



**LONDON (Reuters)** - Britain said on Tuesday it would strengthen the army's long-range capabilities by spending £190 million (\$254.22 million) on the Precision Strike Missile (PrSM) program, buying a weapon which can neutralize targets up to 500 kilometers away. The PrSM procurement will strengthen Britain's contribution to NATO deterrence, Britain's Ministry of Defense said in a statement, adding that the first deliveries could be received in 2027. The next-generation supersonic ballistic missile are built by Lockheed Martin and the program is a collaboration between the U.S. and Australia. Britain said it could join work to further develop the missile in future.

**TOKYO (AFP)** - Japan said Tuesday it expelled two Chinese coast guard ships from waters near disputed islands also claimed by Beijing. The Chinese ships were approaching a Japanese fishing vessel operating in the area, Japan's coast guard said. The two countries have a long-running territorial dispute over the Senkaku Islands — known as the Diaoyu in China — which lie between Taiwan and Japan's Okinawa. They have figured for decades in bilateral tensions, which have worsened since Japanese Prime Minister Sanae Takaichi made comments about Taiwan in November that angered Beijing.

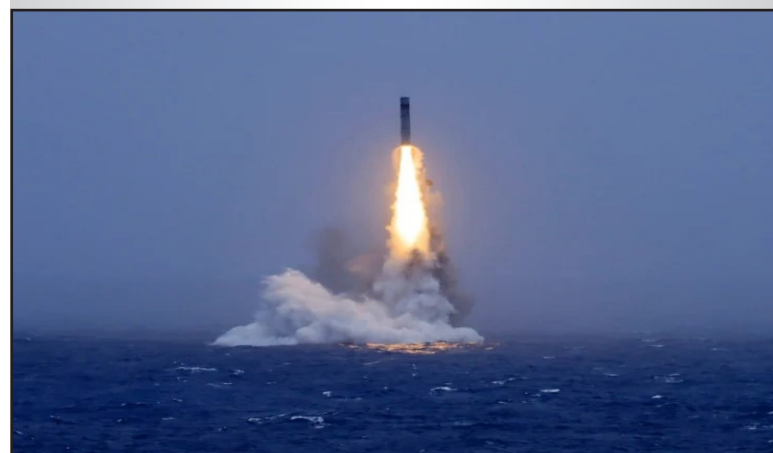
**ISLAMABAD (AFP)** - Pakistani security forces killed 15 militants in a joint clearance operation after an overnight attack on a police post in the country's southwestern Balochistan province left nine police officers dead, a provincial government spokesman said on Tuesday. The assault targeted a police post in the remote Ziarat district, where militants launched a pre-dawn attack that triggered a gunbattle. The attack marked the latest escalation in militant violence in Balochistan, where separatist insurgents and militants have stepped up attacks on security forces in recent years.

**PARIS (Reuters)** - A French appeals court on Tuesday upheld Marine Le Pen's conviction for misusing EU funds but shortened her ban on running for elected office, potentially re-opening a path for the far-right leader to run in the 2027 presidential race. However, the court ruled Le Pen serve a three-year jail term. Although the court said two years were suspended, it ordered her to wear an electronic ankle tag for one year, making a presidential campaign politically and logistically difficult.

**CARACAS (AFP)** - The death toll from Venezuela's twin earthquakes has risen to 3,535, authorities said, while nearly 18,000 people remain homeless more than a week after the disaster struck the capital and nearby coastal areas. Top lawmaker Jorge Rodriguez said the latest official tally showed 16,740 people injured and 17,854 left without housing after the June 24 quakes, which measured magnitudes 7.2 and 7.5 and struck within seconds of each other. The new figures underscore the scale of the disaster in and around Caracas and La Guaira, the coastal area hit hardest, as criticism mounts over the government's response.

**NEW YORK (Reuters)** - The World Health Organization warned on Tuesday that Europe could face "more deadly weeks" ahead, with another intense heatwave forming over the Atlantic. Here are more details: Temperatures in Portugal and southern Spain are expected to climb to 43 degrees Celsius (109 degrees Fahrenheit) in the coming days. WHO Regional Director for Europe Hans Kluge held an emergency call on Monday with representatives from 41 countries in the region, the European Commission and civil society groups to discuss lessons from the recent heatwave and preparations for the next one. Kluge said in a statement that countries with heat-health action plans in place responded more quickly and better protected their populations during the June heatwave. However, he said that less than half of WHO's European member states had such a plan in place.

