

News Digest

TUESDAY . SEPTEMBER 15, 2026

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US Military Confirms Deployment of Weapons in Orbit

The US military has officially acknowledged deploying weapons into Earth's orbit for the first time, marking a significant escalation in space defense capabilities. US Air Force Secretary Troy Meink announced that the military now possesses on-orbit space control weapons designed to protect national security interests against hostile adversaries. The US Space Force is actively developing and deploying these systems to counter potential threats from nations such as China and Russia, who are also expanding their space capabilities. These weapons include directed-energy systems like lasers and radio frequency jammers, as well as kinetic weapons capable of physically destroying targets. General Chance Saltzman, the former head of the Space Force, has acknowledged that the US is pursuing multiple categories of these technologies

while expressing interest in developing them all. The Space Force has revealed its first acknowledged weapon system, a ground-based mobile satellite jammer called Meadowlands, which could precede space-based kinetic weapons. This deployment represents a shift from previous US policy that disavowed the destruction of satellites due to the potential for creating harmful space debris. However, some experts argue that non-debris-generating alternatives may not be effective enough to counter growing threats. The move is part of a broader effort to secure US interests in space and establish a robust deterrence strategy amidst escalating global tensions. Officials have preferred counterspace weapons that do not generate debris, but the risk of destabilization in the space domain remains a primary concern for international observers. The announcement has significant implications for the global space landscape and raises the potential for future conflict in the orbital environment.

Sources Ars Technica TechCrunch

Boston Drops Flock Amid Surveillance Abuse Scandal

Boston has decided to terminate its contract with surveillance vendor Flock Safety after discovering the company shared license plate data nationwide in violation of their agreement. The Boston Police Department stated that vendors must agree not to share license plate reader data and to erase recordings after 30 days, constraints that Flock allegedly breached. This decision follows an analysis by the EFF which found that police officers across the US are accessing sensitive data without legitimate justification. The EFF discovered officers using frivolous reasons such as LOL and idk to search through the Automated License Plate Reader logs. Flock Safety's new system, implemented in 2025, reportedly did not require proof that the selected reason for a search matched the actual purpose. Boston Police Commissioner Michelle Wu emphasized the need for a publicly approved policy to guarantee civil liberties and safety while using such technology. The city will continue to use license plate cameras only if there are appropriate constraints in place to protect residents. This finding highlights a broader lack of transparency and accountability in law enforcement's use of surveillance technology. Cities are already dropping Flock at an accelerating pace due to concerns about out-of-control surveillance and unauthorized data sharing. The incident underscores the high costs and potential for abuse associated with widespread surveillance networks. Techdirt reports that some cops are treating the mass surveillance system as a joke, further eroding public trust. The scandal matters because it brings into question the integrity of data handling by private security contractors working with public agencies.

Sources Ars Technica Techdirt

SpaceX Sets Date for First Starship Orbital Flight

SpaceX is preparing to launch its 14th Starship mission as early as September 22, aiming to become the first company to send the experimental vehicle into orbit. The mission will carry 26 V3 Starlink satellites into orbit, representing a significant milestone in the company's Starship development campaign. The launch is scheduled to take place from Texas with a target liftoff time of 7:15 am local time, pending regulatory approval. SpaceX is making specific modifications to the Starship vehicle, including hardware improvements to the engines and software changes to enhance reflight reliability. The company has made progress in recent test flights, including a successful boostback burn, though it experienced problems during the return through Earth's atmosphere. This upcoming mission marks a critical step towards developing a fully reusable, super heavy lift rocket capable of revolutionizing space travel. A successful orbit would demonstrate a major breakthrough in the company's mission to drastically reduce the cost of satellite deployment. With

regulatory approval pending, SpaceX is one step closer to achieving its ambitious goals for interplanetary transport. The launch is expected to bring striking imagery as the Starship passes over the Earth's surface during its orbital trajectory. Engineers have been working diligently to ensure the vehicle can withstand the stresses of orbital flight and reentry. This development matters as it could shape the future of the space industry and enable new missions to the Moon and Mars.

