

# Nuclear, Missile & Space Digest

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- Nuclear Energy can play significant role in achieving Agenda 2030

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- Nuclear Deal Traps E.U. Between Iran and U.S.
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- Now Available: IAEA Handbook for Regulatory Inspectors of Nuclear Power Plants
- Nuclear Professionals Share How to Promote Strong Safety Cultures: IAEA School on Leadership for Safety
- Europe sees China and India as last hope to save Iran nuclear deal, but expects it to collapse
- Nuclear Professionals Share How to Promote Strong Safety Cultures: IAEA School on Leadership for Safety
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### WEST ASIA

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### EAST ASIA

- Nuclear powers should lead world toward a mood for disarmament

## A. India

### All modules getting ready for Chandrayaan-2 launch during the window of July 09 to July 16, 2019

PIB Delhi, May 1, 2019

Chandrayaan-2, India's second lunar mission, has three modules namely Orbiter, Lander (Vikram) & Rover (Pragyan). The Orbiter and Lander modules will be interfaced mechanically and stacked together as an integrated module and accommodated inside the GSLV MK-III launch vehicle.

The Rover is housed inside the Lander. After launch into earth bound orbit by GSLV MK-III, the integrated module will reach Moon orbit using Orbiter propulsion module. Subsequently, Lander will separate from the Orbiter and soft land at the predetermined site close to lunar South Pole. Further, the Rover will roll out for carrying out scientific experiments on the lunar surface. Instruments are also mounted on Lander and Orbiter for carrying out scientific experiments.

<http://www.pib.nic.in/PressReleaseDetail.aspx?PRID=1571434>

### Launch of Fourth Scorpene Class Submarine - VELA

PIB Delhi, May 6, 2019

Vela, the fourth Scorpene class submarine being constructed by Mazagon Dock Shipbuilders Limited for the Indian Navy, was launched today, on 06 May 2019, by Mrs Veena Ajay Kumar, wife of Dr Ajay Kumar, IAS, Secretary Defence Production, who was the Chief Guest on the occasion. VAdm AK Saxena, CWP&A was also present during the launching ceremony. This event reaffirms the steps taken by Mazagon Dock Shipbuilders Ltd (MDL) in the ongoing 'Make In India' programme, which is being actively implemented by the Department of Defence Production (MoD).

The submarine was towed to Mumbai Port Trust, for separation from the pontoon, after which she will undergo rigorous trials and

tests, both in harbour and at sea before delivery to the Indian Navy.

The contract for the construction and Transfer-of-Technology for six Scorpene class submarines in series, has M/s Naval Group (formerly DCNS) of France as 'Collaborator' and are being built by MDL.

<http://www.pib.nic.in/PressReleaseDetail.aspx?PRID=1571627>

### DRDO Successfully Conducts Flight Test of ABHYAS

PIB India, May 6, 2019

Defence Research and Development Organisation (DRDO) conducted successful flight test of ABHYAS - High-speed Expendable Aerial Target (HEAT) from Interim Test Range, Chandipur in Odisha today. The flight test was tracked by various RADARS & Electro Optic Systems and proved its performance in fully autonomous way point navigation mode.

The configuration of ABHYAS is designed on an in-line small gas turbine engine and uses indigenously developed MEMS based navigation system for its navigation and guidance. The performance of the system was as per simulations carried out and demonstrated the capability of ABHYAS to meet the mission requirement for a cost-effective HEAT.

<http://www.pib.nic.in/PressReleaseDetail.aspx?PRID=1571949>

### India apprehensive Iran sanctions could boost oil, inflation

Timothy Gardner  
Reuters, May 1, 2019

U.S. sanctions on Iran could boost oil prices and inflation to a point that hurts the common person in India, the country's ambassador to the United States said on Tuesday, after the Trump administration said it would end waivers for Iran's oil buyers.

President Donald Trump's efforts to sink Iran's oil exports to zero will have a direct

impact on India, the largest buyer of the oil after China, Harsh Vardhan Shringla, the ambassador, said at a Carnegie Endowment event. "We are apprehensive that that impact can translate into inflation, (and) higher oil prices," that could affect the common person in India, Shringla said.

<https://in.reuters.com/article/usa-india-sanctions-iran/india-apprehensive-iran-sanctions-could-boost-oil-inflation-idINKCN1S62DS>

### **India-Pakistan Nuclear exchange would 'immediately' Kill 20 million - official claims**

Athena Chrysanthou  
The Express, May 3, 2019

President of Azad Jammu and Kashmir region Sadar Masood Khan warned this exchange would affect the whole world. Mr Khan said: "If there was a nuclear conflict between the two countries, 20 million people would die immediately." Mr Kahn believes the long-standing Pakistani-Indian conflict over Kashmir "should be resolved and peace should be established". He added: "We have no other options." Speaking at a conference organised by the Centre for Islam and Global Affairs he stressed Kashmir is the main source of political and military conflict between Pakistan and India since 1947.

<https://www.express.co.uk/news/world/1122633/india-pakistan-nuclear-war-ww3>

### **Chandrayaan-2 will carry 14 Indian payloads**

The Hindu, May 10, 2019

Chandrayaan-2, the lunar lander mission planned to be launched during July 9-16, will have 14 Indian payloads or study devices, a mission update of the Indian Space Research Organisation (ISRO) has said. The 3,800-kg spacecraft includes an orbiter which will circle the moon at 100 km; a five-legged lander called Vikram that will descend on the moon on or around September 6; and a robotic rover, Pragyan, that will probe the lunar terrain around it. ISRO said all three modules will carry payloads but did not specify them or their

objective. The orbiter alone will have eight payloads or instruments. The lander will carry four while the rover will be equipped with two instruments. "All the modules are getting ready for the Chandrayaan-2 launch," a recent update had said, mentioning only 13 payloads.

<https://www.thehindu.com/sci-tech/science/chandrayaan-2-will-carry-14-indian-payloads/article27097572.ece>

### **India may not ignore an energy supplier such as Iran, says Envoy**

Rezaul H Laskar  
Hindustan Times, May 10, 2019

India will decide on oil imports in the face of US sanctions according to its national interests but it is expected New Delhi will not ignore a reliable energy supplier such as Tehran, Iranian ambassador Ali Chegeni said on Thursday.

The development of Iran's Chabahar port by India is exempted from the US sanctions and work on the project is proceeding but the American measures could have long-term impacts on the project, Chegeni said in an interview. With the US ending exemptions for sanctions on Iranian oil imports on May 2, India had been expecting an extension of the six-month exemption granted last November but the US has been non-committal.

<https://www.hindustantimes.com/india-news/india-may-not-ignore-an-energy-supplier-such-as-iran-says-envoy/story-vYiYQdGUD5QmEm9g6tOzSI.html>

### **National Technology Day 2019: Know the History and Lesser Known Facts**

News 18, May 11, 2019

Observed every year on May 11, National Technology Day acts as a reminder of India's technological advancements. Notably, on this day, India successfully tested Shakti-I nuclear missile at the Indian Army's Pokhran Test Range in Rajasthan. The operation was led by late President

Dr APJ Abdul Kalam and was called Operation Shakti or Pokhran-II. Two days later, India successfully test fired two nuclear weapons as part of Operation Shakti. In a way, National Technology Day highlights the importance of science in daily life and encourages youngsters to embrace it as a career option.

Shakti, the Pokhran Nuclear Test, the first nuclear test code named 'Smiling Buddha' was carried out in May 1974. The second test conducted was Pokhran II which was a series of five tests of nuclear bomb explosions carried out by India at the Pokhran Test Range of Indian Army in May, 1998. Notably, these nuclear tests evolved various sanctions against India by many major states, including United States and Japan.

<https://www.news18.com/news/india/national-technology-day-2019-know-the-history-and-lesser-known-facts-2136741.html>

### **India and Vietnam vow to boost defence cooperation**

Taylor McDonald  
ASEAN Economist, May 12, 2019

India and Vietnam have agreed to strengthen bilateral defence and security, agriculture, technology and nuclear, oil, gas and renewable energy cooperation as Vice President M Venkaiah Naidu concluded his four-day visit yesterday (Sunday).

Vietnam has looked to India as a means to counterbalance China's growing military dominance in the South China Sea. The allies' bilateral trade reached almost US\$14 billion last year, having nearly doubled from US\$7.8 billion in 2015. The vice president said he was confident of reaching the target of US\$15 billion by 2020. Naidu and Vietnam Prime Minister Phuc expressed commitment to enhancing trade and investments and agreed to enable direct air links to promote tourism, trade and interpersonal relations.

<https://aseaneconomist.com/india-and-vietnam-vow-to-boost-defence-cooperation/>

### **On Pokhran II nuclear test anniv, PM Modi hails Vajpayee**

Srinivas Laxman  
Times of India, May 12, 2019

Prime Minister Narendra Modi on Saturday the 21st anniversary of the nuclear weapon tests at Pokhran in 1998 – credited the “patriotism and farsightedness of Atalji” for the success of the tests. Atal Behari Vajpayee was the PM when the tests were conducted.

In a tweet to mark National Technology Day on May 11, which commemorates the success of the tests, Modi said, “Greetings on National Technology Day! We remember with immense pride the accomplishment of our scientists on this day in 1998.”

<https://timesofindia.indiatimes.com/india/on-pokhran-ii-nuclear-test-anniv-pm-modi-hails-vajpayee/articleshow/69288337.cms>

### **Indo-French Naval Exercise Varuna consolidates bilateral relations of the two nations**

Financial Express, May 13, 2019

Indo-French Naval Exercise Varuna consolidates bilateral relations of the two nations. The first phase of the seventeenth edition of Exercise Varuna, the annual interaction at sea between the French Navy and the Indian Navy concluded on 10 May 2019. This included a harbour phase from 01-06 May followed by the sea phase off Goa from 7-10 May. The two navies put their respective forces through the paces and exercised a range of combat manoeuvres including advanced naval operations including carrier strike procedures, countering asymmetrical threats and live firing frills among others.

The second leg of this exercise is scheduled to be held later this month off Djibouti where the French have had a significant naval presence for many years. The strategic importance of Djibouti and the Horn of Africa has attracted the increasing presence of extra-regional navies many of whom are now operating there.

