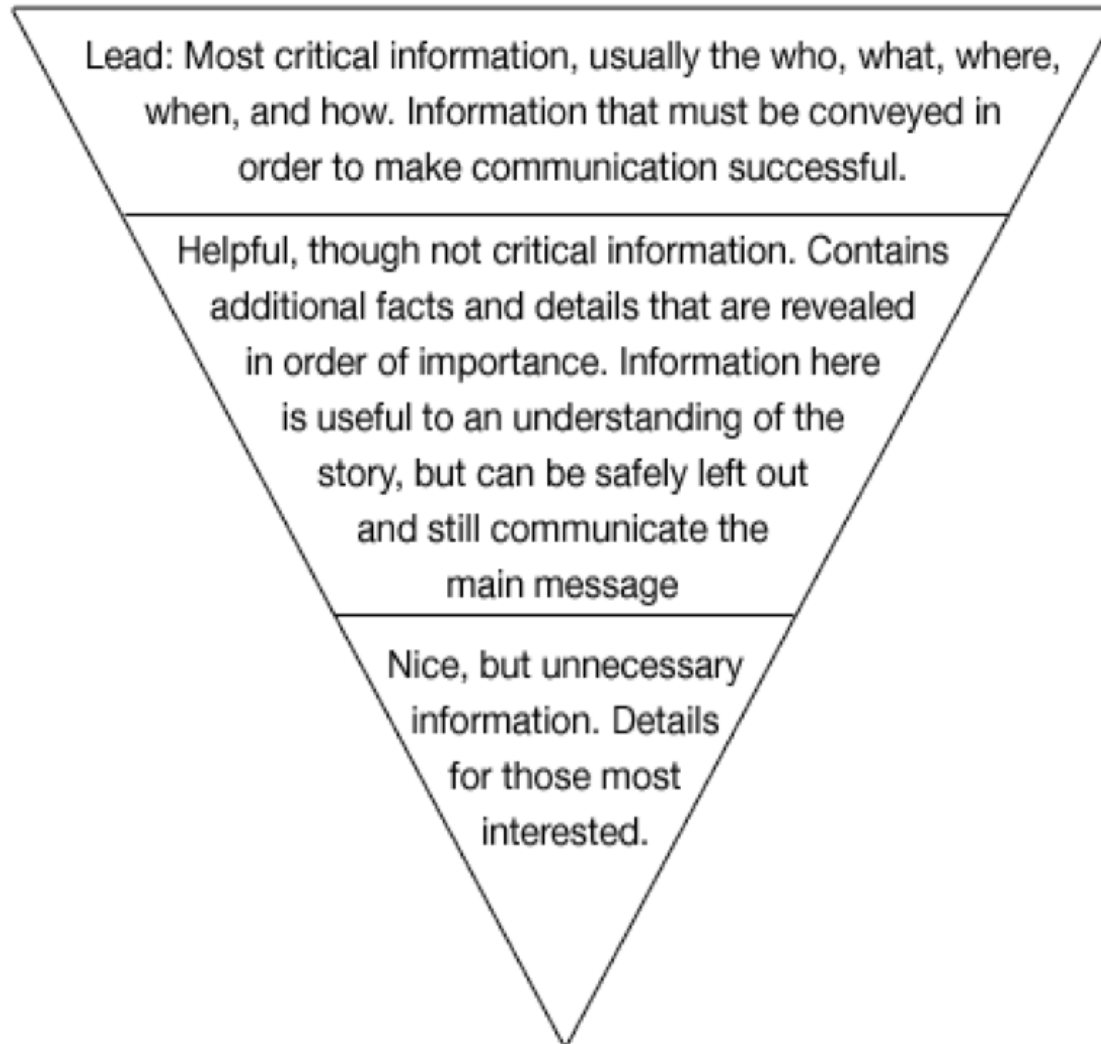


Storytelling

< matt.chadburn@guardian.co.uk >, May 2013

“We do not tell stories, we publish articles in the style of a newspaper and for the web apply little real thought or attention to how those individual pieces of content collectively explain the stories they relate to. The effort is passed to the reader to make sense of an often bewildering range of links and options.”

