASHINGTON, August 13 (Sputnik) – The US State Department has approved an $18.82 billion sale of 50 F-15IA multirole fighter jets and related equipment to the government of Israel, the Defense Security Cooperation Agency (DSCA) said on Tuesday.

"The Secretary of State has approved a possible Foreign Military Sale to the Government of Israel of F-15IA and F-15I+ Aircraft and related equipment for an estimated cost of $18.82 billion," the agency said in a press release. "The Government of Israel has requested to buy up to fifty (50) new F-15IA multi-role fighter aircraft."

The Israeli government has also requested to purchase 25 modification kits for its existing F-15I multi-role fighter aircraft, 120 F110-GE-129 engines, 90 Advanced Display Core Processors II, 320 LAU-128 Advanced Medium Range Air-to-Air Missile launchers, 25 M61A Vulcan cannons, and 180 Embedded Global Positioning System/Inertial Navigation System, among other related equipment, according to the release.

This material is distributed by Ghebi LLC on behalf of Kart LLC. Additional information is on file with the Department of Justice, Washington, District of Columbia.

Eight US Service Members Treated for TBI After Drone Attack in Syria Last Week - Pentagon

WASHINGTON, August 13 (Sputnik) - Eight US service members were treated for traumatic brain injury (TBI) and smoke inhalation after coming under a one-way drone attack in Syria last week, Pentagon Press Secretary Maj. Gen. Patrick Ryder said on Tuesday.

"Eight service members were transported to a separate location for further assessment and evaluation," Ryder said during a press briefing. "All eight received treatment for TBI and smoke

Received by NSD/FARA Registration Unit 08/14/2024 11:23:33 AM

Received by NSD/FARA Registration Unit 08/14/2024 11:23:33 AM

inhalation."
Three of the US service members have returned to duty, while the others remain under observation, Ryder added.
The drone attack last Friday targeted the Rumalyn Landing Zone in Syria, which hosts US and Coalition forces.
Four US service members and one contractor were also injured in a rocket attack on Al Asad Airbase in Iraq last week.

This material is distributed by Ghebi LLC on behalf of Kart LLC. Additional information is on file with the Department of Justice, Washington, District of Columbia.

Austin, Brunei Defense Chief Discuss Joint Efforts to Bolster Security Ties - Pentagon

WASHINGTON, August 13 (Sputnik) - US Defense Secretary Lloyd Austin met with his Brunei counterpart Halbi Mohd Yussof to discuss efforts to bolster security cooperation in the Indo-Pacific, Defense department spokesperson Patrick Ryder said on Tuesday.
"Secretary Austin hosted Brunei Minister of Defense Halbi here at the Pentagon earlier today," Ryder said during a press briefing. "They discussed the defense partnership between our two nations and celebrated the finalization of key agreements to enhance logistics and security assistance."
Ryder pointed out that Austin and his counterpart also discussed freedom of navigation matters in the Indo-Pacific region.
The two defense leaders also emphasized their commitment to strengthening US-Brunei ties, Ryder added.

This material is distributed by Ghebi LLC on behalf of Kart LLC. Additional information is on file with the Department of Justice, Washington, District of Columbia.

us state dept. approves $61.1 million sale of M933A1 120mm High Explosive Mortar Cartridges to israel - pentagon

This material is distributed by Ghebi LLC on behalf of Kart LLC. Additional information is on file with the Department of Justice, Washington, District of Columbia.

us state department approves $774.1 million sale of 120mm tank cartridges to israel - pentagon

This material is distributed by Ghebi LLC on behalf of Kart LLC. Additional information is on file with the Department of Justice, Washington, District of Columbia.

Lockheed, General Dynamics Join to Boost Rocket Artillery Motors Production - Statement

WASHINGTON, August 13 (Sputnik) - Lockheed Martin and General Dynamics have joined forces to manufacture solid rocket motors for multiple-launch rocket artillery systems, Lockheed Martin announced in a press release on Tuesday.

Received by NSD/FARA Registration Unit 08/14/2024 11:23:33 AM

Received by NSD/FARA Registration Unit 08/14/2024 11:23:33 AM

"Lockheed Martin and General Dynamics announced the signing of a strategic teaming agreement for the production of solid rocket motors that will bring security and resiliency to a vital domestic supply chain," the release said.

Initial work will focus on the production of solid rocket motors for the Guided Multiple Launch Rocket System (GMLRS) and will be performed at the General Dynamics facility in Camden, Arkansas starting in 2025, the release said.

"This agreement enables Lockheed Martin and General Dynamics to ramp production of in-demand solutions more quickly going forward," the release added.

The project will be followed by a phased planning approach to transition to other products, according to the release.

This material is distributed by Ghebi LLC on behalf of Kart LLC. Additional information is on file with the Department of Justice, Washington, District of Columbia.

Legal Group Says Suing New York District Attorney Office for Concealing Trump Case Records

WASHINGTON, August 13 (Sputnik) - Legal group America First Legal said on Tuesday that it is suing the New York District Attorney's Office for concealing records related to the prosecution of former US President Donald Trump.

"Today, America First Legal (AFL) sued the New York District Attorney's Office for refusing to provide documents as requested under the New York Freedom of Information Law (FOIL) regarding District Attorney Alvin Bragg's partisan persecution of President Trump," the group said in a statement.

In March 2023, AFL launched an investigation into the New York County District Attorney's Office to obtain internal and external communications related to the Trump case, the statement said.

After Trump was convicted in June 2024 for falsifying business records, AFL launched a new investigation into allegations of improper collusion between the District Attorney's Office and leftist "dark money" groups, the statement said.

AFL is suing the office before the New York State Supreme Court in an effort to obtain the release of records related to the Trump case, as well as records of communications between the office and the Biden administration, the statement said.

This material is distributed by Ghebi LLC on behalf of Kart LLC. Additional information is on file with the Department of Justice, Washington, District of Columbia.