Unsurprisingly and true to form, the Chinese have been the first off the block and as part of their global maritime aspirations have established a full-fledged military base and stationed a substantial naval presence. The next step will probably be the basing of PLA(Navy) ships.

<https://www.financialexpress.com/defence/indofrench-naval-exercise-varuna-consolidates-bilateral-relations-of-the-two-nations/1577138/>

### **Comprehensive Nuclear-Test-Ban Treaty Organisation offers India 'observer' status, access to IMS data**

SV Krishna Chaitanya  
The New Indian Express, May 14, 2019

In a renewed effort, the Comprehensive Nuclear-Test-Ban Treaty Organisation (CTBTO) has offered India an 'Observer' status and access to state-of-art International Monitoring System (IMS) data. More than 20 years have passed since the CTBT opened for signature in 1996, with the objective of banning all nuclear explosions everywhere and by everyone. Till today, it has not been able to become a global law because it is considered as 'discriminatory' by countries such as India.

In a free-wheeling chat with a group of Indian journalists at its headquarters in Vienna in Austria, CTBTO Executive Secretary Lassina Zerbo said he fully understood the concerns of India.

<http://www.newindianexpress.com/nation/2019/may/14/ctbto-offers-india-observer-status-access-to-ims-data-1976751.html>

### **U.S. curbs: India to decide on Iran crude imports after polls**

Kallol Bhattacharjee  
The Hindu, The Hindu, May 14, 2019

India will take a call on the purchase of Iranian energy after the general elections, External Affairs Minister Sushma Swaraj told her Iranian counterpart Javad Zarif here on Tuesday.

"On purchase of oil from Iran, External Affairs Minister reiterated the position that

a decision will be taken after the elections keeping in mind our commercial considerations, energy security and economic interests," said a source familiar with the discussion held between the two sides at the Jawaharlal Nehru Bhavan here.

India and Iran also "expressed satisfaction" at the operationalisation of the interim contract between India Ports Global Limited (IPGL) and Ports and Maritime Organisation (PMO). The official source mentioned that both the foreign ministers also discussed the current situation in Afghanistan where violence has erupted with the beginning of the holy month of Ramzan despite the US-led talks with a Taliban delegation in Doha.

<https://www.thehindu.com/news/national/us-curbs-india-to-decide-on-iran-crude-imports-after-polls/article27130894.ece>

### **B. China**

#### **Envoy says China opposes nuclear proliferation in whatever forms**

Xinhua, May 1, 2019

China firmly opposes nuclear proliferation in whatever forms and participates in the political resolution of regional nuclear proliferation issues in a responsible manner, a Chinese envoy said on Monday. For decades China has shown maximum transparency with respect to its nuclear strategy, exercised great restraint in developing its nuclear force and taken extreme caution in its policy related to the use of nuclear weapons, Fu Cong, head of the Department of Arms Control of the Chinese Foreign Ministry, told the third session of the Preparatory Committee for the 2020 Review Conference of the Parties to the Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons (NPT).

As for the regional nuclear proliferation issues, the envoy said that China strives to maintain the momentum for dialogue and detente in the Korean Peninsula, and firmly supports the establishment of a Zone Free of Nuclear Weapons and Other

WMDs (weapons of mass destruction) in the Middle East and of the Southeast Asia Nuclear-Weapon-Free Zone, Fu said. The world today is undergoing major development, changes and adjustments, he said, adding that the call for peace and cooperation rather than war and confrontation has become the common voice of the international community.

[http://www.xinhuanet.com/english/2019-04/30/c\\_138023016.htm](http://www.xinhuanet.com/english/2019-04/30/c_138023016.htm)

### **ICRC urges concerted efforts to reduce nuclear risks**

Xinhua, May 2, 2019

Robert Mardini, permanent observer for the International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC) to the United Nations, on Wednesday said that concerted efforts to reduce nuclear risks are urgently needed. In light of some disturbing developments, "concerted efforts to reduce nuclear risks are urgently needed," Mardini told the third session of the Preparatory Committee for the 2020 Review Conference of the Parties to the Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons (NPT), held at the UN headquarters in New York.

"The risk of use of nuclear weapons is increasing. Previous restraints are steadily falling away. We see a shift from a focus on non-use and elimination to making the use of nuclear weapons possible or more likely," he said. Noting that "military incidents between nuclear weapon states are occurring with disturbing frequency," the permanent observer said that "the risk that nuclear weapons could be used may be greater today than during the Cold War."

[http://www.xinhuanet.com/english/2019-05/02/c\\_138028855.htm](http://www.xinhuanet.com/english/2019-05/02/c_138028855.htm)

### **Special Report: China's furtive underwater nukes test the Pentagon**

Greg Torode, David Lague  
Reuters, May 2, 2019

Recent visitors to the bay surrounding a submarine base on the southern coast of China's Hainan Island describe a curious

nocturnal phenomenon. Powerful spotlights are sometimes trained directly on the ocean frontages of neighboring hotels at night, making visibility out to sea virtually impossible. Some of the lights are mounted on land and others on passing naval patrol boats.

"The effect is incredible," said one recent visitor. "The glare is so great you can hardly stand it on the balcony. You go inside and draw the curtains tight."

The blinding lights cannot obscure something of intense interest to the world's military intelligence agencies: evidence that China has made a breakthrough in its drive to rival America and Russia as a nuclear arms power.

<https://in.reuters.com/article/china-army-nuclear/special-report-chinas-furtive-underwater-nukes-test-the-pentagon-idINKCN1S80Y3>

### **'Mysterious' nuclear institute opens to public**

Zhang Haichao Source  
Global Times, May 4, 2019

The mysterious 909 base, where China's first-generation nuclear-powered submarine was developed, was recently opened to visitors for the first time. The visit of science fiction writers to the 909 base was organized by the State-owned Assets Supervision and Administration Commission of the State Council and several media and social platforms, including huanqiu.com and Sina Weibo.

<http://www.globaltimes.cn/content/1148462.shtml>

### **Donald Trump's claim China wants to join a new nuclear arms control treaty met with scepticism**

Lee Jeong-ho  
South China Morning Post, 4 May, 2019

US President says China 'very much would like' to be part of three-way deal with Russia and America after telephone conversation with Vladimir Putin. Observers pour cold water over claims and

point out that Beijing is reluctant to limit its deterrent capacity. Trump, who had a lengthy telephone conversation with Russian President Vladimir Putin on Friday, said they had discussed ways to include China in the New Strategic Arms Reduction Treaty (Start), which became effective in 2011.

<https://www.scmp.com/news/china/diplomacy/article/3008860/donald-trumps-claim-china-wants-join-new-nuclear-arms-control>

### **China regulates granting of subsidies on military scientific research**

China Military Online, May 5, 2019

The Central Military Commission (CMC) has approved the release of a set of interim regulations on the granting of subsidies for scientific research posts in the military. The regulations target problems in the granting of subsidies, with solutions to improve the enthusiasm, initiative and creativity of those in scientific research. The regulations center on conditions, procedures and methods, as well as the subjects responsible for granting, elaborating and improving 28 pragmatic measures in six areas. These include that subsidies can only be granted for verified performance, and that members of military scientific research groups not affiliated to the respective military units or departments can also receive performance-based subsidies.

The subsidy system for scientific research posts is an important policy approved by the CMC, and is significant to establishing a distribution system that highlights the knowledge and intelligence of talent in science and technology, inspiring creativity, and attracting and keeping elite talent, according to the regulations.

[http://eng.chinamil.com.cn/view/2019-05/05/content\\_9495940.htm](http://eng.chinamil.com.cn/view/2019-05/05/content_9495940.htm)

### **China says it won't take part in trilateral nuclear arms talks**

Reuters, May 6, 2019

China on Monday dismissed a suggestion that it would talk with the United States and

Russia about a new accord limiting nuclear arms, saying it would not take part in any trilateral nuclear disarmament negotiations.

U.S. President Donald Trump said he and Russian President Vladimir Putin discussed on Friday the possibility of the new accord that could eventually include China in what would be a major deal between the globe's top three atomic powers.

Chinese Foreign Ministry spokesman Geng Shuang said that the country's nuclear forces were at the "lowest level" of its national security needs, and that they could not be compared to the United States and Russia.

<https://in.reuters.com/article/usa-trump-putin-china/china-says-it-wont-take-part-in-trilateral-nuclear-arms-talks-idINKCN1SC0MP>

### **Ambassador Liu Xiaoming contributes an article to the Financial Times entitled The US's wrong-headed decision to pull out of the nuclear arms treaty**

China Daily, May 6, 2019

On 5 May 2019, the Financial Times published an article by Ambassador Liu Xiaoming entitled The US's wrong-headed decision to pull out of the nuclear arms treaty, in which he expounded China's position on the Intermediate-Range Nuclear Forces (INF) treaty.

<http://africa.chinadaily.com.cn/a/201905/06/WS5ccf5cefa3104842260b9e5c.html>

### **China won't join talks on trilateral nuclear disarmament deal: FM**

Xinhua, May 6, 2019

China will not participate in negotiations on any trilateral nuclear disarmament agreement, a Foreign Ministry spokesperson said Monday. The United States recently raised the possibility of reaching a trilateral arms control deal with Russia and China, according to media reports. Spokesperson Geng Shuang

dismissed such a possibility at a press briefing. "China unswervingly follows a path of peaceful development and upholds a national defense policy that is defensive in nature. Our defense spending is reasonable and moderate. Our nuclear forces have been at the lowest level of national security needs and are not on the same scale with the United States and Russia." "We're opposed to accusations from any country on arms control issues," Geng said. China has always stood for the complete prohibition and thorough destruction of nuclear weapons, he added.

[http://www.xinhuanet.com/english/2019-05/06/c\\_138038159.htm](http://www.xinhuanet.com/english/2019-05/06/c_138038159.htm)

### **China reiterates support for Iran nuclear deal**

Xinhua, May 6, 2019

China commended Iran's strict fulfillment of its obligations under the Iran Joint Comprehensive Plan of Action (JCPOA) so far and would continue to maintain and carry out the deal with relevant parties, a Foreign Ministry spokesperson said Monday.