Sources Ars Technica

Voters Overwhelmingly Oppose AI Data Centers

New poll data from The New York Times and Siena University reveals that 61% of likely voters oppose the construction of data centers to power AI technology. Only 14% of those surveyed strongly support the construction of these facilities, indicating widespread public resistance to the infrastructure behind artificial intelligence. The opposition is widespread across demographics, with even Trump voters divided 49-45% and people who voted for Kamala Harris leaning strongly against data centers. Reasons for opposition include environmental concerns, the impact on local communities, and a general distrust of AI technology among the populace. AI ranked low on the list of most important issues for voters in deciding their midterm vote, yet it dominates public opinion regarding infrastructure projects. Despite the low ranking, AI and data centers still drive significant sentiment, with many voters expressing distrust or dislike of AI systems. Younger voters between the ages of 18 and 29 showed a higher level of interest, though only 3% explicitly preferred data centers. The results indicate that voters trust their own party to handle the issue, with 40% favoring Democrats and 42% favoring Republicans. Overall, the poll highlights the growing public unease with AI and data centers, which is driving opposition to their construction. The findings have significant implications for policymakers and the tech industry as they plan future expansions. Politicians are advised to be responsive to these concerns to avoid backlash during upcoming elections. The data suggests that while AI is not a top voting issue, its physical footprint is becoming a contentious local political battle.

Sources The Verge

Meta Launches AI-Focused Subscription Tiers

Meta has introduced a new subscription service called Meta One, offering expanded AI usage and premium features across Facebook, Instagram, and WhatsApp. The plans are aimed at monetizing Meta's Muse AI models and are part of the company's efforts to generate revenue through subscription tiers. Key features include AI-powered tools for image and video creation, editing, and voice effects designed for businesses and creators. The plans are expected to boost Meta's top line and help recoup its massive AI investments over the coming years. Estimates suggest the company could add \$13.5 billion in revenue by 2028 through these new subscription channels. The plans are available now, with pricing starting at \$2.99 per month for WhatsApp Plus and \$19.99 per month for the Premium plan. Meta's subscription push has already led to significant increases in revenue, with Instagram's daily worldwide revenue reaching \$1.2 million. Facebook's daily revenue from these initiatives has reached \$528,000, signaling strong early adoption among users. Meta plans to expand its features and agent skills to help businesses and creators, including the introduction of Edits Plus to its content-creation app. The plans are expected to benefit Meta's growth and competitiveness in the market against other tech giants. Alexandr Wang, the CEO of Scale AI, is among the key figures involved in the broader AI ecosystem supporting these developments. This move signifies a major shift in how social media platforms intend to monetize advanced artificial intelligence tools.

Also in Technology

Demand for EV chargers is outstripping supply, says ChargePoint report

<https://arstechnica.com/cars/2026/09/ev-charging-infrastructure-is-still-lagging-adoption-repo...>

Reservations Go Live for Valve's Steam Frame VR Headset. An Experiment in Progress?

<https://games.slashdot.org/story/26/09/14/2019212/reservations-go-live-for-valves-steam-frame-...>

Health benefits platform Thatch reaches \$1B valuation as healthcare costs surge

<https://techcrunch.com/2026/09/15/health-benefits-platform-thatch-reaches-1b-valuation-as-heal...>

AI agents now have a place to snitch

<https://techcrunch.com/2026/09/15/ai-agents-now-have-a-place-to-snitch/>

Now Light’s minimalist phone can easily call an Uber

<https://www.theverge.com/gadgets/995449/light-phone-uber-lyft-rideshare-app>

Kia’s electric van lineup is getting more interesting with reveal of PV7

<https://www.theverge.com/transportation/995608/kia-pv7-electric-van-specs-sale>

Nitter and XCancel are dead (again) after X’s latest legal actions

<https://techcrunch.com/2026/09/15/nitter-and-xcancel-are-dead-again-after-xs-latest-legal-actions/>