## China Conducts Submarine-Launched Ballistic Missile Test



An image released by the Chinese PLA Navy shows a ballistic missile test, July 6, 2026.

**BEIJING (RT)** - A Chinese nuclear submarine has launched a long-range ballistic missile with a dummy warhead into the Pacific Ocean, marking the first test of the kind since 2024.

"This test launch is a routine part of the Chinese PLA Navy's annual training," Navy spokesman Wang Xueming said in a statement. "The Chinese side notified relevant countries in advance."

"This test launch complies with international law and international practice and is not directed at any specific country or target," Wang added.

The spokesman said the missile "landed precisely within the designated waters." CNN, citing a regional source, reported that it landed near the exclusive economic zone of either Kiribati or Tuvalu.

The U.S., Australia, New Zealand, and Japan condemned the test as a dangerous escalation. U.S. State Department spokesman Thomas Pigott said "Beijing's rapid and opaque nuclear weapons build-up is of great concern to the region and the world." Australian Foreign Minister Penny Wong accused China of destabilizing the region, describing its military activities as "lacking in transparency and reassurance."

Chinese Foreign Ministry spokeswoman Mao Ning pushed back against the criticism, saying the test was conducted in "a safe, standard and professional manner." She urged all countries to "not read too much into it."

The U.S. and China have exchanged warm gestures in recent months. U.S. President Donald Trump met with Chinese President Xi Jinping in Beijing in May during a visit that both sides said was cordial. Trump stated on Monday that he expects Xi to visit the U.S. in

late September. Xi earlier congratulated Trump on the 250th anniversary of the U.S. Declaration of Independence.

Nevertheless, tensions have persisted. In May, the U.S. imposed new sanctions on Chinese oil companies allegedly involved in trade with Iran and blacklisted another batch of entities the following month that it accused of supplying weapons to Iran's Islamic Revolutionary Guard Corps. China responded by sanctioning ten U.S. companies involved in the defense, aerospace, and rare-earth mining sectors.

China has also condemned the U.S.-Israel war against Iran and the U.S. energy blockade of Cuba as violations of international law.

Australia on Tuesday said China's test launch of a nuclear-capable ballistic missile into the South Pacific reflected "the biggest military build-up in our region since World War II."

Defense Industry Minister Pat Conroy said the Chinese government had been planning the long-range test for "some time" but only informed Australia a few hours beforehand, Anadolu Agency reported.

China said on Monday it had successfully conducted the test launch of a strategic missile from a nuclear submarine, hours after Beijing notified several Pacific nations of the planned test.

The launch marks China's second strategic missile test since it fired an intercontinental ballistic missile (ICBM) into the Pacific Ocean in September 2024, the first such test since 1980.

The launch came just hours after Australia and Fiji signed a major defense alliance committing each country to come to the other's aid if either is attacked.

## Cuba Begins to Restore Power to Havana Following Nationwide Blackout



An electrician works on the power grid during a nationwide power outage in Havana.

**HAVANA (Reuters)** - Cuba began to slowly restore power after the country's national electric grid collapsed earlier on Monday, the latest blow to an island already suffering from severe energy, fuel and medicine shortages.

Grid operator UGEC said it was providing electricity to some vital services, including hospitals and food production centers, but by late afternoon was able to serve only 1% of the capital Havana's demand.

Officials have not yet said what caused the grid to collapse.

Cuba has for months suffered from hours-long and, more recently, days-long power outages linked in part to a decrepit grid and a U.S.-imposed oil blockade that has cut off the island's fuel supply.

The nationwide outage and slow recovery are more bad news for Cubans already exhausted from rolling blackouts that make it impossible for many to work or sleep in the Carib-

bean summer heat.

Nearly two-thirds of the country was already without power when the grid collapsed on Monday, so many of the island's residents, largely without communications and accustomed to the lack of electricity, hardly registered the difference.

The administration of U.S. President Donald Trump cut off fuel shipments from Venezuela to Cuba earlier this year and also pressured Mexico to halt shipments, and has threatened to slap tariffs on any nation delivering oil to the island nation.