Spokesperson Geng Shuang made the remarks at a press briefing when asked for comments about the prospect of the JCPOA and the policy of imposing maximum pressure by the United States after the U.S. government announced its decision to stop issuing sanctions waivers to any country importing oil from Iran in April. However, the European Union, France, Germany and the United Kingdom reiterated their support for the JCPOA

[http://www.xinhuanet.com/english/2019-05/06/c\\_138038239.htm](http://www.xinhuanet.com/english/2019-05/06/c_138038239.htm)

### **China's military may have 'technologies stolen from US'**

Bertil Lintner, Chiang Mai  
Asia Times, May 6, 2019

China continues to build up its military capabilities to challenge America's role as the pre-eminent power in the Indo-Pacific

region, Randall G Schriver, the assistant US defense secretary for Indo-Pacific security affairs, said on May 3. According to a report posted on the US Department of Defense's website on that day, "China seeks to become both prosperous and powerful" and a US report notes that "China has a stated goal of becoming a world class military by 2049."

China is continuing to strengthen its missile force and has already started building a second aircraft carrier. The US report also states that "China's air force has flown its J-20 fifth-generation aircraft ... [which] has stealth characteristics and many US officials have said they believe it may contain technologies stolen from US manufacturers."

<https://www.asiatimes.com/2019/05/article/chinas-military-may-have-technologies-stolen-from-us/>

### **Quest for excellence keeps young, old minds ticking**

Liu Zhihua  
China Daily, May 7, 2019

Almost every Chinese knows about "Two Bombs and One Satellite", which refer to China's first atomic and hydrogen bombs detonated in 1964 and 1967, and the first satellite launched in 1970. A recent trip to the China Institute of Atomic Energy (CIAE), however, provided more firsthand insight into the trials and tribulations of the great scientists. Founded in 1950, CIAE's history is inked with names of outstanding scientists with the two bombs projects, including the founding fathers of China's nuclear science such as Qian Sanqiang, Wang Ganchang, and Yu Min. Undoubtedly, there have been more less-famous scientists and technicians who have also devoted their entire careers to the country's needs, with little worry about their own personal needs.

<http://www.chinadaily.com.cn/a/201905/07/WS5cd0fc72a3104842260ba44a.html>

## Booming space-themed travel pushes nation's space devt: analysts

Chen Xi  
Global Times, May 7, 2019

Data from a top Chinese travel agency shows that the country's space-themed travel has significantly grown, which would push forward national space development, experts said on Tuesday. "The number of Chinese tourists searching for space-related travel products in China and abroad rose by 60 percent in the past year," an employee of the public affairs department of Ctrip, China's leading online travel agency, on the condition of anonymity, told the Global Times on Tuesday, citing a report the company released recently. "Bookings for one of the most popular space-themed tourist sites through the company website, the Five-hundred-meter Aperture Spherical Radio Telescope in Southwest China's Guizhou Province quadrupled over last month during the International Workers' Day holidays," the employee said.

<http://www.globaltimes.cn/content/1148923.shtml>

## Strong Chinese navy guarantee of South China Sea peace

Global Times, May 7, 2019

On May 6, two US warships trespassed in the adjacent waters of Nanxun Jiao and Chigua Jiao of China's Nansha Islands without the Chinese government's permission. This was the third provocation this year by US warships in the South China Sea. Every time it was carried out under the banner of the so-called freedom of navigation. No matter how many times US warships sail into the South China Sea, it will not change the sovereignty of the islands and reefs in the region, nor can it weaken China's actual control over related islands and reefs. Furthermore, it cannot disturb the established pace of China's construction on islands and reefs in the South China Sea. China is committed to peaceful development and exercises the utmost restraint in developing strategic forces, said Liu, stressing that all of its land-based short- and

intermediate-range missiles are deployed within its borders.

[http://www.xinhuanet.com/english/2019-05/06/c\\_138037313.htm](http://www.xinhuanet.com/english/2019-05/06/c_138037313.htm)

## China develops armored vehicle capable of launching suicide drones

Liu Xuanzun  
Global Times, May 8, 2019

China has developed a highly mobile armored vehicle that can fire dozens of drones capable of conducting reconnaissance operations and deliver accurate suicide attacks on targets. The low-cost drones can easily distract and swarm the enemy, military analysts said. Developed by Beijing Zhongzi Yanjing Auto Co Ltd, the armored multipurpose drone launching vehicle was displayed at the Beijing Civil-Military Integration Expo 2019

<http://www.globaltimes.cn/content/1149025.shtml>

## Iran nuke deal in jeopardy, Chinese experts warn of heavier US sanctions

Zhang Xingjian and Lengs Shumei  
Global Times, May 8, 2019

China called on related parties to exercise restraint, strengthen dialogue and avoid escalating tensions after Iran announced it would withdraw from some of the provisions of the Iran Joint Comprehensive Plan of Action (JCPOA) on Wednesday, considered a response to the "illegal" withdrawal of the US from the agreement a year ago. However, Chinese experts expressed pessimism for an easing of the Iran nuclear issue 60 days later - a time limit Iran gave the remaining JCPOA members to meet Iran's demands, or the country would suspend compliance with uranium enrichment limits and measures.

<http://www.globaltimes.cn/content/1149080.shtml>

## Romanian, Chinese companies sign deal on continuation of nuclear power plant project

Xinhua, May 8, 2019

Bian Shuming, general manager of the China General Nuclear Power Corporation (CGN) Romania Nuclear Power Company, shakes hands with Robert Tudorache, state secretary with the Romania Ministry of Energy, after signing an agreement in Bucharest, Romania, May 8, 2019. Romanian and Chinese companies signed on Wednesday the Investors Agreement in the preliminary form (PIA) regarding the continuation of the Cernavoda nuclear power plant Units 3 and 4 Project, marking a significant progress in bilateral cooperation under the framework of the Belt and Road Initiative.

[http://www.xinhuanet.com/english/2019-05/08/c\\_138043485.htm](http://www.xinhuanet.com/english/2019-05/08/c_138043485.htm)

## Chinese scientists develop virtual nuclear power plant for safety assessment

Xinhua, May 9, 2019

Chinese scientists have developed a virtual nuclear power plant within a digital society, a software system to help evaluate the safety and efficiency of nuclear energy systems. The research of the system, named Virtual4DS, was published as a cover paper in the International Journal of Energy Research in April. As nuclear safety is the key issue in the development of nuclear energy, research and development of advanced nuclear energy safety technology is imperative. Advanced numerical simulations can restore the complex physical processes as much as possible and predict nuclear energy system behavior and safety performance.

[http://www.xinhuanet.com/english/2019-05/09/c\\_138045691.htm](http://www.xinhuanet.com/english/2019-05/09/c_138045691.htm)

## Views on nuclear disarmament "wide apart" among NPT signatories: UN

Xinhua, May 11, 2019

A United Nations official said Friday that there is a large convergence on the peaceful use of nuclear energy among states parties to the Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons (NPT), but not on nuclear disarmament. "There are a lot of convergence on that (peaceful use of nuclear energy)," Syed Hasrin Syed Hussin, chair of the Third Preparatory Committee for the 2020 NPT Review Conference, told a press conference. However, he said that "we can see that the views are still quite wide apart on how to move forward with regard to the implementation of Article 6, dealing with nuclear disarmament."

"They have engaged in open dialogue on how to accelerate progress towards a world free of nuclear weapons, including through measures to prevent their proliferation," he added. Since 1995, NPT review conferences have produced decisions, action plans, practical steps and measures to improve the effectiveness of the review process itself. The NPT, signed in 1968 and effective since 1970, is the only treaty that contains legally-binding commitments to pursuing nuclear disarmament. A total of 191 states have joined the treaty.

[http://www.xinhuanet.com/english/2019-05/11/c\\_138049556.htm](http://www.xinhuanet.com/english/2019-05/11/c_138049556.htm)

## Chinese guided missile destroyer suitable for mass production: experts

Liu Xuanzun  
Global Times, May 12, 2019

China is expected to build even more guided missile destroyers, Chinese military analysts said on Sunday as China launched two Type 052D guided missile destroyers on Friday in Dalian, a coastal

city in Northeast China's Liaoning Province. Decked with Chinese national flags, the two Type 052D destroyers were launched in the Dalian Shipyard on Friday with the assistance of tug boats, marking the 19th and 20th of launches of their kind.

China now has 20 Type 052Ds either in active service or being fitted out for service soon, the report said. Wei Dongxu, a Beijing-based military analyst, told the Global Times on Sunday that 20 would not be the end for the ship's development, and China might have more than 30 in the future. "The platform [of the Type 052D] is pretty reliable and it uses very mature technologies. These make it suitable for mass production," Wei said, noting that the destroyers will play crucial roles in China's fleet air defense system.

<http://www.globaltimes.cn/content/1149545.shtml>

### **Nuclear deal between China, Russia worth \$1.7b**

*Global Times, May 14, 2019*

Chinese and Russian nuclear companies will sign a deal worth more than \$1.7 billion for the No.3 and No.4 reactors at the Xudapu Nuclear Plant using Russian technology, accelerating Sino-Russian cooperation on nuclear energy. Construction of two reactors at the Xudapu Nuclear Plant in Huludao, Northeast China's Liaoning Province, is scheduled to start in October 2021 and August 2022, China National Nuclear Corp (CNNC) said Monday in an announcement. It did not specify when the contract will be signed.

The Xudapu Nuclear Plant, together with the Tianwan Nuclear Plant in East China's Jiangsu Province, are part of a 20-billion-yuan (\$2.9 billion) nuclear deal signed in June between CNNC and Rosatom State Corp Engineering Division, the Russian state nuclear company. The deal is the biggest bilateral cooperation project involving nuclear energy, according to CNNC. Under the deal, the two parties will jointly build four VVER-1200 nuclear reactors. As of November 1, 2017, the number of nuclear power units in operation in the Chinese

mainland reached 37, ranking third globally, according to data from the Chinese National Energy Administration. China also has 19 nuclear power units under construction.

