

WEEKLY ROUND UP

31st July to 7th August 2026

The purpose of the Weekly Roundup is to provide a recap of global mainstage events by region in the security and geopolitical arenas.

MIDDLE EAST

Iran / Strait of Hormuz – LNG carrier GasLog Shanghai reports maritime incident: On 31 July, the Qatar-loaded LNG carrier GasLog Shanghai experienced an unspecified incident while exiting Hormuz; GasLog later confirmed all crew were safe and the vessel stable. UKMTO separately recorded projectile/explosion incidents off Oman, underscoring continuing threat to LNG movements.

Gaza / Gaza City, Deir al-Balah and Khan Younis – Israeli strikes kill at least 18: On 2 August, Israeli airstrikes across Gaza killed at least 18 Palestinians in the highest reported daily toll for several weeks. Israel said some attacks targeted Hamas commanders; the incident demonstrated continued civilian exposure despite diplomatic efforts.

Saudi Arabia / Gulf of Aden – Six supertankers divert around Africa: On 3 August, tracking data showed six Saudi-flagged very large crude carriers reversing course in the Gulf of Aden following Houthi threats against Saudi shipping. The diversion materially increases transit time and demonstrates the operational effect of the Houthi maritime campaign.

Oman / Strait of Hormuz – Dry-bulk vessel struck by projectile: On 4 August, a dry-bulk vessel reported being hit by an unidentified projectile near Hormuz off Oman; its crew abandoned ship and one seafarer was reported missing. The incident represents a direct physical attack on commercial shipping at the Gulf's principal chokepoint.

Yemen / Coastal waters – Indian vessel sunk by projectile: On 4 August, India's Shipping Minister said a projectile struck and sank an Indian vessel near Yemeni waters; Yemen's coast guard rescued all 14 people aboard. The incident expands direct maritime exposure beyond Hormuz into the Yemen shipping environment.

Yemen / Red Sea and Gulf of Aden – Houthis claim attacks on two Saudi tankers: On 5 August, Houthi military spokesperson Yahya Saree announced missile attacks against a Saudi tanker off Yanbu and another in the Gulf of Aden; he did not specify when the attacks occurred and Riyadh had not confirmed either claim. The announcement nevertheless prompted additional shipping caution.

Iran / Gulf states – Tehran threatens regional energy infrastructure: On 5 August, Reuters reported Iran had warned Saudi Arabia, Qatar and other Gulf states that renewed U.S. attacks on Iran would trigger retaliation against U.S. assets and regional energy infrastructure. The warning significantly increased risk to oil, gas, power and transport sites across the Gulf.

Syria / Jaramana – Bomb on minibus kills two: On the night of 6 August, an explosive device planted on a minibus detonated in the predominantly Druze Damascus suburb of Jaramana, killing two people and injuring 14. No perpetrator was immediately identified; the bombing adds to insecurity surrounding Druze communities.

Yemen / Marib and Hadramout – Houthi strikes kill at least 30 government troops: On 6 August, missile and drone attacks on military camps in Marib and Hadramout killed at least 30 Yemeni

government soldiers, according to government sources. The attacks were among the most serious Houthi ground-theatre escalations since the 2022 truce.

Saudi Arabia / Najran – Houthi attack injures 11 civilians: On 6 August, Saudi authorities said Houthi fire injured 11 civilians in Najran, including a four-year-old child; victims reportedly included Saudi, Yemeni, Egyptian and Pakistani nationals. The incident marked renewed direct civilian exposure inside Saudi territory.

Israel / Southern Lebanon – Two soldiers killed; Israel strikes Tibnin: On 6 August, two Israeli soldiers were killed and four wounded by an explosion during an operation in southern Lebanon; subsequent Israeli strikes on Tibnin killed one person and injured 12, according to Lebanese authorities. The incident placed the June ceasefire under renewed pressure.

Gulf waterways – Commercial traffic collapses after maritime threats: On 6 August, Kpler recorded only two commodity vessels transiting Hormuz and one crossing Bab el-Mandeb, compared with eight and 20 respectively the previous day. The sharp decline illustrates the immediate commercial effect of Iran/Houthi maritime pressure.

AFRICA

Nigeria / Sokoto State – Gunmen kill 12 and abduct women and children: Overnight 1–2 August, armed men attacked a village in northwestern Sokoto State, killing at least 12 people and abducting women and children. The incident reinforces persistent banditry and kidnapping risk across northwestern Nigeria.