Oil Prices Dip First Time in Week After Halt in Middle East Escalation

NEW YORK, August 13 (Sputnik) - Crude prices fell Tuesday for the first time in a week as the absence of a counterattack after Israel's killing of senior Palestine and Lebanese leaders signaled a halt to the escalation of tensions in the oil-rich Middle East.

After a blistering five-session rally that added almost 10% to the prices of US West Texas Intermediate (WTI) and UK-origin Brent, the two crude benchmarks eased around 2% each on Tuesday.

Received by NSD/FARA Registration Unit 08/14/2024 11:23:33 AM

Received by NSD/FARA Registration Unit 08/14/2024 11:23:33 AM

Analysts cautioned of further corrections, especially if weekly inventory data due on Wednesday showed the hot consumption streak seen in US crude since June fading for any reason. As a sign of trepidation, WTI on Tuesday was already back below the key $80 per barrel mark that is critical to the confidence of oil bulls.

Brent could be vulnerable too without another spike in Middle East tensions, with US and Iraqi peacemakers continuing efforts for a ceasefire to the Israel-Hamas war - despite Iran's vow to retaliate on behalf of its Palestinian ally.

"The US … has ordered the deployment of a guided missile submarine to the Middle East and suggests that Iran could attack Israel within hours," said Phil Flynn, energy analyst at Chicago's Price Futures Group. "Yet oil prices are easing because it appears the market is wondering whether this attack will happen or is it 'the little boy that cried wolf.'"

With an hour to Tuesday's settlement, WTI was down $1.60, or 2%, to $78.46 per barrel in New York trading, falling back beneath the $80 perch it recaptured just a day ago after staying below that pricing zone since July 18.

Monday's surge of 4.2% on WTI came on top of last week's rise of almost 5%. That was after the US crude benchmark had lost 12% over four prior weeks. Year-to-date, WTI is up around 7%, after rallying 18% earlier.

UK-origin Brent crude was down $1.50, or 1.8%, in Tuesday's New York trading to stand at $80.80. Like WTI, Brent regained its foothold on $80 pricing on Monday, managing to cling to the level in the latest session.

Brent rallied 3.2% on Monday after rising 3.7% last week. Prior to that, it lost 12% over four previous weeks, just like WTI. A global benchmark for crude, Brent is up almost 3% for 2024, after an earlier rally of almost 20%.

August has been a volatile month for the oil trade. Global markets initially tanked on fears of a US recession and potential contagion effects around the world, sending WTI to a six-month low of $71.69 and Brent set a new 2024 bottom of $76.16.

Oil prices began recovering late last week on signs of receding US inflation and increasing odds for the Federal Reserve to cut interest rates in September in what would be its first reduction since 2020. An escalation in Middle East tensions added to last week's rebound.

Healthy weekly consumption numbers for crude reported by the US Energy Information Administration (EIA) have also helped the recovery. US inventories for crude dropped by some 30 million barrels over the past six weeks in spite of builds in gasoline and distillates. The EIA's weekly update on crude inventory numbers is due on Wednesday.

This material is distributed by Ghebi LLC on behalf of Kart LLC. Additional information is on file with the Department of Justice, Washington, District of Columbia.

Конгрессмен США назвал нападение ВСУ на Курскую область "суицидальным"

Добавлен бэкграунд (расширен 4 абзац)

ВАШИНГТОН, 13 авг - РИА Новости. Атака ВСУ на Курскую область не поможет прогрессу на пути к достижению мира в этом конфликте и является самоубийственной, заявил РИА Новости американский конгрессмен от Республиканской партии Пол Госар.

"Суицидальное вторжение Украины через границу не положит конец ужасной войне,

Received by NSD/FARA Registration Unit 08/14/2024 11:23:33 AM

Received by NSD/FARA Registration Unit 08/14/2024 11:23:33 AM

унесшей жизни сотен тысяч солдат… Я вновь призываю к миру", - заявил Госар.

Во вторник заместитель официального представителя госдепартамента США Ведант Патель отказался признавать причастность Соединенных Штатов к террористической атаке ВСУ на Курскую область, вопреки сообщениям американских СМИ. Ранее агентство Блумберг со ссылкой на источники сообщило о том, что Украина рассматривала несколько сценариев внезапного нападения на Россию, получив "благословение" руководства США и Евросоюза на первое вторжение на российскую территорию со времен Второй мировой войны.

Директор ФСБ России Александр Бортников на заседании Национальной антитеррористической комиссии во вторник заявил, что Киев при поддержке коллективного Запада совершил террористическую атаку в Курской области, целями которой стали мирное население и гражданские объекты. В сообщении НАК отмечалось, что в текущих условиях необходимо задействовать все имеющиеся возможности для противодействия возникающим террористическим угрозам и активизировать работу на муниципальном уровне с учётом местной специфики и складывающейся обстановки.

Подразделения ВСУ в 5.30 утра 6 августа перешли в наступление с целью захвата территории в Курской области, их продвижение было остановлено, заявил начальник Генштаба ВС РФ Валерий Герасимов. Он подчеркнул, что операция в Курской области будет завершена разгромом противника и выходом на госграницу.

Как сообщило 13 августа Минобороны РФ, украинские войска за все время боевых действий на курском направлении потеряли более 2 030 военнослужащих, 35 танков и 31 бронетранспортер.

Президент России Владимир Путин заявлял, что киевский режим предпринял провокацию, ведет неизбирательную стрельбу, в том числе по гражданским целям. Путин заявил, что противник получит достойный ответ, все цели, стоящие перед Россией, будут достигнуты.

В Курской, а также Белгородской и Брянской областях для обеспечения безопасности граждан действует режим КТО.

This material is distributed by Ghebi LLC on behalf of Kart LLC. Additional information is on file with the Department of Justice, Washington, District of Columbia.