<http://www.globaltimes.cn/content/1149880.shtml>

### **Chinese university aims to bring trust, resilience to next-generation AI**

*Xinhua, May 14, 2019*

From voice assistant to face recognition; from defeating master players in Go to crushing professional gamers in strategy game StarCraft; the world has witnessed exciting progress in the development of artificial intelligence (AI). As AI is applied to higher-stake functions - like self-driving cars, automated surgical assistants, hedge fund management and power grid controls - how can we ensure it's trustworthy? China's prestigious Tsinghua University has announced it will step up basic research on third-generation AI, in the hope of building trust and preventing abuse and malicious behavior of AI models. Zhang Bo, director of the Tsinghua Institute for Artificial Intelligence and academician at the Chinese Academy of Sciences, unveiled the plan at the opening of Center for Fundamental Theories under the Institute for Artificial Intelligence on Monday.

[http://www.xinhuanet.com/english/2019-05/14/c\\_138057405.htm](http://www.xinhuanet.com/english/2019-05/14/c_138057405.htm)

### **National science week anticipates more than 330m visitors**

*Zhang Zhihao  
China Daily, May 14, 2019*

A record high of more than 330 million visitors are expected to participate in about 21,000 science events across China during its 19th National Science and Technology Week from May 19 to 26, said an official from the Ministry of Science and Technology on Tuesday. More than 3,500 universities, research institutes and state key laboratories across China will host

open days during the science week. Around 50,000 scientists will enter schools, villages, companies and military barracks to educate and interact directly with people.

<http://www.chinadaily.com.cn/a/201905/14/WS5cda6569a3104842260bb8b3.html>

## China home to 140+ commercial space companies

Zhang Jie  
China Daily, May 15, 2019

By the end of 2018 China was home to 141 commercial space companies, 123 (87.2 percent) of which are private, news outlet The Paper reported Tuesday. Of the 141 companies, 36 are commercial satellite manufacturing makers, 22 are launching firms, and 44 are satellite application firms, while 61 (43.3 percent) have been founded within the last three years. Most of the companies are based in Beijing and Shaanxi province, with more than half in Beijing. Investment and financing in the space last year reached 3.57 billion yuan, focused primarily on satellite applications and launching areas, which drew 1.97 billion yuan and 1.15 billion yuan, said The Paper, quoting a research institution. At least 36 investing and financing deals were agreed in 2018, with one third of the deals involving angel and seed-round interments.

<http://www.chinadaily.com.cn/a/201905/15/WS5cdbd1f0a3104842260bbc7.html>

## Chinese lunar rover's "lucky" find could unlock secrets of moon & earth

Xinhua, May 15, 2019

China's Yutu-2, the first rover on the far side of the moon, has found materials from deep inside the moon that could help unravel the mystery of the lunar mantle composition and the formation and evolution of the moon and the earth. Using data obtained by the visible and near infrared spectrometer installed on Yutu-2, a research team led by Li Chunlai, of the National Astronomical Observatories of China under the Chinese Academy of Sciences, found that the lunar soil in the landing area of the Chang'e-4

probe contains olivine and pyroxene which came from the lunar mantle deep inside the moon. After Chang'e-4 successfully landed on the Von Karman Crater in the South Pole-Aitken Basin on Jan. 3 this year, the Yutu-2 rover obtained good quality spectral data at two sites.

[http://www.xinhuanet.com/english/2019-05/16/c\\_138062813.htm](http://www.xinhuanet.com/english/2019-05/16/c_138062813.htm)

## C. Pakistan

### India-Pakistan war would be 'nuclear Armageddon'

Mehmet Kara  
Anadolu Agency, May 2, 2019

A war between Pakistan and India would be "nuclear Armageddon" and the whole world would be affected, President of Azad Jammu and Kashmir said Thursday. "If there was a nuclear conflict between the two countries, 20 million people could die immediately," Sardar Masood Khan said at a conference organized by Center for Islam and Global Affairs (CIGA) in Istanbul. "Kashmir conflict should be resolved and peace should be established, we have no other options," Khan added.

He stressed that Kashmir is the reason for a political and military conflict between Pakistan and India since 1947, and said a permanent solution would stop these conflicts. "The conflict in Kashmir is not only related to politics, economy and geopolitics, but it is also a human tragedy," Khan said and suggested that the UN and neighboring countries could contribute to the solution.

<https://www.aa.com.tr/en/asia-pacific/india-pakistan-war-would-be-nuclear-armageddon-/1468460>

### No threat to CPEC, nuclear program: FM Qureshi

The News, May 7, 2019

Foreign Minister Shah Mahmood Qureshi on Tuesday said there was no threat to Pakistan's nuclear program and China Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC).

Speaking in the Senate on an adjournment motion, he said there was national consensus on both the nuclear program and the CPEC and it will stay intact. He said the president constituted the 9th NFC award but despite repeated requests by the former Finance Minister Asad Umer, the provincial governments delayed the process of nominating its representatives for the NFC award. He said the government is seeking an IMF package because of the damage inflicted to the economy over the last ten years.

<https://www.thenews.com.pk/latest/468249-no-threat-to-cpec-nuclear-program>

### **Iran halts some commitments under nuclear deal**

Pakistan Today, May 15, 2019

Iran has officially stopped some commitments under a 2015 nuclear deal with world powers following an order from its national security council, an informed official in the country's atomic energy body told the ISNA news agency on Wednesday.

Last week, Iran notified China, France, Germany, Russia and the United Kingdom of its decision to halt some commitments under the nuclear deal, a year after the United States unilaterally withdrew from the accord and re-imposed sanctions.

Under the nuclear deal, Tehran was allowed to produce low-enriched uranium with a 300-kg limit, and produce heavy water with a stock capped around 130 tonnes. Tehran could ship the excess amounts out of the country for storage or sale.

<https://www.pakistantoday.com.pk/2019/05/15iran-halts-some-commitments-under-nuclear-deal/>

## **D. USA**

### **US. judge orders Chinese banks to hand over North Korea records**

Reuters, May 1, 2019

A U.S. district judge has ordered three Chinese banks to comply with U.S.

investigators' demands that they hand over records connected to the alleged movement of tens of millions of dollars in violation of international sanctions on North Korea. In a heavily redacted court opinion released by the U.S. Justice Department on Tuesday and dated March 18, Beryl Howell, Washington D.C.'s chief federal district judge, said the subpoenas were for records of dealings between a now-defunct Hong Kong-based front company and a North Korean state-run entity.

The publicly released court document did not name the banks, the Hong Kong company, or the North Korean entity. It said the front company was established by a North Korean national and a Chinese individual, who were also not named.

<https://in.reuters.com/article/northkorea-usa-china-banks/u-s-judge-orders-chinese-banks-to-hand-over-north-korea-records-idINKCN1S62WA>

### **How Trump's hawkish advisors won debate on Iran oil sanctions**

Humeyra Pamuk, Timothy Gardner  
Reuters, May 1, 2019

U.S. President Donald Trump's unexpected decision to ban all Iranian oil purchases after May 1 - ending exemptions for eight nations - came after hawkish economic and security advisors allayed the president's fears of an oil price hike, according to three sources familiar with the internal debate. The unprecedented move to fully sever Tehran's financial lifeline - finalized just days before the April 22 announcement - underscores the influence of hard-liners within Trump's National Security Council, which two of the sources said were the biggest advocates for the decision. They had for months argued for tightening the sanctions over the objections of State Department officials who favored allowing some partners and allies to keep buying Iranian oil.

<https://in.reuters.com/article/usa-iran-sanctions-decision/how-trumps-hawkish-advisors-won-debate-on-iran-oil-sanctions-idINKCN1S748H>

## US NRC set to certify APR-1400 reactor design

World Nuclear News, May 1, 2019

The US Nuclear Regulatory Commission (NRC) has said it will issue a direct final rule certifying the Korean-designed Advanced Power Reactor 1400 (APR-1400). The certification, valid for 15 years, will state that the NRC finds the design fully acceptable for deployment in the USA.

Korea Electric Power Corporation (Kepeco) and its subsidiary Korea Hydro and Nuclear Power (KHNP) originally submitted the design to the NRC in September 2013. They then submitted a revised version of its application in December 2014. The NRC completed an acceptance check in March 2015 and ruled that the revised application was sufficiently complete for it to undertake a full design certification review.

<http://www.world-nuclear-news.org/Articles/US-NRC-set-to-certify-APR-1400-reactor-design>

## United States cracks down on Iran uranium production, nuclear plant

Jonathan Landay  
Reuters, May 2, 2019

United States acted on Friday to force Iran to stop producing low-enriched uranium and expanding its only nuclear power plant, intensifying a campaign aimed at halting Tehran's ballistic missile programme and curbing its regional power. At the same time, Secretary of State Mike Pompeo renewed waivers of U.S. sanctions allowing Russia, China and European countries to pursue cooperation programs designed to prevent Iran from reactivating a defunct nuclear weapons programme.

But, the State Department said, the renewable waivers would be granted only for 90 days, a shorter period than previously.

The moves are part of the Trump administration's efforts to impose international political and economic isolation on Tehran that began with the U.S.

withdrawal in May 2018 from the 2015 nuclear deal negotiated with Iran by the United States and other world powers.

<https://in.reuters.com/article/usa-iran-nonproliferation/u-s-cracks-down-on-iran-uranium-production-nuclear-plant-idINKCN1S91ZY>

## U.S. says military killed 120 civilians abroad in 2018, lower than watchdog estimates

Reuters, May 2, 2019

United States military actions killed about 120 civilians and injured 65 others in Iraq, Syria, Afghanistan and Somalia last year, the Pentagon said in a report on Thursday, though the figures were far lower than those reported by watchdog groups.

The annual report, mandated by Congress, showed a significant drop from nearly 800 civilians killed in 2017, in part because the pace of operations had slowed against Islamic State militants in Iraq and Syria. During operations in Afghanistan in 2018, 76 civilians were killed, with 42 killed in total in Iraq and Syria, and two civilians killed during a strike in Somalia, according to the nearly 20-page report, which tracks air and ground military operations.

The Pentagon assessed that no civilians were killed in Libya or Yemen, the report said. Still, the civilian casualties in the report were far lower than those reported by watchdog groups.