India ends free ride for larger transactions on its ubiquitous digital payments network

<https://techcrunch.com/2026/09/15/india-ends-free-ride-for-larger-transactions-on-its-ubiquito...>

Helion funding round grows to \$500M amid uncertainty over fusion startup’s Microsoft timeline

<https://www.geekwire.com/2026/helion-funding-round-grows-to-500m-amid-uncertainty-over-fusion-...>

Volvo increases the batteries for 2028 XC60 and XC90 plug-in refresh

<https://arstechnica.com/cars/2026/09/volvo-bigs-up-the-batteries-for-2028-xc60-and-xc90-plug-i...>

Violence și arestări la protestul fermierilor din Piața Victoriei

Protestul fermierilor din Piața Victoriei a degenerat într-o situație de violență extremă. Jandarmii au intervenit pentru a restabili ordinea publică în capitală. Liderul instigatorilor, Ciprian Pamfile, a fost ridicat și reținut de autorități. În total, 47 de persoane au fost reținute în urma haosului generalizat. Zece jandarmi au fost răniți în timpul confruntărilor cu manifestanții. Siguranța jurnaliștilor a fost compromisă, mai multe echipe fiind agresate. O echipă Realitatea Plus a fost atacată de persoane cu fețele acoperite. De asemenea, o jurnalistă Snoop a fost amenințată și lovită cu o piatră. Președintele Nicușor Dan a condamnat ferm violențele extrem de grave. El a subliniat că instigarea la violență este la fel de condamnabilă. Ministrul interimar al Agriculturii a declarat că protestul a fost deturnat. Tanczos Barna a menționat că actele de vandalism nu reprezintă fermierii. Asociațiile oierilor s-au dezis de protest și l-au acuzat pe Ciobanul Ionică. Aceștia susțin că nu au venit să bată pe nimeni în Piața Victoriei. Lideri AUR au explicat prezența membrilor lor ca o solidaritate cu nemulțumiții. Autoritățile au transmis că la protest nu a participat nicio asociație reprezentativă. Guvernul face apel la calm și la încetarea imediată a violențelor.

Sources Antena 3 Antena 3 HotNews.ro Biziday

Kremlinul vrea să transfere soldați în Transnistria, Moldova sub amenințare

Presa din Polonia anunță că Kremlinul vrea să transfere mii de soldați în Transnistria. Moldova ar fi următoarea țintă a lui Putin conform acestor informații. Oficialii moldoveni văd această mișcare ca o amenințare directă la adresa securității. Fostul ministru al Apărării Anatol Șalaru a avertizat asupra intențiilor Rusiei. Situația este exacerbată de poziția geografică a Moldovei în estul Europei. Capitala Chișinău se află la o distanță mică față de zona de operațiuni. Săptămâna trecută, drone au ținut trecerea de frontieră cu Ucraina. Aceste atacuri au cauzat daune infrastructurii și au ucis civili. Ministerul Apărării al Rusiei a negat implicarea în atacurile recente. Fostul director CIA David Petraeus a avertizat asupra vulnerabilității Moldovei. El consideră că Moldova este mai vulnerabilă decât Lituania în fața planurilor lui Putin. Activitățile militare ruse în Ucraina și Moldova ridică semne de întrebare. Stabilitatea regională este pusă sub semnul întrebării de aceste provocări. Transferul de trupe ar putea schimba echilibrul de forțe în regiune. Autoritățile de la Chișinău monitorizează îndeaproape mișcările trupelor. Alianții occidentali sunt alertați privind potențiala escaladare a conflictului. Acest scenariu subliniază riscurile de securitate pentru vecinii Ucrainei.