Nigeria / National security forces – Military pay increases approved: On 4 August, President Bola Tinubu approved military salary increases of up to 80%, with the largest rises for lower ranks, effective 1 September. The measure is intended to improve morale as forces confront simultaneous insurgency, banditry, kidnapping and separatist violence.

Nigeria / Niger and Kwara states – Security forces rescue 308 kidnap victims: On 6 August, Nigerian authorities announced that security forces had rescued 308 people abducted in separate attacks in Niger and Kwara states. The large recovery operation highlights both the scale of kidnapping activity and intensified state counter-kidnap operations.

Ceuta / Spain-Morocco border – Border-rush death toll revised to about 100: On 6 August, Ceuta President Juan Jesús Vivas told European Union lawmakers that approximately 100 people had died during the previous week's mass border crossing and that 3,000–5,000 migrants remained in the enclave. The revised toll substantially increased the humanitarian and border-security significance of the incident.

EUROPE

Russia / National – Court confiscates Jehovah's Witness properties: On 31 July, a Moscow court transferred 123 properties belonging to the Jehovah's Witnesses to the Russian state, including 63 buildings and 60 land plots. The action represents a further security/legal crackdown on an organisation Russia designates extremist.

Russia / Moscow – Homemade bomb kills three near restaurant: Shortly before 20:00 local time on 1 August, a homemade bomb carried by a woman exploded near an Italian restaurant at Kudrinskaya Square, killing three people and injuring 21. Authorities had not confirmed a motive or any Ukraine connection.

Mediterranean / Pantelleria – EU force boards Russian shadow-fleet tanker: On 2 August, the Italian-led European Union Operation Irini boarded sanctioned tanker Toa Payoh west of Pantelleria while it sailed from Benin toward Istanbul. The action demonstrates increasingly physical European enforcement against vessels accused of facilitating Russian sanctions evasion.

Ukraine / Zaporizhzhia – Russian strikes kill one and injure 31: On 2 August, Russian attacks on Zaporizhzhia killed one person and injured 31, according to regional governor Ivan Fedorov. The incident forms part of continuing Russian pressure on civilian and urban infrastructure in southern Ukraine.

Russia / Multiple regions – Ukrainian drones kill eight: On 2 August, Russian regional authorities said Ukrainian drone attacks killed eight people and struck infrastructure including a Wildberries warehouse in Samara region. The attacks demonstrated continued Ukrainian ability to impose costs deep inside Russian territory.

Greece / Attica – Firefighting helicopters collide during wildfire operation: On 2 August, two firefighting helicopters collided while battling a major wildfire northwest of Athens that had destroyed more than 100 homes. Two people died, adding an aviation-safety dimension to the region's wildfire emergency.

Germany / Leipzig-Halle Airport – Explosive-laden drone discovered near runway: On the night of 4 August, airport workers found a drone carrying professional explosives and a detonator in a restricted area near a runway, forcing flight suspensions and diversions. Germany's Interior Minister described it as a hybrid attack; authorities have not publicly confirmed the aircraft was an FPV model or attributed responsibility.

Germany / Leipzig-Halle Airport – Cargo jet collides with unidentified airborne object: During the same 4 August security incident, a diverted DHL cargo aircraft struck an unidentified object while climbing away from Leipzig/Halle and later landed safely in Hanover with minor damage. Investigators are examining whether the object was another drone.

Ukraine / Kyiv region – Russian ballistic barrage kills 17: Overnight 4–5 August, Russia launched 24 ballistic missiles, four Zircon/Oniks missiles and 115 drones, killing at least 17 people around Kyiv and injuring more than 40. Ukraine intercepted most drones but none of the ballistic missiles, highlighting acute Patriot-interceptor shortages.

Russia / Yaroslavl and Bashkortostan – Ukraine strikes two oil refineries: On 6 August, President Volodymyr Zelenskyy confirmed Ukrainian strikes on Bashneft-Novoil and the Slavneft-Yanos refinery at Yaroslavl; four people were injured by shrapnel at Yaroslavl. The attacks continue Ukraine's campaign against Russian fuel production and war logistics.

Germany / Munich – Car-ramming attacker sentenced to life: On 6 August, a German court sentenced Afghan national Farhad N. to life imprisonment for the February 2025 Islamist-motivated vehicle attack on a trade-union rally that killed a mother and her two-year-old daughter and injured more than 40. The ruling classified his guilt as particularly serious.