The U.S. has called Cuba's government a national security threat and says such sanctions are necessary to force a change in the island's government, a long-time aim of U.S. policy toward Cuba.

Cuba, 90 miles (145 km) off the shores of the Florida Keys, has long maintained it is not a threat to the United States.

# NATO Summit Begins as Trump Puts Pressure on Spending



NATO Secretary General Mark Rutte speaks at the NATO Summit Defense Industry Forum, on the sidelines of the NATO leaders' Summit, in Ankara, Turkey, July 7, 2026.

**ISTANBUL (Dispatches)** - The 36th NATO heads of State and Government Summit opened in Ankara on Tuesday with the NATO Summit Defense Industry Forum, placing defense production, industrial capacity and joint procurement at the front of the Alliance agenda for the first time.

NATO leaders gathered in Ankara after a turbulent six months, hoping — in the case of the other 31 members of the alliance — to mollify an unpredictable Donald Trump, as Washington continues to pressure its allies to increase defense spending.

On Monday, Mark Rutte, NATO's secretary general, called for the allies to present "clear, concrete and credible plans" to reach the organization's spending targets. "President Trump fully expects that all allies will step up immediately and get on the path to 5% and do it with urgency," he said.

NATO members will unveil tens of billions in new arms contracts at an industry forum on the sidelines of the summit, as they attempt to show Trump that they are delivering on defense spending pledges.

On Tuesday, U.S. President Donald Trump said he was disappointed with NATO allies as he arrived in Ankara, capital of Türkiye, for the alliance's summit.

Answering journalists' questions before a meeting with Turkish President Recep Tayyip Erdogan at the Presidential Complex, Trump sharply criticized European allies.

Stating that Italy, France, and Germany "let us down," Trump asked, "So why are we spending hundreds of thousands of dollars, and they didn't come to our aid?"

Erdogan said during the meeting that Turkey was making every effort to stabilize Iran-U.S. relations.

The reluctance of European countries to send warships to support U.S. efforts to "reopen" the Strait of Hormuz had prompted criticism from Trump, who harshly accused European allies of benefiting from U.S. security guarantees while refusing to offer help in the Iran war.

The summit also is expected to agree that allies will commit a largely symbolic €70bn in military aid to Ukraine this year and next, though this largely reflects commitments already made to a country that has no pathway to joining NATO.

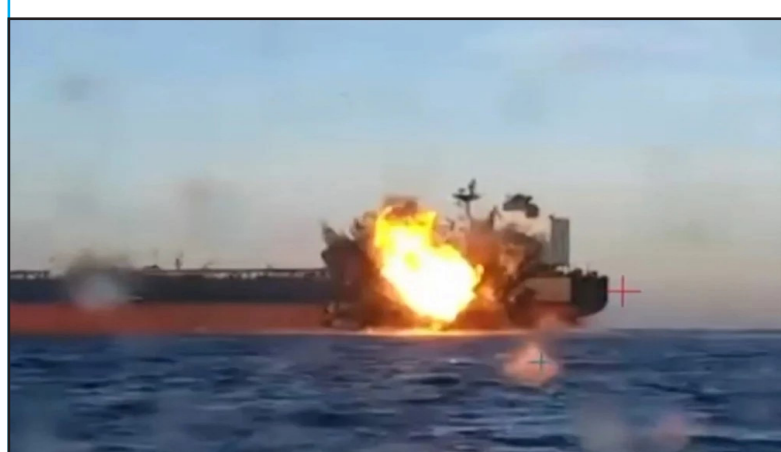
When Rutte met Trump in the Oval Office last month, he brought along a couple of large cardboard panels, illustrating how much the non-US members of Nato had been spending since the U.S. president started to complain about Europe free-riding on U.S. defense outlay.

Rutte highlighted a chart referring to "the Trump trillion" — the cumulative amount spent on defence by European members and Canada since the two-time president first took office in 2017.

The elementary communication was intended to show, in Rutte's words, that Trump "is successful in terms of getting the Europeans to spend more". But with transatlantic relations already at a low, and with the US keen to ensure steps are being taken to honour the 3.5% commitment, a diplomatically harmonious summit cannot be guaranteed.

On Friday, Trump posted a graphic on his Truth Social platform showing NATO members' defense budgets, comparing a vast U.S. spend of \$999bn with smaller figures from European states including the UK and France.