Sources Antena 3

Platforma WorkinRomania, blocată după decizia Curții de Apel

Platforma WorkinRomania a fost blocată după o decizie a Curții de Apel. Ministerul Muncii a dezactivat platforma în urma suspendării unui ordin. Ordinul viza lista ocupațiilor deficitare pentru muncitorii străini. Decizia a venit după ce Patronatul Importatorilor Forței de Muncă a contestat lista. Angajatorii nu mai pot finaliza procedurile de înregistrare și autorizare. Submiterea cererilor pentru vize de muncă este acum imposibilă prin acest sistem. Ministerul Muncii a făcut recurs împotriva deciziei instanței. Autoritățile încearcă să limiteze restricțiile doar la operațiunile afectate. Se solicită

identificarea cererilor existente pentru a clarifica gestionarea lor. Ministerul va continua colaborarea cu Ministerul Afacerilor Interne pentru soluții. Această situație afectează direct angajatorii și angajații din România. Impactul se resimte și în piața mai largă a forței de muncă. Blocajul evidențiază importanța reglementărilor pentru employmentul străin. Procedurile administrative sunt cruciale pentru funcționarea sistemului. Rezultatul final va avea implicații pentru piața muncii locale. Sistemul de securitate socială ar putea fi și el influențat de aceste schimbări. Incertitudinea juridică creează dificultăți pentru companiile care recrută extern.

Sources Antena 3

Intervenție fără precedent a Parchetului General într-un dosar de la Craiova

Parchetul General a intervenit fără precedent într-un dosar de la Craiova. Procurorul General Cristina Chiriac a cerut suspendarea cazului de la Curtea de Apel. Dosarul a fost strămutat apoi la Curtea de Apel București în timp record. Motivarea a fost lipsa de imparțialitate a judecătorului de la Craiova. Judecătoarea Sorina Marinaș exprimase îngrijorări privind imparțialitatea colegilor. Decizia instanței supreme a fost criticată de mulți procurori din sistem. Aceștia văd intervenția ca o încercare de preluare a puterii de către Procuror. Mișcarea subminează independența judecătorilor conform criticilor din CSM. Rolul Procurorului General este pus sub semnul întrebării de această inițiativă. Cazul implică o femeie care contestă o ruling într-un dosar de corupție. Mai mulți magistrați sunt implicați în acest dosar de corupție. Jurisdicția Procurorului General de a iniția astfel de cereri este contestată. Precedentul creat poate afecta viitoarele procese din sistemul judiciar. Încrederea publică în justiție poate fi erodată de astfel de intervenții. Consiliul Superior al Magistraturii a reacționat față de această decizie. Transparența procesului de strămutare este esențială pentru legitimitate. Experții juridici analizează implicațiile pe termen lung ale acestei decizii.

Sources HotNews.ro

Also in Romania

Analiză FT: Politica “Fabricat în Europa” a UE, concepută pentru protejarea împotriva concurenței neloiale din partea Chinei, amenință să excludă și companiile britanice din lanțurile critice de aprovizionare. Subiectul a fost abordat recent de premierul britanic și de președintele francez.

https://www.biziday.ro/368999-2/?utm_source=rss&utm_medium=rss&utm_campaign=368999-2

Marea Baltică. O fregată rusească a tras două rachete de semnalizare înspre un elicopter al armatei Danemarcei, în apele internaționale, luni. Una dintre ele a trecut la mică distanță de elicopter. Ambasadorul rus la Copenhaga a fost convocat pentru explicații.

https://www.biziday.ro/368934-2/?utm_source=rss&utm_medium=rss&utm_campaign=368934-2

Kremlinul i-a avertizat pe politicienii din Occident care merg în Ucraina: Să evalueze cu seriozitate riscurile de a călători acolo

<https://www.antena3.ro/externe/kremlinul-i-a-avertizat-pe-politicienii-din-occident-care-merg-...>