<https://in.reuters.com/article/usa-military-civilians/u-s-says-military-killed-120-civilians-abroad-in-2018-lower-than-watchdog-estimates-idINKCN1S815F>

## Trump says he, Putin discussed new nuclear pact possibly including China

Steve Holland  
Reuters, May 2, 2019

U.S. President Donald Trump said he and Russian President Vladimir Putin

discussed on Friday the possibility of a new accord limiting nuclear arms that could eventually include China in what would be a major deal between the globe's top three atomic powers. Trump, speaking to reporters as he met in the Oval Office with Peter Pellegrini, prime minister of the Slovak Republic, also said he and Putin discussed efforts to persuade North Korea to give up nuclear weapons, the political discord in Venezuela, and Ukraine during a call that stretched over an hour.

The 2011 New START treaty, the only U.S.-Russia arms control pact limiting deployed strategic nuclear weapons, expires in February 2021 but can be extended for five years if both sides agree. Without the agreement, it could be harder to gauge each other's intentions, arms control advocates say.

<https://in.reuters.com/article/usa-trump-putin/trump-says-he-putin-discussed-new-nuclear-pact-possibly-including-china-idINKCN1S91LV>

### **Trump, Putin discuss nuclear weapons and Venezuela in phone call**

Aljazeera, May 4, 2019

US President Donald Trump and Russian President Vladimir Putin spoke for more than an hour on Friday, discussing the possibility of a new nuclear accord, North Korean denuclearisation, Ukraine and the political situation in Venezuela, the White House said.

"Had a long and very good conversation with President Putin of Russia," Trump said in a post on Twitter, noting they had discussed trade, Venezuela, Ukraine, North Korea, nuclear arms and Special Counsel Robert Mueller's investigation of Russian meddling in the 2016 US presidential campaign.

<https://www.aljazeera.com/news/2019/05/trump-putin-discuss-nuclear-weapons-venezuela-phone-call-190503181032495.html>

### **U.S. deploying carrier, bombers to Middle East to deter Iran - Bolton**

Matt Spetalnick, Idrees Ali  
Reuters, May 6, 2019

The Trump administration is deploying a carrier strike group and bombers to the Middle East in response to troubling "indications and warnings" from Iran and to show the United States will retaliate with "unrelenting force" to any attack, national security adviser John Bolton said on Sunday.

With tensions already high between Washington and Tehran, a U.S. official said the deployment has been ordered "as a deterrence to what has been seen as potential preparations by Iranian forces and its proxies that may indicate possible attacks on U.S. forces in the region." However, the official, speaking on condition of anonymity, said the United States was not expecting any imminent Iranian attack.

<https://in.reuters.com/article/usa-iran/u-s-deploying-carrier-bombers-to-middle-east-to-deter-iran-bolton-idINKCN1SC056>

### **B-52 bombers to be part of U.S. forces sent to Middle East over Iran concerns**

Reuters, May 7, 2019

The U.S. military said on Tuesday that B-52 bombers will be part of additional forces being sent to the Middle East to counter what the Trump administration says are "clear indications" of threats from Iran to U.S. forces there. White House national security adviser John Bolton said on Sunday that the United States was deploying a carrier strike group and a bomber task force to the Middle East. Captain Bill Urban, a spokesman for U.S. Central Command, said that the bomber task force would consist of B-52 bombers.

<https://in.reuters.com/article/usa-iran-aircraft/b-52-bombers-to-be-part-of-u-s-forces-sent-to-middle-east-over-iran-concerns-idINKCN1SD1UC>

## Vogtle 3 plant equipment energised

World Nuclear News, May 8, 2019

Individual electrical components at Vogtle 3 are now permanently powered, Georgia Power announced yesterday. The completion of initial energisation represents a significant milestone as the US nuclear project moves from construction towards system operations.

The equipment, which has previously been running on temporary construction power, must be permanently powered to carry out all subsequent testing for the unit. "Initial energisation is a major first step in transitioning the project from construction toward system operations," Vogtle 3 & 4 Construction Senior Vice President Glen Chick said. "With energisation complete, we can continue moving into the actual testing phase for unit 3."

<http://www.world-nuclear-news.org/Articles/Vogtle-3-plant-equipment-energised>

## Three Mile Island unit 1 closure confirmed

World Nuclear News, May 9, 2019

Three Mile Island (TMI) unit 1 will shut down by 30 September as no state-level policy solution can now be enacted in time to reverse the premature retirement of the Pennsylvania plant, Exelon Generation announced yesterday.

The company announced in May 2017 that without policy reforms the 819 MWe (net) pressurised water reactor would close this year due to economic challenges and the failure of the market to recognise the environmental and resiliency benefits of nuclear generation. Legislation known as the Keep Powering Pennsylvania Act, which would update the state's existing alternative energy portfolio standards legislation to recognise nuclear energy for its significant contribution to zero-carbon energy production, was introduced in the state's legislature earlier this year, but no action to progress the draft bills has been taken in either the House or Senate. With only three legislative session days remaining in May,

Exelon said it is now clear that a state policy solution will not be enacted before 1 June, the last date at which it could reverse plans to retire the plant.

<http://www.world-nuclear-news.org/Articles/Three-Mile-Island-unit-1-closure-confirmed>

## Air-Launched Ballistic Missile will realise China's nuclear triad, says Pentagon

India TV, May 9, 2019

The US Department of Defence (DOD) released its annual public assessment of China's military capabilities. The Office of the US Secretary of Defence noted the development in its annual report to Congress last week. It said "China continues to improve its ground and submarine-based nuclear capability and is pursuing a viable nuclear 'triad' with the development of a nuclear capable air-launched ballistic missile (ALBM)," according to Sputnik news.

However, while the US has maintained its strategic bomber fleet as part of its nuclear triad by continuing to arm them with nuclear gravity bombs, China's Air Force was taken off the nuclear mission some time in the late-1970s or early-1980s, when Beijing's nuclear gravity bombs were phased out in favour of the erstwhile Second Artillery Corps – now called the People's Liberation Army Rocket Force (PLARF).

<https://www.indiatonews.com/news/world-pentagon-air-launched-ballistic-missile-will-realize-china-s-nuclear-triad-518887>

## U.S. eyes further sanctions on Iran 'very soon' - White House official

Reuters, May 8, 2019

The United States is planning to impose further sanctions on Iran 'very soon', a senior White House official said on Wednesday, as Tehran announced it was scaling back some curbs to its nuclear programme.

Tim Morrison, Special Assistant to the

President and Senior Director for Weapons of Mass Destruction and Biodefense, told a conference that Washington was not 'done' with imposing sanctions on Iran. "Expect more sanctions soon. Very soon," he said.

<https://in.reuters.com/article/usa-iran-sanctions/u-s-eyes-further-sanctions-on-iran-very-soon-white-house-official-idINKCN1SE1SA>

### **U.S. targets Iran's metals for sanctions, Tehran relaxes nuclear deal compliance**

Humeyra Pamuk, Bozorgmehr Sharafedin  
Reuters, May 8, 2019

U.S. President Donald Trump on Wednesday imposed new sanctions on Iran, targeting revenue from its exports of industrial metals, the latest salvo in tensions between Washington and Tehran over a 2015 international accord curbing the Islamic Republic's nuclear program.

Iran had announced hours earlier that it was relaxing some restrictions on its nuclear program, steps that stopped short of violating the deal with world powers for now, but threatening more action if countries do not shield it from U.S. sanctions.

An executive order issued by Trump covers Iran's iron, steel, aluminium, and copper sectors, the government's largest non-petroleum-related sources of export revenue and 10 percent of its export economy, a White House statement said.

<https://in.reuters.com/article/usa-iran-rouhani/u-s-targets-irans-metals-for-sanctions-tehran-relaxes-nuclear-deal-compliance-idINKCN1SE0KN>

### **U.S., Japan, India and Philippines challenge Beijing with naval drills in the South China Sea**

Reuters, May 9, 2019

In fresh show of naval force in the contested South China Sea, a U.S. guided missile destroyer conducted drills with a Japanese aircraft carrier, two Indian naval ships and a Philippine patrol vessel in the waterway

claimed by China, the U.S. Navy said on Thursday. While similar exercises have been held in the South China Sea in the past, the combined display by four countries represents a fresh challenge to Beijing as U.S. President Donald Trump threatens to hike tariffs on \$200 billion worth of Chinese goods.

"Professional engagements with our allies, partners and friends in the region are opportunities to build upon our existing, strong relationships," Commander Andrew J. Klug, the captain of the U.S. destroyer, the USS William P. Lawrence, said in a statement.

<https://in.reuters.com/article/southchinasea-usa-japan-india/u-s-japan-india-and-philippines-challenge-beijing-with-naval-drills-in-the-south-china-sea-idINKCN1SF0M4>

### **U.S. carrier to deter Iran passes through Suez Canal**

Reuters, May 9, 2019

The U.S. aircraft carrier Abraham Lincoln, deployed by President Donald Trump's administration to the Middle East as a warning to Iran, passed through Egypt's Suez Canal on Thursday, the Suez Canal Authority said. The deployment of the carrier strike group is meant to show the United States will retaliate with "unrelenting force" to any attack, national security adviser John Bolton said on Sunday. Iran has dismissed announcement of a U.S. aircraft carrier deployment as old news, recycled for psychological warfare.

<https://in.reuters.com/article/usa-iran-suezcanal/u-s-carrier-to-deter-iran-passes-through-suez-canal-idINKCN1SF18X>

### **U.S. seizes North Korean ship it accuses of violating sanctions**

Sarah N. Lynch, Michelle Nichols  
Reuters, May 9, 2019

The United States has for the first time seized a North Korean cargo ship it accused of illicit coal shipments in violation of U.S. and United Nations sanctions, the

U.S. Justice Department announced on Thursday.

The ship, known as the “Wise Honest,” was first detained by Indonesia in April 2018. Under an unusual U.S. civil forfeiture action, the vessel is now in the possession of the United States and is currently approaching U.S. territorial waters heading toward American Samoa, U.S. Justice Department officials said.

The announcement comes after North Korea fired what appeared to be two short-range missiles on Thursday, its second such test in less than a week and an apparent protest by leader Kim Jong Un after U.S. President Donald Trump rejected his calls for sanctions relief at a summit in February. The United States filed its seizure warrant for the ship under seal in July 2018, but department officials said the timing of its unsealing on Thursday was unrelated to the missile launches.