ASIA-PACIFIC

China / National – Technology-security exit restrictions announced: On 31 July, China published rules allowing authorities to impose exit restrictions on citizens implicated in export-control or technology-security violations. The measures broaden personnel-control tools associated with sensitive technology and national industrial security.

Sri Lanka / Mahara Prison – Riot kills one and injures six: On 1 August, inmates rioted during visiting hours at Mahara prison near Colombo, damaging the hospital and kitchen and burning administrative offices; one person died and six were injured. Police, military and navy personnel restored control and a local curfew was imposed.

Indonesia / Madura waters – Passenger ferry fire kills five: On 2 August, passenger ferry Mutiara Sentosa II caught fire while travelling from Surabaya toward Makassar; five people were confirmed dead and dozens were initially reported missing amid discrepancies in the passenger manifest. The incident renewed scrutiny of Indonesian ferry safety and manifest controls.

Pakistan / Swat – TTP suicide bombing kills 17: On 2 August, a suspected suicide bomber detonated outside a police station in Kabal, Swat district, Khyber Pakhtunkhwa, killing at least 17 people and injuring 34. Tehrik-e-Taliban Pakistan claimed responsibility, demonstrating continued ability to strike police/security targets.

South Korea / Osan Air Base – Eight students detained after base intrusion: On 4 August, eight South Korean students allegedly entered Osan Air Base while shouting anti-U.S. slogans before being detained by U.S. personnel and transferred to Korean police. Authorities are investigating them under laws protecting military installations.

North Korea / Russia – Kyiv reports North Korean missile unit deployed: On 5 August, Ukrainian military intelligence said a roughly 90-person North Korean missile unit had deployed to Russia's Voronezh region; planned equipment could include up to 120 ballistic missiles and six launchers. Russia and North Korea had not confirmed the deployment.

North Korea / East Sea – Short-range ballistic missile launched: On 6 August, North Korea fired a short-range ballistic missile toward waters off the peninsula's east coast, its first such launch in more than 40 days. The test occurred ahead of scheduled South Korea–United States military exercises.

Myanmar / Thailand – Min Aung Hlaing begins official Bangkok visit: On 6 August, Myanmar President Min Aung Hlaing received an official welcome in Bangkok and met Thai Prime Minister Anutin Charnvirakul, prompting protests near Government House. The visit represents a significant attempt by Myanmar's military-led government to expand regional legitimacy.

Thailand / Nonthaburi – 14-year-old kills eight before shooting himself: On 7 August, a 14-year-old boy killed his grandparents at home before opening fire at Debsirin Nonthaburi School in Bang Kruai, killing six people including teachers and students and injuring 15; he later died from a self-inflicted gunshot wound. Police said he fired at least 26 rounds using his grandfather's firearm.

Japan / Kyushu and Okinawa – Typhoon Dolphin triggers mass evacuations: On 7 August, authorities ordered nearly 260,000 people to evacuate as Typhoon Dolphin approached with winds of 144 km/h and gusts near 198 km/h; more than 500 flights were cancelled and Toyota halted nine factories. The storm compounded recovery pressures following the recent Kumamoto earthquake.

AMERICAS

United States / Twin Falls, Idaho – Shopping-centre shooting kills three: At approximately 14:00–14:30 local time on 1 August, a gunman opened fire at and around an In-N-Out Burger in Twin Falls, killing three people including the attacker and injuring several others. Roads, businesses and nearby areas were temporarily locked down while police investigated the motive.

United States / Spokane, Washington – Wildfires destroy more than 700 buildings: By 4 August, three major fires around Spokane had destroyed at least 700 structures, burned more than 8,000 acres

and forced tens of thousands to evacuate. Washington declared a statewide emergency and requested federal assistance.

United States / Spokane, Washington – Old Trails Fire investigated as deliberate arson: On 4 August, authorities charged 37-year-old Aaron Farinacci with first-degree arson over the Old Trails Fire; investigators alleged he planned the blaze for weeks and selected weather conditions favourable to rapid spread. The case converts part of the wildfire emergency into a major deliberate-security incident.

Mexico / Guerrero – Former governor arrested over Ayotzinapa evidence destruction: On 6 August, former Guerrero governor Ángel Aguirre was arrested on obstruction-of-justice and forced-disappearance charges for allegedly ordering evidence destroyed in the investigation into 43 students who disappeared in 2014. The arrest is the highest-profile recent accountability action in the long-running case.