Parlamentul European i-a ridicat imunitatea eurodeputatului polonez Grzegorz Braun, după ce a negat Holocaustul

<https://www.antena3.ro/externe/parlamentul-european-i-a-ridicat-imunitatea-eurodeputatului-pol...>

Transformarea unor uzine auto în huburi de producție de armament va atenua, dar nu va curma suferința din industria auto europeană

<https://www.zf.ro/business-international/transformarea-unor-uzine-auto-in-huburi-de-productie-...>

Un startup american a dezvăluit drona „low-cost” care să înlocuiască celebrele drone de atac MQ-9 Reaper

[https://hotnews.ro/un-startup-american-a-dezvaluit-drona-low-cost-care-sa-inlocuiasca-celebrele...](https://hotnews.ro/un-startup-american-a-dezvaluit-drona-low-cost-care-sa-inlocuiasca-celebrele-...)

Energie verde la preț de termocentrală. Miile de megawați verzi devin fără valoare când nu e vânt sau soare. Golurile se umplu cu cărbuni și gaze pe factura consumatorilor

<https://www.zf.ro/companii/energie/energie-verde-la-pret-de-termocentrala-miile-de-megawati-ve...>

China aprobă primul standard din lume pentru interfața creier-calculator, pe baza Inteligenței Artificiale

[https://www.antena3.ro/externe/china-aproba-primul-standard-din-lume-pentru-interfata-creier-c...](https://www.antena3.ro/externe/china-aproba-primul-standard-din-lume-pentru-interfata-creier-c-...)

Finance 5 dispatches . 7 in brief

Fed Chair Warsh Faces Credibility Test as Rate Hike Expectations Surge

The US Federal Reserve is now pricing in a near-certain probability of a rate hike in September, marking a pivotal moment for Fed Chair Warsh's credibility. Expectations have shifted dramatically to anticipate 3-4 hikes in total before the end of 2027, driven by Warsh's hawkish speech at Jackson Hole. This surprise stance has intensified inflation concerns despite some positive labor market data. Recent core CPI reports showed a larger-than-expected increase, suggesting inflation remains stubbornly out of control. Consequently, US 10-year bond yields have surpassed 5%, with overnight index swaps implying a near certainty of immediate action. Markets are translating these inflation pressures into expectations of a higher policy rate path, leaving little room for maneuver. Rabobank and Goldman Sachs now argue the Fed must focus on inflation rather than looking through supply shocks. Rabobank has adjusted its forecast to expect one rate hike in 2026, reversing previous predictions of zero hikes. Warsh's speech has created a scenario where a hike is necessary to satisfy markets and hawks within the FOMC. However, this move risks alienating the White House, complicating the Fed's political standing. The central bank faces a difficult decision that will impact its credibility with markets, the administration, and its own committee. Ultimately, Warsh has painted himself into a corner where maintaining credibility requires aggressive action. The coming weeks will test whether the Fed can navigate this inflation episode without triggering broader economic instability. Rising crude oil prices are further complicating the inflation landscape for policymakers. Market participants are closely watching for signals on how the Fed will balance these competing pressures.

Sources ZeroHedge ZeroHedge

Related [Saudi Arabia Cancels Europe Crude Cargoes Amid Pipeline Attack Crisis](#)