Inverted Pyramid of Journalism



News

Iran launches a monkey into space - and fires a warning about scale of its mission

Tehran claims monkey is safe and well after trip
Animal rights activists hit out at 'cruel' treatment

Saeed Kamali Dehghan

Iran joined the international dash for space in earnest yesterday when it claimed to have successfully launched a live monkey into space in an Iranian-built space capsule.

Iranian media reported that the country's space agency had sent the creature 75 miles above the Earth in a Kavoshgar rocket capsule named Pishgam (Pioneer). Though the report has yet to be independently verified, officials said the capsule had returned intact and the monkey was still alive after its suborbital voyage.

The explorer rocket - returned to Earth after reaching the desired speed and altitude, and the living creature (a monkey) was retrieved and found alive," the semi-official Fars news agency reported.

Iran's English-language state television, Press TV, showed images of a grey-tufted monkey strapped into a chair the size of an infant's car seat before being placed into the capsule. The site of the rocket launch was not given.

Within minutes of the news breaking, the monkey's picture circulated online and drew comparisons with the 1940s and 1950s heyday of the space race, when animals were heroes of the competing US and Soviet Union programmes.

In 1948, US scientists sent a rhesus monkey called Albert I to a height of 83 miles but the creature, the first animal on board a rocket, died before returning to Earth. In retaliation, the Soviet Union sent dogs into orbit.

The Iranian launch was part of the anniversary celebrations of the 1979 revolution, which are held for a period of two weeks in early February. Iran often flaunts its technological and scientific advances at this time of the year.

Iran's defence minister, General Ahmad Vahidi, described the launch as a "big step for our experts and scientists". He said it was merely the initial phase of a broader Iranian plan to send humans into space by 2020. "This shipment returned safely to Earth with the anticipated speed and without any harm to the live organism," Vahidi was quoted by Fars as saying. "The launch of Kavoshgar and its retrieval is the first step towards sending humans into space in the next phase."

Hamid Rafeqi, director of the country's space agency, said a monkey was chosen because of its biological similarities with humans.

Earlier attempts by Iranian scientists to fire monkeys into space have failed, but in February 2010 an Iranian research rocket, Kavoshgar 2 (Explorer 2), carried a mouse, two turtles and several worms into space.

President Mahmoud Ahmadinejad said at the time that the launch showed Iran "could defeat the [west's] domination" in the battle of technology. As Ahmadinejad took office in 2005, Iran stepped up its space programme and has since launched satellites, including its first indigenous satellite, Omid (Hope), in 2009.

Michael Elleman, a senior fellow at the International Institute for Strategic Studies (IISS), said the launch was not a



The monkey strapped into a seat ready to be launched 75 miles above the Earth, left. Above, the creature is carried into the capsule. Right, the Kavoshgar rocket used for the mission. Below, the monkey - which is alive and well after the mission according to the Iranians - freed from the shackles of the capsule

Space rovers A dog's life in orbit

Intrepid turtles to pioneering jellyfish, a host of animals have made their mark as the unsung heroes of space exploration.

Early animal astronauts were used to test the effects of zero gravity and extreme pressure on the body, and their modern-day counterparts are used in experiments on board the International Space Station.

1948 A rhesus monkey named Albert I became the first animal to be launched in a V-2 rocket by the US. His successor, Albert II, made it to an altitude of 83 miles after his launch in 1949, but died on impact as he returned to Earth.

1954 Soviet scientists began using dogs in their

experiments. Two dogs, Dezik and Tsygan, survived a sub-orbital flight after their capsule parachuted them back to earth.

1957 Soviet space scientists chose stray dog, Laika, for the Sputnik 2 mission. Sources maintained that Laika (left) died when her oxygen ran out on day six, but in 2002 documents revealed she probably died after only a few hours due to overheating. A monument to Laika was unveiled in 2008.