US State Dept. Official for European Affairs Arrives in Kiev - Embassy

WASHINGTON, August 13 (Sputnik) - US Assistant Secretary of State for European and Eurasian Affairs Jim O'Brien has arrived in Kiev, US Ambassador to Ukraine Bridget Brink said on Tuesday.

"A warm welcome back to Ukraine to Assistant Secretary Jim O'Brien @StateEUR!" Brink said in a statement via the X social media platform.

Brink said O'Brien's presence in Kiev sends a strong message that US support for Ukraine does not waiver.

O'Brien's visit comes in the wake of Ukraine's incursion into Russia's Kursk region. US officials have repeatedly told reporters they are still discussing with the Ukrainians details of their operation but have not been able to confirm whether US weapons have been used to carry out

Received by NSD/FARA Registration Unit 08/14/2024 11:23:33 AM

Received by NSD/FARA Registration Unit 08/14/2024 11:23:33 AM

its operation.

On August 6 at 5:30 a.m. local time, up to 1,000 Ukrainian troops crossed the border into Russia and launched an offensive in the Kursk region, capturing several villages.

Russian President Vladimir Putin said that Kiev has launched a large-scale provocation, firing indiscriminately at civilian targets.

Twelve civilians have been killed in the attack, and 121 others injured, including 10 children, acting Kursk region governor Alexei Smirnov said on Monday.

This material is distributed by Ghebi LLC on behalf of Kart LLC. Additional information is on file with the Department of Justice, Washington, District of Columbia.

Конгрессмен США назвал нападение ВСУ на Курскую область "суицидальной"

ВАШИНГТОН, 13 авг - РИА Новости. Атака ВСУ на Курскую область не поможет прогрессу на пути к достижению мира в этом конфликте и является самоубийственной, заявил РИА Новости американский конгрессмен от Республиканской партии Пол Госар.

"Суицидальное вторжение Украины через границу не положит конец ужасной войне, унесшей жизни сотен тысяч солдат… Я вновь призываю к миру", - заявил Госар.

Во вторник заместитель официального представителя госдепартамента США Ведант Патель отказался признавать причастность Соединенных Штатов к террористической атаке ВСУ на Курскую область, вопреки сообщениям американских СМИ. Ранее агентство Блумберг со ссылкой на источники сообщило о том, что Украина рассматривала несколько сценариев внезапного нападения на Россию, получив "благословение" руководства США и Евросоюза на первое вторжение на российскую территорию со времен Второй мировой войны.

Директор ФСБ России Александр Бортников на заседании Национальной антитеррористической комиссии во вторник заявил, что Киев при поддержке коллективного Запада совершил террористическую атаку в Курской области, целями которой стали мирное население и гражданские объекты.

Подразделения ВСУ в 5.30 утра 6 августа перешли в наступление с целью захвата территории в Курской области, их продвижение было остановлено, заявил начальник Генштаба ВС РФ Валерий Герасимов. Он подчеркнул, что операция в Курской области будет завершена разгромом противника и выходом на госграницу.

Как сообщило 13 августа Минобороны РФ, украинские войска за все время боевых действий на курском направлении потеряли более 2 030 военнослужащих, 35 танков и 31 бронетранспортер.

Президент России Владимир Путин заявлял, что киевский режим предпринял провокацию, ведет неизбирательную стрельбу, в том числе по гражданским целям. Путин заявил, что противник получит достойный ответ, все цели, стоящие перед Россией, будут достигнуты.

В Курской, а также Белгородской и Брянской областях для обеспечения безопасности граждан действует режим КТО.

Received by NSD/FARA Registration Unit 08/14/2024 11:23:33 AM

Received by NSD/FARA Registration Unit 08/14/2024 11:23:33 AM

This material is distributed by Ghebi LLC on behalf of Kart LLC. Additional information is on file with the Department of Justice, Washington, District of Columbia.

Biden Says He Would Attend Trump's Inauguration

WASHINGTON, August 13 (Sputnik) - US President Joe Biden said on Tuesday that he would attend Donald Trump's inauguration if the former president wins the November election.
"I have good manners, not like him," Biden was quoted as saying by the White House press pool, when asked if he would attend a Trump inauguration.
When asked about his previous remarks labeling Trump a danger to American security, Biden called it a "factual statement."
In July, Biden announced he was withdrawing from the 2024 election in the best interest of the Democratic Party and the United States. He endorsed Vice President Kamala Harris for the race, which she accepted.
The Democratic National Convention is slated to take place in Chicago from August 19-22, where delegates will officially appoint Harris as their nominee to face Trump in the November 5 election.

This material is distributed by Ghebi LLC on behalf of Kart LLC. Additional information is on file with the Department of Justice, Washington, District of Columbia.

Blinken Postpones Trip to Middle East Amid Iranian Strike Uncertainty - Reports

WASHINGTON, August 13 (Sputnik) - US Secretary of State Anthony Blonken has postponed his trip to the Middle East amid uncertainty related to the Iranian retaliatory strike on Israel, Axios reported on Tuesday.
The outlet reported on Monday that Blinken planned to depart for the Middle East the following day as ceasefire talks were set to resume this week between Qatar, Egypt and Israel.
At the same time, US officials do not expect Iran to launch an attack on Israel on Tuesday amid reports that such an attack is imminent.
Last week, Egypt, Qatar and the United States called on Israel and Hamas to resume discussions on the terms of a ceasefire on August 14-15. The leaders of the three countries said they were ready to present a final proposal to reach a deal.
According to media reports, Hamas rejected earlier reports claiming the group planned to attend the meeting on Thursday.

This material is distributed by Ghebi LLC on behalf of Kart LLC. Additional information is on file with the Department of Justice, Washington, District of Columbia.