Saudi Arabia Cancels Europe Crude Cargoes Amid Pipeline Attack Crisis

Saudi Arabia has canceled its September-loading crude cargoes to Europe, citing critical disruptions to its East-West pipeline following a drone attack. This move is expected to severely worsen Europe's existing diesel shortage, with prices reaching as high as \$9-\$11 per gallon in some markets. The pipeline's closure has significantly narrowed the kingdom's options for maintaining export volumes to Western allies. Saudi Arabia is now seeking to move more crude through the highly contested Strait of Hormuz to compensate for the loss. The US Navy is currently escorting vessels through the Oman shipping corridor to support these increased shipments. While exports had recovered to 4 million barrels a day in early September, a substantial export shortfall remains. The kingdom faces two primary options: restore the East-West pipeline or sharply increase Gulf shipments under naval protection. The pipeline's closure is expected to continue supporting oil prices for the foreseeable future. Europe's energy supply outlook is deteriorating rapidly, with low natural gas stockpiles heading into the Northern Hemisphere winter. A global refining crisis, combined with disruptions to Russian fuel production, is compounding supply constraints across the Middle East. This energy crisis highlights the fragility of global supply chains amidst geopolitical tensions. Market participants are bracing for sustained volatility as winter approaches. The situation underscores the strategic importance of secure energy routes. Higher energy costs may feed back into inflation data monitored by central banks.

Sources [ZeroHedge](#)

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Canadian Manufacturers Flee to US as Tariffs Bite Under Carney Administration

Canadian manufacturers are setting plans to move production out of the country as US tariffs hit hard under the current trade dispute. Prime Minister Mark Carney's handling of the situation is causing significant harm to Canadian businesses and workers. Many companies are relocating operations to the US specifically to avoid punitive 50% tariffs. Estimates suggest that 42% of Canadian companies will move at least part of their operations to the US, with some shutting down entirely. The US remains a significant trade partner for Canada, with 78% of Canada's export sales going to the American market. The situation is exacerbated by Carney's assertion that negotiations are off the table, leaving no room for speculation or compromise. Critics suggest Carney's approach may be a political ploy to help Democrats win in the US midterm elections rather than a genuine attempt to resolve the dispute. The Canadian government's heavy reliance on the US for trade makes it challenging to find practical alternatives quickly. In contrast, Mexico has successfully navigated its trade relationship with the US through fair negotiations and cooperation. Provinces such as Quebec and Ontario are facing significant job losses as a result of the exodus. The article concludes that average Canadians will pay the price for Carney's lack of diplomacy. This shift represents a major restructuring of North American supply chains. The long-term economic impact on Canada could be profound. Investors are reassessing exposure to Canadian industrial sectors. Trade volatility remains a key risk factor for the region.

Sources [ZeroHedge](#)

Blackstone Targets \$8 Billion for Green Infrastructure Credit Fund

Blackstone Inc. is seeking to raise at least \$8 billion for its fourth iteration of a private credit fund focused on renewable and digital infrastructure investments. The new fund will provide loans to companies operating in the energy transition marketplace. Key sectors include energy security, power and utilities, data centers, and chip financing. This fund is the latest iteration of Blackstone's efforts to invest in renewable and digital infrastructure investments. The organization is known for its involvement in various industries, including energy, technology, and real estate. The fund's focus aligns with the growing need for sustainable and efficient energy solutions globally. By targeting private credit, Blackstone aims to capitalize on the demand for non-bank lending in these sectors. The success of this fund will impact Blackstone's investment strategy significantly. It also reflects a broader trend among asset managers to prioritize ESG-adjacent infrastructure. The firm's ability to support companies in the energy transition marketplace is being closely watched by peers. This move underscores the financial sector's role in funding the green economy. Investors are showing strong appetite for infrastructure credit despite higher rates. The fund closing will be a key metric for private capital flows in 2026. Liquidity in private markets remains robust for targeted themes. Institutional investors are increasingly allocating to private credit vehicles.