<https://in.reuters.com/article/usa-northkorea-seizure/u-s-seizes-north-korean-ship-it-accuses-of-violating-sanctions-idINKCN1SF22I>

### **U.S., Iran tensions unyielding, Europeans reject Iran ‘ultimatums’ over nuclear deal**

Reuters, May 9, 2019

European countries said on Thursday they wanted to preserve Iran’s nuclear deal and rejected “ultimatums” from Tehran, after Iran relaxed restrictions on its nuclear programme and threatened moves that might Iran’s announcement on Wednesday, related to curbs on its stockpiling of nuclear materials, was in response to U.S. sanctions imposed following President Donald Trump’s withdrawal of the United States from the accord with Tehran a year ago.

Iran’s initial moves do not appear to violate the accord yet. But President Hassan Rouhani said that unless the world powers which signed the deal protect Iran’s economy from U.S. sanctions within 60 days, Iran would start enriching uranium beyond limits set in the agreement.

“We reject any ultimatums and we will

assess Iran’s compliance on the basis of Iran’s performance regarding its nuclear-related commitments ...,” read a statement issued jointly by the European Union and the foreign ministers of Britain, France and Germany, co-signatories of the deal.

<https://in.reuters.com/article/usa-iran/u-s-iran-tensions-unyielding-europeans-reject-iran-ultimatums-over-nuclear-deal-idINKCN1SE2QV>

### **U.S. warns merchant ships of possible Iranian attacks in Middle East**

Reuters, May 10, 2019

U.S. commercial ships including oil tankers sailing through key Middle East waterways could be targeted by Iran in one of the threats to U.S. interests posed by Tehran, the U.S. Maritime Administration said in an advisory. The U.S. military said this week that a number of B-52 bombers would be part of additional forces being sent to the Middle East to counter what the Trump administration calls “clear indications” of threats from Iran to U.S. forces there. The Islamic Republic has dismissed the U.S. contention of a threat as “fake intelligence”.

In the advisory posted on Thursday, the U.S. Maritime Administration (MARAD) said that since early May there had been an increased possibility of Iran or its regional proxies taking action against U.S. and partner interests.

<https://in.reuters.com/article/usa-iran-shipping/u-s-warns-merchant-ships-of-possible-iranian-attacks-in-middle-east-idINKCN1SG1ZZ>

### **Trump says it would be big mistake for Iran to try anything against U.S.**

Reuters, May 14, 2019

U.S. President Donald Trump warned on Monday Iran would “suffer greatly” if it targeted U.S. interests after Washington deployed an aircraft carrier and more jet

fighters at a time of rising tensions with Tehran.

“We’ll see what happens with Iran. If they do anything, it will be a very bad mistake,” Trump told reporters at the White House. “If they do anything they will suffer greatly.”

Trump’s comments came after the United Arab Emirates reported four commercial vessels had been sabotaged on Sunday near Fujairah emirate just outside the Strait of Hormuz. Iran sought to distance itself from the incident.

<https://in.reuters.com/article/usa-iran-trump/trump-says-it-would-be-big-mistake-for-iran-to-try-anything-against-u-s-idINKCN1SJ21Q>

### **Trump denies U.S. plan to send 120,000 troops to counter Iran threat**

Reuters, May 14, 2019

President Donald Trump on Tuesday denied a New York Times report that U.S. officials were discussing a military plan to send up to 120,000 troops to the Middle East to counter any attack or nuclear weapons acceleration by Iran.

“I think it’s fake news, OK? Now, would I do that? Absolutely. But we have not planned for that. Hopefully we’re not going to have to plan for that. And if we did that, we’d send a hell of a lot more troops than that,” Trump told reporters at the White House.

The Times reported that Acting Defense Secretary Patrick Shanahan presented an updated plan last week in a meeting of top national security aides that envisions sending as many as 120,000 American troops to the region if Iran attacks U.S. forces or accelerates work on its nuclear weapons. The updated plan does not call for a land invasion of Iran, which would require far more troops, the Times reported, citing unidentified administration officials.

The plan reflects revisions ordered by Iran hawks including national security adviser John Bolton, the newspaper said.

<https://in.reuters.com/article/usa-iran-military/>

[trump-denies-u-s-plan-to-send-120000-troops-to-counter-iran-threat-idINKCN1SK20C](#)

### **White House Reviews Military Plans Against Iran, in Echoes of Iraq War**

Eric Schmitt and Julian E. Barnes  
The New York Times, May 13, 2019

At a meeting of President Trump’s top national security aides last Thursday, Acting Defense Secretary Patrick Shanahan presented an updated military plan that envisions sending as many as 120,000 troops to the Middle East should Iran attack American forces or accelerate work on nuclear weapons, administration officials said.

The revisions were ordered by hard-liners led by John R. Bolton, Mr. Trump’s national security adviser. They do not call for a land invasion of Iran, which would require vastly more troops, officials said.

<https://www.nytimes.com/2019/05/13/world/middleeast/us-military-plans-iran.html>

### **Russian President Vladimir Putin calls special counsel Mueller’s inquiry ‘very objective’**

Deirdre Shesgreen  
USA Today, May 14, 2019

Russian President Vladimir Putin called Robert Mueller’s investigation “very objective” Tuesday and said he hoped the special counsel’s final report would allow the United States and Russia to reboot their diplomatic relationship, which has been strained by the Kremlin’s interference in the 2016 election and questions about whether the Trump campaign colluded with Russia.

“However exotic the work of special counsel Mueller was, I have to say that on the whole, he has had a very objective investigation, and he confirmed that there were no traces whatsoever of collusion between Russia and the incumbent administration, which we said was absolutely fake,” Putin said before a

closed-door meeting with Secretary of State Mike Pompeo in Sochi on Tuesday.

<https://www.usatoday.com/story/news/world/2019/05/14/pompeo-meets-russia-vladimir-putin-amid-heightened-tensions-over-iran-venezuela-nuclear-arms-control/1194266001/>

## Skeptical U.S. Allies Resist Trump's New Claims of Threats From Iran

Helene Cooper and Edward Wong  
New York Times, May 14, 2019

As the Trump administration draws up war plans against Iran over what it says are threats to American troops and interests, a senior British military official told reporters at the Pentagon on Tuesday that he saw no increased risk from Iran or allied militias in Iraq or Syria.

A few hours later, the United States Central Command issued an unusual rebuke: The remarks from the British official – Maj. Gen. Chris Ghika, who is also the deputy commander of the American-led coalition fighting the Islamic State – run “counter to the identified credible threats available to intelligence from U.S. and allies regarding Iranian-backed forces in the region.”

<https://www.nytimes.com/2019/05/14/world/middleeast/trump-iran-threats.html>

## North Korea Demands Return of Cargo Ship Seized by U.S.

Choe Sang-Hun  
The New York Times, May 14, 2019

North Korea on Tuesday demanded the release of a ship impounded by the United States for evading international sanctions, calling the seizure a “flagrant act of robbery” that violated the spirit of the agreement reached last year between the North’s leader, Kim Jong-un, and President Trump.

American prosecutors say the North Korean ship, the *Wise Honest*, was used to export coal and import heavy machinery in violation of sanctions imposed on the North over its nuclear arms program. The ship was detained in Indonesian waters by the

authorities there in April of last year, and its seizure by the United States was announced last week. The ship has since been taken to American Samoa.

<https://www.nytimes.com/2019/05/14/world/asia/north-korea-cargo-ship-usa.html>

## US puts China, Pakistan firms on entity list over national security concern

Business Today, May 14, 2019

The United States on Monday placed 12 foreign companies, including several entities from China and one from Pakistan, among others, in its entity list to ensure that sensitive technologies do not fall into the hands of those who would threaten its national security.

The 12 entities making it to the list include four companies with locations in both China and Hong Kong, and a further two Chinese, one Pakistani and five Emirati persons, the Department of Commerce said.

<https://www.businesstoday.in/current/world/us-puts-china-pakistan-on-entity-list-over-national-security-concern/story/346319.html>

## U.S. Leads World in Nuke Reduction Efforts, DOD Official Says

David Vergun  
US Dept of Defence, May 15, 2019

For decades, the United States has led the world in efforts to reduce the number of nuclear weapons, the deputy undersecretary of defense for policy said at a hearing of the Senate Committee on Foreign Relations on the current state of arms control efforts.

Successive treaties enabled reductions in strategic U.S. nuclear warheads, first to 6,000, and ultimately to 1,550, David J. Trachtenberg said. Thousands of short-range nuclear weapons not covered by any treaty were almost entirely eliminated from the U.S. nuclear arsenal, he said. Overall, the U.S. nuclear weapons stockpile has

drawn down by more than 85% from its Cold War high, Trachtenberg said.

<https://www.defense.gov/explore/story/Article/1848886/us-leads-world-in-nuke-reduction-efforts-dod-official-says/>

### **Energy investment insufficient to meet demand, says IEA**

World Nuclear News, May 15, 2019

“Energy investments now face unprecedented uncertainties, with shifts in markets, policies and technologies,” Fatih Birol, the executive director of the International Energy Agency (IEA) says in the Paris-based organisation’s latest annual review.

The findings of the World Energy Investment 2019 report signal a “growing mismatch” between current trends and the paths to meeting the Paris Agreement and other sustainable development goals. The bottom line is that the world is not investing enough in traditional elements of supply to maintain today’s consumption patterns, nor is it investing enough in cleaner energy technologies to change course. Whichever way you look, we are storing up risks for the future,” Birol said.

<http://www.world-nuclear-news.org/Articles/Energy-investment-insufficient-to-meet-demand,-say>

### **Donald Trump travels to South Korea next month to talk about North Korea**

David Jackson  
USA Today, May 15, 2019

President Donald Trump will travel to South Korea next month to discuss nuclear negotiations with North Korea, officials said Wednesday, an extension of his trip to Japan for a G-20 summit. Trump and South Korea President Moon Jae-in “will continue their close coordination on efforts to achieve the final, fully verified denuclearization of the Democratic People’s Republic of Korea,” White House spokeswoman Sarah Sanders said.

Despite a failed summit in February between Trump and North Korea’s Kim Jong Un, Moon has encouraged the two countries to keep negotiating an agreement in which the North would eliminate nuclear weapons programs while the U.S. and allies end economic sanctions on Kim’s regime.