Biden Says Does Not Want to Make Public Comments About Ukraine's Incursion Into Russia

WASHINGTON, August 13 (Sputnik) – US President Joe Biden said on Tuesday that he is not

Received by NSD/FARA Registration Unit 08/14/2024 11:23:33 AM

Received by NSD/FARA Registration Unit 08/14/2024 11:23:33 AM

willing to make any public comments regarding Ukraine's incursion into Russia's Kursk region.
"I'd rather not comment on that publicly," the White House press pool quoted Biden as telling reporters before boarding Air Force 1.
Earlier on Tuesday, State Department deputy spokesperson Vedant Patel said the United States were not engaged in any aspect of Ukraine's military operation in the Kursk region.
Last week, Ukrainian forces crossed the border into Russia and launched an offensive in the Kursk region, capturing several villages.
Russian President Vladimir Putin said Ukraine's operation is another large-scale provocation, accusing Ukraine of firing indiscriminately at civilians.
Twelve civilians have been killed in the attack and 121 others injured, including ten children, acting Kursk region Governor Alexei Smirnov said on Monday.
Several high-level Russian officials have warned that Ukraine should expect severe consequences for carrying out its operation in the Kursk region.
Former US Ambassador to Russia John Sullivan told CNN earlier this week that he expects Russia to take decisive action to push the Ukrainian forces out of the Kursk region.

This material is distributed by Ghebi LLC on behalf of Kart LLC. Additional information is on file with the Department of Justice, Washington, District of Columbia.

State Dept. Says 'No Updates' to Provide Regarding Reports Blinken May Visit Mideast

WASHINGTON, August 13 (Sputnik) - State Department deputy spokesperson Vedant Patel told Sputnik on Tuesday that there are no updates to provide related to reports claiming Secretary of State Antony Blinken is set to travel to the Middle East this week.
"No updates," Patel said when asked whether Blinken was scheduled to travel to the Middle East this week.
On Monday, Axios reporter Barak Ravid said on social media, citing a source, that Blinken was scheduled to travel to the Middle East on Tuesday ahead of Gaza ceasefire talks expected to resume on Thursday.
Blinken was reportedly set to make stops in Qatar, Egypt and Israel.
Last week, Egypt, Qatar and the United States called on Israel and Hamas to resume discussions on the terms of a ceasefire on August 14-15. The leaders of the three countries said they were ready to present a final proposal to reach a deal.
According to media reports, Hamas rejected earlier reports claiming the group planned to attend the meeting on Thursday.

This material is distributed by Ghebi LLC on behalf of Kart LLC. Additional information is on file with the Department of Justice, Washington, District of Columbia.

UPDATE - Iran's UN Mission Says Will Not Engage in Ceasefire Talks Between Hamas, Israel

(Adds update in para 3, updates lede)
WASHINGTON, August 13 (Sputnik) - Tehran has not participated nor plans to engage in the indirect ceasefire negotiations between Hamas and Israel, the Permanent Mission of the Islamic

Received by NSD/FARA Registration Unit 08/14/2024 11:23:33 AM

Received by NSD/FARA Registration Unit 08/14/2024 11:23:33 AM

Republic of Iran to the United Nations said on Tuesday in a statement.

"We have not engaged in the indirect ceasefire negotiations between Hamas and the regime, facilitated by Egypt, Qatar, and the US, and hold no intention for involvement in such negotiations," the statement said.

The remarks were in response to a question about whether Iran is considering sending representatives to the ceasefire talks.

Earlier, Reuters reported that Iran was considering sending a representative to ceasefire talks, but the envoy would participate indirectly to maintain diplomatic communication with the US.

The leaders of Egypt, Qatar, and the US have issued a joint statement calling on Israel and Hamas to resume ceasefire discussions from August 14–15. However, Hamas has not yet decided on participating in the Gaza talks.

In July, Israel and Hamas indirectly resumed negotiations on a ceasefire in the Gaza Strip in exchange for the release of hostages. The negotiation process had been stalled for more than a month since US President Joe Biden, on behalf of Israel, announced a new plan to resolve the conflict in Gaza.

On October 7, 2023, Israel was subjected to an unprecedented rocket attack from the Gaza Strip. In addition, Hamas fighters infiltrated the border areas, opened fire on the military and civilians, and took hostages. Israeli authorities say that about 1,200 people were killed during the raid. The Israel Defense Forces launched Operation Iron Swords in the Gaza Strip and announced a complete blockade of the enclave. The enclave's health ministry says that the death toll from Israeli strikes on the Gaza Strip since October 7 has exceeded 39,900.

This material is distributed by Ghebi LLC on behalf of Kart LLC. Additional information is on file with the Department of Justice, Washington, District of Columbia.

US Lacks Direct Communication With Iran, Speaking Through Intermediaries - State Dept.

WASHINGTON, August 13 (Sputnik) - The United States lacks direct lines of communication with Iran and is instead speaking through intermediaries, US State Department Principal Deputy Spokesperson Vedant Patel said on Tuesday.

“We don’t have any direct communication with the Iranian regime. The messages that we are sending is through other countries, and allies, [and] partners,” Patel said during a press briefing.

The US is stressing the importance of deescalation and not partaking in any destabilizing activity, Patel said.

However, the US has bolstered its military presence in the Middle East amid tensions between Israel and Iran, including deploying additional F-22 Raptor jets to the region.

US President Joe Biden is “itching” to get into a serious conflict with Iran, US Congressman Thomas Massie said on Saturday. Americans must urge the Biden administration to avoid conflict with Iran, Massie said, adding that the US must finish its involvement in the Ukraine conflict first.

Received by NSD/FARA Registration Unit 08/14/2024 11:23:33 AM

Received by NSD/FARA Registration Unit 08/14/2024 11:23:33 AM

This material is distributed by Ghebi LLC on behalf of Kart LLC. Additional information is on file with the Department of Justice, Washington, District of Columbia.