## Russia Hits 144 Ukrainian Targets as Kyiv Strikes Russian 'Shadow Fleet' Tankers



Images put out by the Ukraine Security Service show what it says are sea drone attacks on tankers in the Black Sea that Kyiv believes were transporting sanctioned Russian oil.

**MOSCOW (Xinhua)** — Russia said on Tuesday that its armed forces struck Ukrainian port facilities, energy infrastructure, logistics centers and temporary deployment sites of Ukrainian armed formations and foreign mercenaries in 144 areas overnight, while Kyiv claimed

attacks on a group of eight fuel tankers of the Russian so-called "shadow fleet" in the Sea of Azov.

Russia's Defense Ministry said in a statement that the strikes were conducted with operational-tactical aviation, strike drones, missiles and artillery.

Russian forces also seized the settlement of Petro-Ivanovka in the Kharkov region, according to the statement.

Meanwhile, Russian air defense forces shot down 11 guided aerial bombs, 27 HIMARS multiple launch rocket system projectiles, two Neptune long-range guided missiles and 797 fixed-wing unmanned aerial vehicles. Russia's Black Sea Fleet destroyed six Ukrainian unmanned surface vessels, it added.

Ukraine's Unmanned Systems Forces said in a statement that the attacked vessels, which are under international sanctions, were transporting fuel to Crimea. Each tanker has a deadweight of about 7,000 tons and is nearly 140 meters long.

Ukraine's forces also struck a dry cargo ship in the Sea of Azov and a ferry near Crimea in separate attacks, the statement said.

The strikes on Russia's maritime logistics are aimed at complicating the delivery of fuel and ammunition to Russian troops, it said.

On Monday, Ukraine reported that it had struck two Russian tankers transporting fuel from Russia's Taganrog to Crimea.

## UN's Guterres Warns AI Outpacing Oversight, Urges Global Rules to Protect Children

**GENEVA (Reuters)** - UN Secretary-General Antonio Guterres has warned that artificial intelligence is developing faster than anyone can keep up, calling for globally harmonized rules to reduce potential risks — especially to children.

"A technology that can reshape economies, transform the world of work, sway elections and tilt the balance of security is being deployed faster than anyone, including the people building it, can keep up," Guterres told delegates at the first-ever government-level global dialogue on AI in Geneva.

"Innovation needs guardrails ... If AI is to be powerful, it must be governed," Guterres told delegates.

The two-day inaugural UN Global Dialogue on AI Governance is not intended to forge a treaty, but to discuss how to set rules to mitigate the potential harms of AI and take advantage of its opportunities.

Delegates will consider a report by a UN-backed independent scientific panel of 40 experts, who will present findings from the first global, independent scientific assessment of AI.

A more comprehensive report is planned

next year, alongside a second global meeting in New York.

Guterres stressed that globally harmonized rules on AI must prioritize safety for children after examples of minors being steered towards self-harm and being deceived by machines posing as friends.

"We do not let medicine reach a child until it is proven safe. We test every toy. Yet AI has reached our children — their learning, their friendships, their most private questions — before anyone asked what it would do to them," he said.

He called for an AI Child Safety Pledge, where companies building systems would have to prove they are safe before making them accessible to children.

Systems should also not be allowed to generate sexual images of children, and when a child shows signs of distress, the system should stop and connect them to a human for help.

While AI poses significant opportunities, such as in healthcare, Guterres said world's institutions were not prepared for machines that make decisions, and that AI's breakneck speed of development meant ma-

chines were increasingly making choices with little human or government oversight.

"The internet took 15 years to reach a billion people. AI got there in two," Guterres told delegates.

He also warned about the concentration of the most advanced AI systems within a handful of companies and countries, meaning developing countries have little say in the progress of AI and risk being left behind.

The independent report of scientific experts found that AI development is even more concentrated, with the U.S. accounting for 75% of the computing power among the world's top 500 AI supercomputers, and China 15%.

While globally over a billion people now use conversational AI weekly, adoption in developing countries lags, the report added.

Guterres said that if used well, AI could compress decades of development into years, potentially becoming "the great equalizer of the twenty-first century."

The head of Libya's Presidential Council, Mohamed al-Menfi, urged that the AI gap be closed in Africa, which accounts for 10% of the world's population but only possesses fewer than 2% of global data centers.