<https://www.usatoday.com/story/news/politics/2019/05/15/donald-trump-travels-south-korea-june-talk-north-korea/3684983002/>

### **E. Europe**

### **EU to shield its companies in Cuba via WTO, blocking U.S. sanctions: statement**

Reuters, May 2, 2019

The European Union could take the United States to the World Trade Organization or use retaliatory sanctions to protect its companies in Cuba after President Donald Trump lifted a ban on U.S. citizens filing lawsuits against investors there. “The EU considers the extra-territorial application of unilateral restrictive measures to be contrary to international law and will draw on all appropriate measures,” the EU’s foreign policy chief Federica Mogherini said in a statement.

Mogherini said those steps could include a World Trade Organization case on the issue or using a “Blocking Statute” that allows EU companies sued in the United States to recover any damages from U.S. claimants in EU courts.

<https://in.reuters.com/article/us-usa-cuba-eu/eu-to-shield-its-companies-in-cuba-via-wto-blocking-u-s-sanctions-statement-idINKCN1S80DG>

### **New Czech minister sees no one ruled out of 5G, nuclear power expansion**

Jason Hovet  
Reuters, May 2, 2019

The Czech Republic should not initially rule out any Chinese or Russian companies from plans to build up new-generation 5G

mobile networks or expand its fleet of nuclear power stations, new Industry Minister Karel Havlicek said in an interview. After a cabinet shuffle, Havlicek is stepping into the industry post on Tuesday as the state pushes ahead with both projects that face security questions over the possible participation of China's Huawei in 5G, as well as Russian and Chinese involvement in the nuclear expansion.

Havlicek said security would play a key factor in both sectors and warnings would not be ignored. But first, conditions for the expansions have to be outlined and discussion with key players should take place, he said.

<https://in.reuters.com/article/czech-minister-havlicek/new-czech-minister-sees-no-one-ruled-out-of-5g-nuclear-power-expansion-idINKCN1S809V>

## **Austria rejects U.S. sanctions on Iran**

Tehran Times, May 5, 2019

"The important point for us is that we all reject the U.S. secondary sanctions and see them as unacceptable," Fars quoted Scholz as saying in a meeting with the Iranian commercial officials in the southern province of Fars. He noted that Austria seeks to strengthen cooperation with Iran, especially in economic area. "What the world is witnessing now is the resistance of the great Iranian nation in different periods of time and they have been able to live through sanctions," Ambassador Scholz said.

The U.S. announced on April 22 that Washington has decided not to extend waivers allowing major importers to continue buying oil from Iran. The waivers ended on May 2.

The U.S. State Department also announced on Friday that Washington will not renew two of sanctions waivers which allowed Russia and the European nations to do business with Tehran. One of the two waivers allowed Iran to store excess heavy water produced in the uranium enrichment process in Oman. The other one allowed Iran

to swap enriched uranium for raw yellowcake with Russia.

<https://www.tehrantimes.com/news/435516/Austria-rejects-U-S-sanctions-on-Iran>

## **France suggests sanctions could be reimposed if Iran reneges on deal**

Jean-Baptiste Vey, Ahmed Rasheed  
Reuters, May 8, 2019

International sanctions could be reimposed on Iran if it reneges on commitments under its nuclear deal, sources at the French presidency said on Tuesday, after Tehran said it would scale back its compliance a year after Washington pulled out.

The U.S. military said on Tuesday that B-52 bombers would be part of additional forces being sent to the Middle East to counter what the Trump administration says are "clear indications" of threats from Iran to U.S. forces there. [L2N22]1B8]

Iran dismissed announcement of a U.S. aircraft carrier deployment as old news, recycled for psychological warfare, and said it would soon announce plans to roll back some of its commitments under the 2015 deal.

<https://in.reuters.com/article/usa-iran/france-suggests-sanctions-could-be-reimposed-if-iran-reneges-on-deal-idINKCN1SD2NS>

## **Germany urges Iran not to take any aggressive steps**

Reuters, May 8, 2019

Germany regrets statements made by the Iranian government and urges Tehran not to take any aggressive steps, a government spokesman said on Wednesday after Iran said it was scaling back curbs to its nuclear programme under a 2015 deal.

A German Foreign Ministry spokesman added that Berlin wants to keep the Iran nuclear deal, and said Berlin would fully stick to its commitments as long as Iran does the same.

A year after Washington pulled out of the nuclear deal, Iranian President Hassan Rouhani on Wednesday unveiled measures that do not appear to violate its terms yet, but could do so in the future if Iran were to persist on the course he set out.

<https://in.reuters.com/article/usa-iran-germany/germany-urges-iran-not-to-take-any-aggressive-steps-idINKCN1SE1OM>

### **Germany: Want to maintain Iran nuclear deal, it's key for security**

Reuters, May 8, 2019

The German government is concerned about Iran's announcement that it will scale back curbs to its nuclear programme, German Foreign Minister Heiko Maas said on Wednesday, adding any action that could jeopardise regional stability should be avoided.

The steps announced by Iran stop short of violating its 2015 deal with world powers for now, but Tehran threatened more action if countries did not shield it from U.S. sanctions.

"Our position remains that we want to stick by the agreement, especially to prevent Iran from gaining possession of a nuclear weapon," Maas said, stressing that the deal was crucial for German and European security.

<https://in.reuters.com/article/usa-iran-germany-maas/germany-want-to-maintain-iran-nuclear-deal-its-key-for-security-idINKCN1SE1TQ>

### **Germany says work on Iran special purpose vehicle taking time**

Reuters, May 8, 2019

Work on setting up a special purpose vehicle for business with Iran is taking longer than expected, a German government spokesman said on Wednesday.

"Currently, the last steps need to be taken for this corporation to be able to operate - that includes Iran making the necessary

preparations on its side," spokesman Steffen Seibert told a regular government news conference.

<https://in.reuters.com/article/usa-iran-germany-spv/germany-says-work-on-iran-special-purpose-vehicle-taking-time-idINKCN1SE1PA>

### **Britain extremely concerned about Iran's move on nuclear deal**

Reuters, May 8, 2019

Britain said on Wednesday it was extremely concerned about Iran's announcement that it is scaling back curbs to its nuclear programme and said that Tehran would face consequences if it backed away from its nuclear deal. Iran announced steps that stop short of violating its 2015 deal with world powers for now, but threatened more action if countries did not shield it from U.S. sanctions.

"We are extremely concerned about this announcement and urge Iran to continue to meet its commitments under the deal and not to take escalatory steps," Prime Minister Theresa May's spokesman said. "This deal is a crucial agreement which makes the world safer and we will ensure it remains in place for as long as Iran upholds these commitments."

U.S. Secretary Mike Pompeo is having meetings with May and Foreign Secretary Jeremy Hunt on Wednesday, where the move from Iran is expected to be discussed. Although the measures, unveiled by Iran's President Hassan Rouhani a year after Washington pulled out of the nuclear deal, do not appear to violate terms of the deal yet, they could do so in the future if Iran were to persist on the course he set out.

<https://in.reuters.com/article/usa-iran-britain/britain-extremely-concerned-about-irans-move-on-nuclear-deal-idINKCN1SE1NQ>

## EU rejects any ultimatums after Iran's move on nuclear deal

Reuters, May 9, 2019

The European Union and the foreign ministers of Germany, France and Britain on Thursday said they were still committed to the Iran nuclear deal but would not accept ultimatums after Iran announced it was scaling back curbs to its nuclear programme.

After Tehran's announcement and threat to take more action that could violate the 2015 nuclear deal with world powers, U.S. President Donald Trump imposed new sanctions on Iran, targeting revues from exports of its industrial metals.

"We reject any ultimatums and we will assess Iran's compliance on the basis of Iran's performance regarding its nuclear-related commitments under the JCPOA and the NPT (Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons)," the statement read, with JCPOA referring to the Iran nuclear deal.

<https://in.reuters.com/article/usa-iran-joint-statement/eu-rejects-any-ultimatums-after-irans-move-on-nuclear-deal-idINKCN1SF0QL>

## China and India seen as Europe's last hope to save Iran deal

Robin Emmott, John Irish, Paul Carrel  
Reuters, May 9, 2019

The European Union will defend the Iran nuclear accord despite Tehran's decision to backtrack on its commitments in response to U.S. sanctions, diplomats believe, but European powers expect it to collapse without a deal to sell Iranian oil to China or India. Britain, France and Germany, which signed the 2015 deal along with the United States, China and Russia, are determined to show they can compensate for last year's U.S. withdrawal from the accord, protect trade and still prevent Tehran from developing a nuclear bomb.

But with Iran's economy dependent on crude exports that are traded in U.S. dollars, a promised European trade channel to bypass

American sanctions has proved complicated, is not yet operational, and may never be able to handle oil sales.

"This situation now risks deteriorating, but it will be step by step and not a collapse all in one go," said a senior European diplomat. A French diplomat talked of a "negative spiral" in which trade in food and medicines was simply not enough, while another European envoy spoke of Iran's "phased exit" from the deal.

<https://in.reuters.com/article/usa-iran-europe/china-and-india-seen-as-europes-last-hope-to-save-iran-deal-idINKCN1SF1RO>

## Swiss nuclear plant outages and restarts

Reuters, May 13, 2019

Swiss nuclear plant outages and unscheduled stoppages. Maintenance usually takes place in the spring and summer.

<https://www.reuters.com/article/switzerland-nuclear-outages/table-swiss-nuclear-plant-outages-and-restarts-idUSL5N22P0WQ>

## Spain pulls frigate from U.S. Gulf mission amid differences over Iran

Reuters, May 14, 2019

Spain has withdrawn a frigate from a U.S.-led naval group in the Gulf because it was now focusing on alleged threats from Iran rather than an agreed objective to mark an historic seafaring anniversary, the Spanish government said on Tuesday.

"The U.S. government has taken a decision outside of the framework of what had been agreed with the Spanish Navy," acting Defence Minister Margarita Robles told reporters in Brussels.

That led to the temporary pullout of the 215-sailor Mendez Nunez from the group led by aircraft carrier USS Abraham Lincoln as the mission no longer had the objective of celebrating 500 years since the

first circumnavigation of the world, as envisaged by a bilateral U.S.-Spanish agreement, she said.