Qatar Assured US It Will Work to Have Hamas Participate in Gaza Talks - State Department

WASHINGTON, August 13 (Sputnik) - Qatari partners have assured the United States that they will work to have the Hamas representatives take part in the Gaza talks, State Department deputy spokesperson Vedant Patel said on Tuesday.

"Our partners in Qatar have assured us that they will work to have Hamas represented," Patel said during a press briefing. "We fully expect these talks to move forward."

The leaders of Egypt, Qatar, and the US have issued a joint statement calling on Israel and Hamas to resume ceasefire discussions from August 14–15. However, Hamas has not yet decided on its participation in the Gaza talks.

On October 7, 2023, Israel was subjected to an unprecedented rocket attack from the Gaza Strip. In addition, Hamas fighters infiltrated the border areas, opened fire on the military and civilians and took hostages. Israeli authorities say that about 1,200 people were killed during the raid. The Israel Defense Forces launched Operation Iron Swords in the Gaza Strip and announced a complete blockade of the enclave. The enclave's health ministry says that the death toll from Israeli strikes on the Gaza Strip since October 7 has exceeded 39,900.

This material is distributed by Ghebi LLC on behalf of Kart LLC. Additional information is on file with the Department of Justice, Washington, District of Columbia.

US State Dept. Refuses to Condemn Israel's Deadly Strike on Al-Taba'een School in Gaza

WASHINGTON, August 13 (Sputnik) - US State Department deputy spokesperson Vedant Patel on Tuesday refused to condemn Israel's latest strike on a school in Gaza that killed about 100 people sheltering there.

"We, of course, mourn the loss of any civilian life and over the course of this conflict too many civilians have been killed," Patel said during a press briefing when asked whether the United States plans to condemn the strike. "The reason that we are even having this conversation is because Hamas continues to have a track record of not just using civilians as human shields."

Patel added that the United States is in communication with the Israel Defense Forces regarding the circumstances of the strike, including whether Hamas militants were actually in the school when the strike took place.

On August 10, the Palestinian authorities reported that an Israeli plane fired three missiles at the Al-Taba'een School in Gaza, killing some 100 people who were mostly refugees engaged in morning prayers. Israel said that Hamas fighters had set up a military headquarters there. Algeria has requested a UN Security Council meeting in connection with the deadly attack.

This material is distributed by Ghebi LLC on behalf of Kart LLC. Additional information is on file with the Department of Justice, Washington, District of Columbia.

Received by NSD/FARA Registration Unit 08/14/2024 11:23:33 AM

Received by NSD/FARA Registration Unit 08/14/2024 11:23:33 AM

State Department Says US Was Not Engaged in Any Aspect of Operation in Russia's Kursk

WASHINGTON, August 13 (Sputnik) - The United States was not engaged in any aspect of the operation in Russia's Kursk region, State Department deputy spokesperson Vedant Patel said on Tuesday.

"We were not engaged in any aspect or planning or preparation for this operation," Patel said during a press briefing. "I will let the Ukrainian military speak to their own operations."

On August 6 at 5:30 a.m. local time, up to 1,000 Ukrainian troops crossed the border into Russia and launched an offensive in the Kursk region, capturing several villages.

Russian President Vladimir Putin said that Kiev has launched a large-scale provocation, firing indiscriminately at civilian targets.

Twelve civilians have been killed in the attack, and 121 others injured, including 10 children, acting Kursk region governor Alexei Smirnov said on Monday.

This material is distributed by Ghebi LLC on behalf of Kart LLC. Additional information is on file with the Department of Justice, Washington, District of Columbia.

Iran's UN Mission Says Will Not Engage in Ceasefire Talks Between Hamas and Israel

WASHINGTON, August 13 (Sputnik) - Tehran has not participated nor plans to engage in the indirect ceasefire negotiations between Hamas and Israel, the Permanent Mission of the Islamic Republic of Iran to the United Nations told Sputnik on Tuesday.

"We have not engaged in the indirect ceasefire negotiations between Hamas and the regime, facilitated by Egypt, Qatar, and the US, and hold no intention for involvement in such negotiations," the statement said.

The remarks were in response to a question about whether Iran is considering sending representatives to the ceasefire talks.

The leaders of Egypt, Qatar, and the US have issued a joint statement calling on Israel and Hamas to resume ceasefire discussions from August 14–15. However, Hamas has not yet decided on its participation in the Gaza talks.

In July, Israel and Hamas indirectly resumed negotiations on a ceasefire in the Gaza Strip in exchange for the release of hostages. The negotiation process had been stalled for more than a month since US President Joe Biden, on behalf of Israel, announced a new plan to resolve the conflict in Gaza.

On October 7, 2023, Israel was subjected to an unprecedented rocket attack from the Gaza Strip. In addition, Hamas fighters infiltrated the border areas, opened fire on the military and civilians and took hostages. Israeli authorities say that about 1,200 people were killed during the raid. The Israel Defense Forces launched Operation Iron Swords in the Gaza Strip and announced a complete blockade of the enclave. The enclave's health ministry says that the death toll from Israeli strikes on the Gaza Strip since October 7 has exceeded 39,900.

This material is distributed by Ghebi LLC on behalf of Kart LLC. Additional information is on file with the Department of Justice, Washington, District of Columbia.

Received by NSD/FARA Registration Unit 08/14/2024 11:23:33 AM

Received by NSD/FARA Registration Unit 08/14/2024 11:23:33 AM

Ukrainian Drone Airspace Violations in Belarus Could Escalate Situation in Region - Envoy

UNITED NATIONS, August 13 (Sputnik) - The recent violation of Belarusian airspace by Ukrainian drones represents a dangerous escalation that could expand the current conflict in the region, Belarus' Ambassador to the United Nations Valentin Rybakov said on Tuesday.