Sources Bloomberg Markets

EPA Repeals Biden-Era Carbon Rules to Boost Power Production

The Environmental Protection Agency has finalized a rule repealing most of the carbon-emission limits for coal- and natural gas-fired power plants. The aim of the proposal is to save \$310.4 billion in compliance costs for the energy sector. Announced at the G20 energy event in Houston, the rule would allow the US to build power-generating infrastructure to meet rapidly rising demand. EPA Administrator Lee Zeldin stated that the changes would lead to decreased electricity prices and more jobs. The rule repeals most of the greenhouse-gas emission standards adopted by the Biden administration for existing coal-fired power plants. It also covers new natural gas-fired plants, loosening restrictions on future development. The EPA also proposed a separate rule concluding that emissions from fossil-fuel power plants do not contribute significantly to dangerous air pollution. This move has been met with opposition from the Natural Resources Defense Council, which argues it would increase pollution. The proposal is part of a larger effort by the Trump administration to promote fossil fuels and expand energy production. This expansion is particularly targeted at supporting artificial intelligence data centers which require massive power. The EPA's action has significant implications for the future of US energy policy. It marks a decisive shift away from previous climate regulations. The role of the Clean Air Act in regulating power sector emissions is now being redefined. Energy stocks are reacting positively to the deregulatory environment. Power demand forecasts continue to climb alongside AI adoption.

Sources ZeroHedge

Related Saudi Arabia Cancels Europe Crude Cargoes Amid Pipeline Attack Crisis

Also in Finance

Montana’s experimental treatment law hands a VC the keys

<https://www.businessinsider.com/montana-right-to-try-prospera-biotech-experimental-treatment-a...>

Macklemore says Robert Kraft had him dropped from Ed Sheeran’s tour after his comments about the Palestinian territories

<https://www.businessinsider.com/macklemore-off-ed-sheeran-tour-after-robert-kraft-pressure-2026-9>

The Kennedy Center’s board voted to close until Trump’s name is added. Here’s a look at the history behind the landmark.

<https://www.businessinsider.com/kennedy-center-board-votes-to-close-until-trumps-name-added-2026-9>

Oracle’s stock falls for the fifth day in a row — missing out on the AI bounce

<https://www.marketwatch.com/story/oracles-stock-falls-for-the-fifth-day-in-a-row-missing-out-o...>

AI researcher whose apocalypse warning went viral outlines his disagreements with Anthropic leadership

<https://www.businessinsider.com/jacob-coxon-explains-disagreements-anthropic-leadership-warnin...>

Satya Nadella says there’s one ‘common sense’ rule AI companies need to follow

<https://www.businessinsider.com/satya-nadella-says-one-rule-ai-companies-need-to-follow-2026-9>

Newsom Says He Won’t Run For President In 2028 If Kamala Harris Does

<https://www.zerohedge.com/political/newsom-says-he-wont-run-president-2028-if-kamala-harris-does>

General 3 dispatches . 3 in brief

Key findings from Lucy Letby Thirlwall inquiry

The Thirlwall inquiry has delivered a damning verdict on the neonatal unit at the Countess of Chester Hospital. Investigators found a complete failure to protect babies during the period Dr. Lucy Letby worked there. This systemic breakdown resulted in the deaths of seven infants and the attempted murders of seven others. Key figures such as Dr. Ravi Jayaram were involved in the timeline of missed opportunities. The report highlights that safeguarding actions were not taken when they could have prevented deaths. Specifically, failures to report concerns in February 2016 contributed significantly to the tragedy. A meeting with executives in May 2016 also failed to produce necessary action. The inquiry concluded that dysfunctional management and governance were to blame for the deaths. Beyond the specific hospital, the NHS consistently struggles to address poor performance among managers. Many failing managers are given rehabilitation without being held accountable. This practice has been referred to as the donkey sanctuary within the system. Some managers receive pay-offs and move on without scrutiny despite the risks. Tony Chambers, chief executive of the Countess of Chester, described the current system as inadequate. The government aims to introduce a

barring service to prevent this recurrence. However, the inquiry warns this will be undermined if the system continues to turn a blind eye. NHS England argued that rehabilitation could help improve services and develop individuals. Yet the inquiry suggests that the current system is not working and that reform is necessary. Accountability for medical staff and the effectiveness of reporting systems are now under intense scrutiny. The findings emphasize the need for profound change in how the NHS handles failing managers. Ultimately, the NHS must ensure those in charge are held to account to provide better care.

