

AUGUST 2026 · NO. 8

The Monthly

A month of claimed control: a strait,
Venezuelan oil, West Bank ruins, un-
confirmed prosecutors.

THE FEATURE WELL

Spain attacks 'selfish' response of some EU countries to Ceuta migrant crossings

DISPATCHES

Soap star Shane Richie facing drink-drive charge

THE LEDGER

Israeli West Bank settler tells BBC attacks on Palestinians are justified as revenge

SIGNALS

OpenAI reportedly finds evidence that more of its agents ran amok

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FROM THE EDITOR

The word that kept coming up as we assembled this issue was control — asserted, disputed, or quietly slipping. The US says it holds more of the Strait of Hormuz; questions follow. A deal is announced over 65 billion barrels of someone else's oil. Strikes are called off, conditionally. Archaeology becomes a way of holding ground. The Justice Department tests how far it can go without the Senate, and Uefa says plainly it no longer trusts who is in charge at Fifa.

The smaller pieces run the same current. OpenAI finds its own agents did things it did not intend. Households cannot control their bills. Satellites show what heat did to Europe while no one was steering. Even the docking stations and Shortcuts tricks are about wanting your own machine to obey.

THE FEATURE WELL

BBC NEWS

Spain attacks 'selfish' response of some EU countries to Ceuta migrant crossings

Italy has temporarily suspended the Schengen arrangement with Spain as Prime Minister Giorgia Meloni called scenes in Ceuta "shocking".

<https://www.bbc.co.uk/news/articles/cx2v91xn1z9o>

BBC NEWS

Trump cancels Iran strikes subject to deal being made 'rapidly'

<https://www.bbc.co.uk/news/articles/cjwx74qgld2o>

DISPATCHES

BBC NEWS

Soap star Shane Richie facing drink-drive charge<https://www.bbc.co.uk/news/articles/c5y32zmv6kjo>

BBC NEWS

Uefa has 'lost confidence' in Infantino's Fifa leadership<https://www.bbc.co.uk/sport/football/articles/c04kr2nv3v3o>

TECHCRUNCH

Congress' favorite AI tool? ChatGPT<https://techcrunch.com/2026/08/03/congresss-favorite-ai-tool-chatgpt>

AL JAZEERA

Syria foreign minister says door open for diplomacy with Israelhttps://www.aljazeera.com/news/2026/8/23/syria-foreign-minister-says-door-open-for-diplomacy-with-israel?traffic_source=rss

AL JAZEERA

Far-right provocateur Jake Lang arrested after Minneapolis riothttps://www.aljazeera.com/video/newsfeed/2026/8/23/far-right-provocateur-jake-lang-arrested-after-minneapolis-riot?traffic_source=rss

THE HILL

Questions rise as US claims deeper control of Strait of Hormuz<https://thehill.com/policy/defense/6045218-trump-hormuz-oil-transit>

THE HILL

DOJ maneuver on unconfirmed US attorneys inches closer to Supreme Court<https://thehill.com/regulation/court-battles/6044389-justice-department-us-attorneys-fvra-supreme-court>

NPR POLITICS

Trump says U.S. struck deal to take control of 65 billion barrels Venezuelan oil<https://www.npr.org/2026/08/31/nx-s1-5949305/trump-says-u-s-struck-deal-to-take-control-of-65-billion-barrels-venezuelan-oil>

THE LEDGER

BBC NEWS

Israeli West Bank settler tells BBC attacks on Palestinians are justified as revenge

Settler violence against Palestinians is on the rise in the West Bank, as settlements and outposts expand.

<https://www.bbc.co.uk/news/articles/c4g4djgdyk2o>

TECHCRUNCH

India is starting to pay for apps, not just download them

<https://techcrunch.com/2026/07/31/india-is-starting-to-pay-for-apps-not-just-download-them>

TECHCRUNCH

Snap CEO sidesteps Specs preorder questions on Q2 earnings call

<https://techcrunch.com/2026/08/03/snap-ceo-sidesteps-specs-pre-order-questions-on-q2-earnings-call>

BBC NEWS

Israel accused of weaponising archaeology at ancient West Bank sites

<https://www.bbc.co.uk/news/articles/c20d8qre98do>

BBC BUSINESS

Struggling households need more help with bills, energy industry says

<https://www.bbc.co.uk/news/articles/cm2g5x7l4mko>

SIGNALS

TECHCRUNCH

OpenAI reportedly finds evidence that more of its agents ran amok

OpenAI has reportedly found evidence of additional agent misbehavior as it looks into the incident that occurred with Hugging Face.

<https://techcrunch.com/2026/07/31/openai-reportedly-finds-evidence-that-more-of-its-agents-ran-amok>

TECHCRUNCH

Rivian spinoff Also to start delivering e-bikes after months of delays

<https://techcrunch.com/2026/07/31/rivian-spinoff-also-to-start-delivering-e-bikes-after-months-of-delays>

BBC NEWS

Breast cancer checks missing most women under 50 who are at risk, says study

<https://www.bbc.co.uk/news/articles/ckgv652r625o>

BBC NEWS

Europe's scorched landscapes seen from space after summer heatwaves

<https://www.bbc.co.uk/news/articles/c4gxy0wqqd9o>

WIRED

The 6 Best Laptop Docking Stations to Unlock the Full Desktop Experience (2026)

<https://www.wired.com/gallery/best-laptop-docking-stations>

WIRED

7 Basic iPhone Tricks I Built With iOS 27's Revamped Shortcuts App

<https://www.wired.com/story/7-basic-iphone-tricks-i-built-with-ios-27s-revamped-shortcuts-app>

Endpaper

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