"This [violation of airspace] is an extremely serious incident which could lead to a radical escalation of the situation, and this incident is a very dangerous attempt to expand the zone of the conflict in our region," Rybakov said during a UN Security Council meeting.

On August 9, Belarus intercepted several Ukrainian combat drones over its territory, while some of them were destroyed by Russian forces in the Russian airspace, Belarusian President Aleksandr Lukashenko said.

This material is distributed by Ghebi LLC on behalf of Kart LLC. Additional information is on file with the Department of Justice, Washington, District of Columbia.

Ukraine Considered Kursk Incursion for 'Some Time' Before Launching Attack - Reports

WASHINGTON, August 13 (Sputnik) - Ukraine considered a cross-border incursion into Russia's Kursk region for some time before ultimately launching the attack, Bloomberg reported on Tuesday.

Ukraine weighed several potential plans for an attack that would shock Russia and put the Kremlin on the backfoot, the report said, citing a Western official familiar with the planning.

However, NATO countries to think Ukraine is unlikely to hold any Russian territory in the long term, the report said.

Moreover, Ukraine's decision to divert troops for the incursion could leave Ukraine more vulnerable as Russia advances on strategic positions.

Several high-level Russian officials have warned that Ukraine should expect severe consequences for its incursion into the Kursk region.

US Congressman Paul Gosar told Sputnik on Tuesday that Ukraine's "suicidal cross-border incursion" will do nothing to end the conflict.

This material is distributed by Ghebi LLC on behalf of Kart LLC. Additional information is on file with the Department of Justice, Washington, District of Columbia.

Belarus Calls on EU to Influence Ukraine to Prevent Drone Strike Incidents - Envoy to UN

UNITED NATIONS, August 13 (Sputnik) - Belarus has called on the European Union to influence Ukraine and stop drone strikes within its territory, Belarusian Ambassador to the United Nations Valentin Rybakov said on Tuesday.

"Belarus has consistently called for a peaceful settlement of the crisis, including renegotiations, and calls upon the European Union to take all necessary measures to influence the Ukrainian leadership in order to prevent such incidents being repeated in future," Ryabkov said during an informal UN Security Council meeting.

The meeting was organized by Russia and concerns the crimes by the Ukrainian military and

Received by NSD/FARA Registration Unit 08/14/2024 11:23:33 AM

Received by NSD/FARA Registration Unit 08/14/2024 11:23:33 AM

so-called nationalist battalions.

Rybakov pointed out that a number of the elements of one drone shot into Belarus but downed by the country's air defense showed markings that they were produced by the European Union.

This material is distributed by Ghebi LLC on behalf of Kart LLC. Additional information is on file with the Department of Justice, Washington, District of Columbia.

US Special Envoy Hochstein to Return to Beirut This Week Amid Ceasefire Talks - Reports

WASHINGTON, August 13 (Sputnik) - US Special Envoy Amos Hochstein is returning to Beirut amid ongoing talks for Israel and Hamas to reach a ceasefire and hostage release agreement, Al Arabiya reported on Tuesday.

L'Orient Today reported that Hochstein will arrive in the Lebanese capital on Wednesday.

US Secretary of State Antony Blinken will also return to the Middle East on Tuesday, with stops planned in Israel, Egypt and Qatar, Axios reported.

In addition, White House Coordinator for the Middle East Brett McGurk is scheduled to arrive in Cairo on Tuesday, the report said.

This material is distributed by Ghebi LLC on behalf of Kart LLC. Additional information is on file with the Department of Justice, Washington, District of Columbia.

Russian Church in South Carolina Held Services Amid Hurricane Debby - Priest

WASHINGTON, August 13 (Sputnik) – The clergy and parishioners of the Russian Orthodox Church of Sts. Cyril and Methodius in South Carolina conducted services despite the severe weather conditions, the parish rector, archpriest Anastasy Yatrelis, told Sputnik on Tuesday.

"By God's grace, we served vespers Monday, Tuesday, Wednesday, and Thursday nights, and we served Liturgy on Tuesday, Wednesday, and Friday mornings. Sometimes during services we would have heavy downpours, but there were no unfortunate instances," Father Anastasy said.

The church, one of only two Russian churches in South Carolina, is situated in the city of Summersville, just 23 miles from Charleston, which has experienced major problems due to the hurricane.

The priest pointed out that some areas got over 20 inches of rain, and streets were closed due to flooding.

"A few faithful lost a tree in their yards; power for some was lost for 2 to 6 hours, but there were no injuries," the priest said.

Hurricane Debby hit the US last week and caused widespread power outages across Florida and Georgia.

In response, Florida Governor Ron DeSantis and South Carolina Governor Henry McMaster declared states of emergency.

Received by NSD/FARA Registration Unit 08/14/2024 11:23:33 AM

Received by NSD/FARA Registration Unit 08/14/2024 11:23:33 AM

This material is distributed by Ghebi LLC on behalf of Kart LLC. Additional information is on file with the Department of Justice, Washington, District of Columbia.

Greece Extradites Bulgarian Man to US Over Microelectronics Sent to Russia - Justice Dept

WASHINGTON, August 13 (Sputnik) - A Bulgarian national was extradited from Greece to the United States for sending integrated circuits hardened to withstand radiation to Russia without appropriate US licenses, the US Department of Justice said.

"Bulgarian national Milan Dimitrov, 50, made his initial appearance in a federal court in San Antonio today after being extradited from Greece," the Justice Department said in a press release on Monday.

According to court documents, Dimitrov allegedly conspired with Ilias Sabirov, 52, of Russia, and Dimitar Dimitrov, 74, of Bulgaria, to violate the International Emergency Economic Powers Act (IEEPA) and the Export Control Reform Act (ECRA) in a scheme to procure sensitive radiation-hardened integrated circuits from the United States and illegally export them to Russia through Bulgaria without licenses from the US government, the release said.