Sources BBC News BBC News

Turkey arrests dozens in crackdown on LGBTQ+ activists

Turkish police have arrested dozens of people in a significant crackdown on LGBTQ+ activists. The detainees include protesters and members of the community targeted by state authorities. This action is being described as a wider campaign against LGBT rights within the country. Turkish President Recep Tayyip Erdogan has previously described LGBTQ people as perverts. His stance on the issue has drawn criticism from various human rights groups. Organizations involved include the Turkish government and several international human rights monitors. Human Rights Watch and the Council of Europe's Commissioner for Human Rights are closely watching. The crackdown is being conducted under the guise of a campaign called My Family is Safe. The government claims this campaign is designed to protect family values from external threats. However, critics argue that it is being used to suppress the rights of the LGBTQ+ community. The arrests have sparked widespread condemnation across civil society groups. Protests have erupted with demonstrators chanting Long live the struggle for freedom. Crowds are calling for the detained activists to be released immediately. The matter matters because it highlights growing restrictions on LGBT rights in Turkey. There is an increasing hostility towards the community sanctioned by state rhetoric. The international community is also taking notice of the deteriorating situation. The Commissioner for Human Rights at the Council of Europe expressed concerns about the arrests. There are also concerns regarding website blocking associated with the crackdown. Michael O'Flaherty has been vocal in his assessment of the human rights implications. This situation underscores the tension between government policy and fundamental human rights.

Sources BBC News

Iran war has led to US munitions shortfalls, Pentagon inspector confirms

The US Department of Defense's inspector general has reported significant shortfalls in munitions. There is also a bottleneck in resupply capabilities according to the new assessment. This contradicts President Donald Trump's claims of virtually unlimited munitions supplies. The report is the first independent assessment of US weapons stockpiles in this context. It reveals that the US spent over \$22 billion on munitions from February to June. This spending has led to strategic inventory shortfalls across key categories. The Defence Department has rejected the report stating the US has more than enough munitions. However, previous estimates and the new report suggest that the US is facing significant shortages. Particular shortages are noted in interceptors and air and missile defences. The war with Iran has led to equipment losses valued at \$3.7 billion. Expenditures related to the conflict have reached \$7.4 billion recently. The inspector general's report notes industrial base bottlenecks are a major factor. Officials are calling for streamlined procurement processes to address the shortages. Production lead times also need to be reduced to sustain military operations. The White House and Trump administration officials have cast reports of shortages as false. Some

administration figures have even labeled the reports as treasonous. The total cost of the war is estimated to be \$38 billion according to the Congressional Budget Office. The report provides a rare glimpse into the US military's inventory levels. It highlights the challenges of sustaining a prolonged conflict in the region. These findings raise questions about the readiness of the US military for extended engagement.

Sources BBC News

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AI 1 dispatch

Pony.ai Unveils Autonomous Electric Truck for Logistics Fleets

Pony.ai has officially unveiled its latest autonomous electric truck, known as the T9. This new vehicle was developed through a strategic collaboration with GAC Commercial Vehicle. The truck represents the fourth-generation iteration of the company's Robotruck platform. Its primary goal is to accelerate the mass production and commercial deployment of autonomous trucks. Mass production for the T9 is planned to begin later this year. The vehicle will specifically target long-haul freight operations. It is also designed for dedicated logistics corridors and port transport operations. He Xing, the VP of Pony.ai, emphasized the importance of this new partnership. He also highlighted Pony.ai's commitment to expanding its autonomous trucking solutions globally. The T9 features an automotive-grade autonomous driving kit. Hardware expenses for this kit have been reduced by 70% compared to the previous iteration. Pony.ai's control algorithms are designed to reduce energy consumption. These energy efficiency features aim to lower transportation operating costs. The company plans to expand its Robotruck operations into European and Middle Eastern markets over the next two years. This development highlights the progress of autonomous trucking technology and its potential to transform the logistics industry.

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