2007 A study by the European Space Agency found that most piglets, or tardigrades, a small segmented animal with eight legs, were able to survive for 10 days in open space using only their own natural protection.

Katie Davies



surprise because Iranian authorities had previously signalled their intentions.

"It appears that a modified artillery rocket was used to launch the poor monkey straight up into space and return to earth in a capsule slowed by a parachute," he told the Guardian. "Space in this instance is defined as about 100km altitude."

He added: "This is at least Iran's second attempt, though the first one was not acknowledged publicly, so I assume the inaugural launch did not go well. Nonetheless, Iran has an ambitious space exploration programme that includes the goal of placing a human in space in the next five or so years. Today's achievement is one step toward the goal, albeit a small one."

Following the news, the animals rights group Peta said it was appalled by the photographs: "Iran is repeating the wasteful and cruel mistakes that marked the darkest days of the space race."

A Peta statement added: "Monkeys are highly intelligent, sensitive animals who not only are traumatised by the violence

and noise of a launch and landing suffer when caged in a laboratory and - if they survive - after a flight.

At a time when financial strife to western sanctions and their looms over the Islamic republic rulers are also exploiting, the demonstrate that international has not prevented Tehran from technological progress, especially space and missile programmes.

The state department spokes Tora Hulsan last night neither whether the monkey had been space or if a launch had taken. At a press briefing, she told you if the reports were true, the dog would represent a "serious concern".

A senior Iranian military also announced yesterday missile would be unveiled at the anniversary celebration.

Western powers fear the programme could have military implications. Iran denies the allegations.

What happened

Official statement

Political background

Western reaction

Analysis

Dogs in space

above

statement

background

PRP

PRP

PRP

history

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agony

- What just happened?
- Lead - why / what / where / who
- What's the background?
- What's changed since my last visit?
- Show me the photos

The Boston Marathon bombings

[Summary](#)[Live](#)

©Tuesday 18 April 2013

Tamerlan Tsarnaev: experts puzzled as hunt for terror links gleans little

[Ed Pilkington](#)

Federal prosecutors are trying to piece together the complex web of influences that transformed a young man with no confirmed militant training or links, apparently acting with only the assistance of his younger brother, into a brutal bomber prepared to kill and maim in pursuit of a cause that remained largely unarticulated.

Tamerlan Tsarnaev has become the focal point of a global FBI investigation into whether any organised group or wider conspiracy lay behind last week's Boston Marathon bombings. The 26-year-old, who has been identified through fingerprinting as the man killed in the shootout with police in the Watertown suburb of Boston, is widely assumed to have been the mastermind of the marathon outrage, with his younger brother Dzhokhar Tsarnaev allegedly playing the role of junior partner.

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Tamerlan Tsarnaev's self-radicalisation appears to have begun around 2009 and 2010, according to experts. Photograph: Julia Malakie/AP



Background

False reports on Wednesday that a suspect had been arrested in the Boston attacks damaged the credibility of the news outlets that carried the reports and created waves of public confusion and frustration.

The New York Post on Thursday has printed on its cover an image of two men standing together at the marathon under the headline “BAG MEN: Feds seek these two pictured at Boston Marathon.” The image shows two young men, one with a duffel bag and one wearing a backpack, talking.



Tamerlan Tsarnaev's self-radicalisation appears to have begun around 2009 and 2010, according to experts. Photograph: Julia Malakie/AP

Comment is free

What rights should
Dzhokhar Tsarnaev
get and why does it
matter?

Glenn Greenwald



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The special dread of
terrorism for Muslims
in the west

Murtaza Hussain



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Key people



Suspect one
White hat man



Suspect two
Black hat man



Martin Richard
Victim



Krystle Campbell
Victim

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Summary

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Location



In pictures



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“Fantastic way to present the various aspects on a single stream”

“Just irritating to scroll through!”

“The breakdown of the story into. Background, location etc makes it far easier to absorb the story. The website is my main source of news and I immediately liked the new layout”

“Its layout is far too confusing. I had no idea how to navigate to the full story having read the background. I do not want to see pictures until I have read the full story - where is the full story?”