"The indictment alleges that between at least May 2014 and May 2018 the defendants used the Bulgarian company Multi Technology Integration Group EEOD (MTIG) to receive export-controlled items from the United States and transship them to Russia without the required licenses," the release said.

Sabirov is the head of two Russian companies called Cosmos Complect and OOO Sovtest Comp. and also controls MTIG, the Justice Department said.

This material is distributed by Ghebi LLC on behalf of Kart LLC. Additional information is on file with the Department of Justice, Washington, District of Columbia.

Ukraine's 'Suicidal' Offensive in Kursk Region Will Not Help End Conflict - US Congressman

WASHINGTON, August 14 (Sputnik) - Ukraine's offensive in Russia's Kursk region will do nothing to achieve peace in the ongoing conflict, US Congressman Paul Gosar said in a statement to Sputnik on Tuesday.

“Ukraine’s suicidal cross border incursion will do nothing to end the horrible war that has claimed the lives of hundreds of thousands of soldiers," Gosar said. "I once again call for peace."

Last week, Ukrainian forces crossed the border into Russia and launched an offensive in the Kursk region, capturing several villages.

On Monday, White House National Security Communications Adviser John Kirby said that the United States continued to have discussions with Ukraine about its military operation in the Kursk region but had no further updates.

The US Defense Department told Sputnik it had no updates to provide on whether US-supplied weapons have been used by Ukraine in the Kursk region.

Russian President Vladimir Putin said Ukraine's operation is another large-scale provocation, accusing Ukraine of firing indiscriminately at civilians.

Twelve civilians have been killed in the attack, and 121 others injured, including ten children,

Received by NSD/FARA Registration Unit 08/14/2024 11:23:33 AM

Received by NSD/FARA Registration Unit 08/14/2024 11:23:33 AM

acting Kursk region Governor Alexei Smirnov said on Monday.
Several high-level Russian officials have warned that Ukraine should expect severe consequences for carrying out its operation in the Kursk region.
Former US Ambassador to Russia John Sullivan told CNN earlier this week that he expects Russia to take decisive action to push the Ukrainian forces out of the Kursk region.

This material is distributed by Ghebi LLC on behalf of Kart LLC. Additional information is on file with the Department of Justice, Washington, District of Columbia.

Netanyahu Ready to Agree to Ceasefire With Hamas - Investigative Journalist Hersh

WASHINGTON, August 13 (Sputnik) - US investigative journalist Seymour Hersh reported on Tuesday that Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu is ready to agree to a ceasefire deal with Hamas.
"An American official told me that Netanyahu, reassured by the US armada and Iran's reluctance so far to respond to the Haniyeh assassination, is said finally to be ready to agree to a ceasefire that, in various forms, has been on the table for months," Hersh wrote on his Substack blog.
The issue of releasing Palestinians imprisoned in Israeli jails had not been agreed upon, he added.
Hersh also said that leaders outside of the United States, including some in Russia and Turkey, were playing a "significant role" in preventing Netanyahu from dragging the Biden administration into a full-scale war across the Middle East.
The region is currently facing heightened fears of further escalations toward a full-scale war after Israel carried out provocative dual assassinations of Hezbollah and Hamas leaders in Beirut and Tehran, respectively, at the end of July. Iran and Hezbollah are expected to launch retaliatory attacks on Israel.
Hersh reported that Hezbollah leader Hassan Nasrallah was "biding his time" and there was unlikely to be a response soon, citing a Lebanese official.

This material is distributed by Ghebi LLC on behalf of Kart LLC. Additional information is on file with the Department of Justice, Washington, District of Columbia.

UAW Says Filed Federal Labor Charges Against Trump, Musk Over Alleged Worker Intimidation

WASHINGTON, August 13 (Sputnik) - The United Auto Workers (UAW) on Tuesday filed federal labor charges against former President Donald Trump and entrepreneur Elon Musk, accusing them of illegal attempts to threaten and intimidate workers involved in protected concerted activities, including strikes.
During an interview on the Spaces platform on Monday, Trump and Musk discussed the topic of firing striking workers. According to UAW, the two advocated for the illegal firing of striking workers.
"The UAW has filed federal labor charges against disgraced billionaires Donald Trump and Elon Musk for their illegal attempts to threaten and intimidate workers who stand up for themselves

Received by NSD/FARA Registration Unit 08/14/2024 11:23:33 AM

Received by NSD/FARA Registration Unit 08/14/2024 11:23:33 AM

by engaging in protected concerted activity, such as strikes," the UAW said in a statement on X. Under federal law, workers cannot be fired for going on strike, and threatening to do so is illegal under the National Labor Relations Act, the statement added.

This material is distributed by Ghebi LLC on behalf of Kart LLC. Additional information is on file with the Department of Justice, Washington, District of Columbia.

Uranium Energy Says Resumes Production at Former Rosatom Mining Facility in Wyoming

WASHINGTON, August 13 (Sputnik) - Uranium Energy Corp (UEC) announced on Tuesday the resumption of uranium production at the Christensen Ranch mining facility in the US state of Wyoming that was previously owned by Russia's nuclear energy corporation Rosatom.

"Uranium Energy Corp is pleased to announce the successful startup of uranium production at its past-producing Christensen Ranch In-Situ Recovery operations in Wyoming," UEC said in a press release. "Production commenced in the previously operated Mine Unit 10 at Christensen Ranch on August 6."

UEC expects to ship the first yellowcake or powdered uranium in November or December, the release said.

The Irigaray plant, located about 15 miles from the Christensen Ranch, will be processing recovered uranium with a licensed capacity of 2.5 million pounds of triuranium octoxide per year, the release added.

UEC acquired the Christensen Ranch in late 2021 from Russian state corporation Rosatom as part of the Biden administration's efforts to repatriate assets to US ownership.

A law banning uranium imports from Russia came into force in the United States on Monday. It was previously approved by the US Congress and signed by President Joe Biden on May 13, but left loopholes for American buyers in the hope of continuing supplies.

The legislative norm is valid until December 31, 2040, after which the ban on uranium imports will be lifted. At the same time, the US Department of Energy, in consultation with the departments of State and Commerce, has the right to make exceptions to continue deliveries in cases where this is in the interests of the United States until January 1, 2028.

This material is distributed by Ghebi LLC on behalf of Kart LLC. Additional information is on file with the Department of Justice, Washington, District of Columbia.

Ukraine Will 'Bitterly Regret' Its Attempt to Invade Kursk Region - Envoy

UNITED NATIONS, August 13 (Sputnik) - The Kiev regime will regret its attempt to invade Russia's Kursk region, Russian Deputy Ambassador Dmitry Polyanskiy said on Tuesday.

"Undoubtedly, this [attempt to invade Kursk region] is a move that Ukraine will bitterly regret," Polyanskiy said during an informal Security Council meeting, organized by Russia, on the topic of crimes of the Ukrainian Armed Forces and the nationalist battalions.

On August 6 at 5:30 a.m. local time, up to 1,000 Ukrainian troops crossed the border into Russia and launched an offensive in the Kursk region, capturing several villages.

Russian President Vladimir Putin said that Kiev has launched a large-scale provocation, firing

Received by NSD/FARA Registration Unit 08/14/2024 11:23:33 AM

Received by NSD/FARA Registration Unit 08/14/2024 11:23:33 AM

indiscriminately at civilian targets.
Twelve civilians have been killed in the attack, and 121 others injured, including 10 children, acting Kursk region governor Alexei Smirnov said on Monday.

This material is distributed by Ghebi LLC on behalf of Kart LLC. Additional information is on file with the Department of Justice, Washington, District of Columbia.

US Congressman Introduces Bill to Bolster Secret Service Security Perimeters - Reports

WASHINGTON, August 13 (Sputnik) - US Congressman Ritchie Torres introduced legislation to expand the range of the US Secret Service's security perimeters in the wake of an assassination attempt against former president Donald Trump, Punchbowl News reported on Tuesday.
The legislation directs the Secret Service to ensure that security perimeters are co-extensive with the firing range of guns likely to be used in assassination attempts and to secure all elevated positions within the range of such firearms, according to a copy of the bill text included in the report.
Torres introduced the bill, dubbed the AR-15 Perimeter Security Enhancement Act, after a shooter attempted to assassinate Trump at a rally in Pennsylvania last month. The shooter wounded Trump's ear, killed one audience member and injured two others.
The Secret Service came under scrutiny following the incident, prompting the agency's director Kimberly Cheatle to resign. Cheatle described the assassination attempt on Trump as the Secret Service's most significant operational failure in decades.
Torres, a member of the Democratic party, represents New York's 15th congressional district in the US House of Representatives.

This material is distributed by Ghebi LLC on behalf of Kart LLC. Additional information is on file with the Department of Justice, Washington, District of Columbia.

US Lifts Restrictions on $750Mln Bomb Shipments to Saudi Arabia - Reports

WASHINGTON, August 13 (Sputnik) - The Biden administration has lifted a ban on bomb shipments to Saudi Arabia worth more than $750 million that have been suspended since 2021 amid the country's war in Yemen, The Wall Street Journal reported on Tuesday, citing US officials.
In the coming months, the United States will dispatch 3,000 small diameter bombs and 7,500 Paveway IV bombs to Saudi Arabia following a more than three-year halt in shipments, the report said.
A $290 million supply of small-diameter, 250-pound bombs will enable the Saudi Arabian military to launch precision strikes, including in urban settings, while the $468 million shipment of Paveway IV bombs provides a capability that exploits lasers and satellites to locate targets.
According to US officials, the bombs will be dropped from US-made fighter jets, with Riyadh planning to acquire more of those aircraft in the coming years.

Received by NSD/FARA Registration Unit 08/14/2024 11:23:33 AM

Received by NSD/FARA Registration Unit 08/14/2024 11:23:33 AM

The United States imposed in 2021 a ban on arms sales to Saudi Arabia over concerns that the weapons could be used against Yemeni civilians during the Saudi-led military coalition's war against Yemen's Ansar Allah movement, whose members are commonly referred to as Houthis.

This material is distributed by Ghebi LLC on behalf of Kart LLC. Additional information is on file with the Department of Justice, Washington, District of Columbia.

Netanyahu's Office Says Israeli Economy Strong After Fitch Downgrades Rating to 'A'

WASHINGTON, August 13 (Sputnik) - Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu's office said on Tuesday that the Israeli economy remains solid and is performing well despite Fitch's downgrade and that the rating will be raised once the country wins the war in the region.

On Monday, Fitch Ratings downgraded Israel's Long-Term Foreign-Currency Issuer Default Rating to "A" from "A+" with a negative outlook. The credit rating agency said that the ongoing war in Gaza was the main factor behind the downgrade.

According to Fitch, another factor that influenced the rating downgrade is the high probability that the conflict in Gaza will continue into 2025, with the risk of spreading to other fronts.

"The Israeli economy is strong and is functioning well. The lowering of the rating is a result of Israel having to cope with a multi-front war that was forced on it. The rating will be raised again when we win – and we will win," Netanyahu's office said in an X post.

On October 7, 2023, Israel came under an unprecedented rocket attack from the Gaza Strip. In addition, Hamas fighters infiltrated the border areas, opened fire on the military and civilians, and took hostages. About 1,200 people were killed during the raid. The Israel Defense Forces launched Operation Iron Swords in the Gaza Strip and announced a complete blockade of the enclave. The death toll from Israeli strikes on the Gaza Strip since October 7 has exceeded 39,900, according to the enclave's health ministry.

Received by NSD/FARA Registration Unit 08/14/2024 11:23:33 AM