<https://in.reuters.com/article/usa-iran-spain/spain-pulls-frigate-from-u-s-gulf-mission-amid-differences-over-iran-idINKCN1SK1F5>

### **F. Russia**

#### **Novovoronezh II-2 generates first electricity for Russian network**

World Nuclear News, May 2, 2019

Unit 2 of the Novovoronezh II nuclear power plant in southwest Russia for the first time supplied electricity to the country's grid yesterday, Rosenergoatom, the operator subsidiary of state nuclear corporation Rosatom, has announced. The VVER-1200 reactor was brought to the minimum controlled power level on 22 March and it reached a capacity of 240 MW yesterday.

Novovoronezh II-2 will be the third VVER-1200 to be commissioned, following Novovoronezh II-1 and Leningrad II-1, which were launched in 2016 and 2017, respectively.

<http://www.world-nuclear-news.org/Articles/Novovoronezh-II-2-generates-first-electricity-to-R>

#### **Russia to start development of nuclear-powered aircraft carrier in 2023 – source**

TASS News Agency, May 7, 2019

Research and development (R&D) work to create the first Russian nuclear-powered aircraft carrier will start in 2023; it was included in the state arms program. A source in the shipbuilding industry told TASS about it on Tuesday.

"R&D work on the new aircraft carrier was included in the operating state arms program by 2027 and will start in 2023," the source said.

<http://tass.com/defense/1057234>

#### **Final testing of Chernobyl used fuel store**

World Nuclear News, May 7, 2019

Final system-wide trials began yesterday of the new dry interim used fuel storage facility at the site of the Chernobyl nuclear power plant in Ukraine. The facility is expected to be handed over to the state-owned enterprise Chernobyl Nuclear Power Plant (ChNPP) in the coming months.

The ISF2 facility is being constructed by the USA's Holtec International. The principal contractors on the project are Ukraine's UTEM, Germany's BNG and Italy's Maloni. The project, supported by the Nuclear Safety Account managed by the London-headquartered European Bank for Reconstruction and Development, will provide for the processing and storage of the used nuclear fuel from units 1, 2 and 3, which is required for the decommissioning of the Chernobyl plant.

<http://www.world-nuclear-news.org/Articles/Final-testing-of-Chernobyl-used-fuel-store>

#### **Kremlin blames U.S. for Iran nuclear deal roll-back, urges restraint**

Reuters, May 8, 2019

The Kremlin said on Wednesday that Iran had been provoked into rolling back some of the terms of a 2015 nuclear deal due to external pressure which it blamed on the United States.

Iran said earlier on Wednesday it had started scaling back parts of its commitments under the deal and threatened to do more if world powers did not protect it from U.S. sanctions, a year after Washington pulled out of the pact.

"President Putin has repeatedly spoken of the consequences of unthought-out steps regarding Iran and by that I mean the

decision taken by Washington (to quit the deal). Now we are seeing those consequences are starting to happen," Kremlin spokesman Dmitry Peskov told reporters on a conference call.

<https://in.reuters.com/article/usa-iran-kremlin/kremlin-blames-u-s-for-iran-nuclear-deal-roll-back-urges-restraint-idINKCN1SE141>

## Russia and Iran blame U.S. for Tehran nuclear pact roll-back

Andrew Osborn, Tom Balmforth  
Reuters, May 8, 2019

Russia and Iran condemned the United States on Wednesday, blaming it for what they portrayed as Tehran's forced decision to scale back some curbs to its nuclear programme, while putting the onus on European powers to offer Iran sanctions relief.

Iran earlier on Wednesday announced steps that for now stop short of violating its 2015 deal with world powers under which it agreed to limit its nuclear programme in exchange for the lifting of sanctions. But it threatened more action if it was not shielded from U.S. sanctions.

The Kremlin said Iran had been provoked into rolling back some of the terms of the deal due to pressure from the United States, a year after Washington itself pulled out of the pact.

<https://in.reuters.com/article/usa-iran-laorov-zarif/russia-and-iran-blame-u-s-for-tehran-nuclear-pact-roll-back-idINKCN1SE16H>

## Russia's Nuclear Power Exports Are Booming

Ben Aris  
The Moscow Times, May 9, 2019

Russia's state-owned agency Rosatom is on a tear. The company operates 35 nuclear power stations in Russia that produce 28 gigawatts (GW) of power, and it is actively exporting its nuclear technology to countries around the world.

Russia has been using nuclear power plants as a way of cementing ties with its fellow

emerging markets with no nuclear power tradition and the BRICS countries, a group that started as a marketing tool for Goldman Sachs to sell equity but has increasingly turned into a real geopolitical alliance amongst the leading emerging market governments.

In recent years Rosatom has completed the construction of six nuclear power reactors in India, Iran and China and it has another nine reactors under construction in Turkey, Belarus, India, Bangladesh and China. Rosatom confirmed to bne IntelliNews that it has a total of 19 more "firmly planned" projects and an additional 14 "proposed" projects, almost all in emerging markets around the world.

<https://www.themoscowtimes.com/2019/05/09/russias-nuclear-power-exports-are-booming-a65533>

## Rosatom committed to Iranian plant project

World Nuclear News, May 9, 2019

In response to the question whether the latest developments around the nuclear deal with Iran will affect nuclear projects in that country, Rosatom Director General Alexey Likhachov told *RIA Novosti*: "Rosatom has always met and is meeting all its obligations in all of its international projects."

Russian-built Bushehr 1 - the first nuclear power unit in the Middle East - was connected to the national grid on 3 September 2011. Bushehr units 2 and 3 are to be completed in 2024 and 2026, respectively. Rosatom subsidiary ASE, which is the general contractor for the Bushehr project, and Nuclear Power Production and Development Company of Iran signed an EPC turnkey contract for construction of the units at Bushehr in November 2014. The two VVER-1000 units will be built with Generation III+ technology, including the latest safety features, and have a combined capacity of 2100 MWe, ASE has said.

<http://www.world-nuclear-news.org/Articles/Rosatom-committed-to-Iranian-plant-project>

## Proportion of advanced weapons in Russia's strategic nuclear forces reaches 82% – Putin

TASS News Agency, May 13, 2019

The proportion of state-of-the-art weapons in Russia's strategic nuclear forces has reached 82%, Russian President Vladimir Putin said on Monday.

Putin inspects upgraded planes, new helicopter Mi-38T in Kazan

"In the recent years, we have made a serious progress in this area. Thus, the proportion of advanced weapons in the strategic nuclear forces has reached 82% This index stands at 74% in the aerospace forces, exceeds 60% in the airborne forces and the navy, and is nearly 50% in the land troops," he said when opening a regular series of government meetings on the development of the defense sector.

<http://tass.com/defense/1058028>

## Lavrov & Pompeo agree to work on nukes control but clash on Venezuela, election interference

Russian Times, May 14, 2019

US Secretary of State Mike Pompeo and Russian Foreign Minister Sergey Lavrov concluded the Sochi talks by agreeing to cooperate on nuclear arms control. The two diplomats, however, could not reach agreement on Venezuela.

After emerging from a sit-down in the Russian Black Sea resort on Tuesday, Pompeo and Lavrov both talked of their governments' desire to improve relations, currently at a low ebb. Lavrov described the meeting as "frank and useful," while Pompeo said the US "stands ready to find common ground" with Russia.

<https://www.rt.com/news/459329-lavrov-pompeo-meeting-conference/>

## Russia Warns U.S. is Preparing to Use Nuclear Weapons in Europe

The Moscow Times, May 14, 2019

The United States is laying the groundwork to use nuclear weapons in Europe, the Russian Foreign Ministry's arms control and nonproliferation chief has warned.

The U.S. and Russia are suspending the 1987 Intermediate-range Nuclear Forces (INF) Treaty, which bans either side from stationing short- and intermediate-range, land-based missiles in Europe. Russia has said it was planning for a U.S. deployment of new nuclear missiles in Europe following Washington's planned withdrawal.

<https://www.themoscowtimes.com/2019/05/14/russia-warns-us-is-preparing-to-use-nuclear-weapons-in-europe-a65559>

## Russia to float out universal nuclear-powered icebreaker on May 25

TASS News Agency, May 14, 2019

The Project 22220 universal nuclear-powered icebreaker Ural will be put afloat at the Baltic Shipyard in St. Petersburg on May 25, the Shipyard's press office reported on Tuesday.

"On May 25, 2019, the Project 22220 second serial-produced nuclear-powered icebreaker Ural will be floated out at the Baltic Shipyard," the press office said in a statement.

<http://tass.com/defense/1058157>

## WEST ASIA

### G. Iran

## Majlis committee mulling exit from JCPOA, NPT: MP

Tehran Times, May 1, 2019

"With sanctions in place, we have no reason to continue our cooperation with

the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA)," Mehr quoted Mojtaba Zonnour as saying on Wednesday. "We are mulling over leaving the JCPOA and NPT as our options," he stated. Zonnour pointed to U.S. decision to end sanctions waivers for Iran's oil exports, saying, "It is not possible for the U.S. to drive Iran's oil exports to zero. We have our own clients, and we know the ways to sell oil and we can handle our financial transactions."

The U.S. has been trying to coerce the Europeans and other signatories to the JCPOA into following its lead and scrapping the nuclear agreement. However, the three European state parties to the deal - namely Germany, Britain and France - have created a non-dollar direct payment channel, known as INSTEX, with the aim of protecting their companies against U.S. bans and enabling them to continue trade with Iran.

<https://www.tehrantimes.com/news/435372/Majlis-committee-mulling-exit-from-JCPOA-NPT-MP>

### **Zarif: World realizing Bolton's 'chronic warmongering'**

Tehran Times, May 1, 2019

"Today, the world's catching on to Amb. John Bolton's chronic warmongering," Zarif tweeted. Zarif told Fox News that the "B-team", that includes Bolton and number of regional leaders including of Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu, Saudi Crown Prince Mohammad Bin Salman (MBS) and Abu Dhabi Crown Prince Mohammed bin Zayed, are trying to inflame U.S.-Iranian tensions and push Trump "into a confrontation he doesn't want." According to Press TV, Iran's chief diplomat cited examples from U.S. media outlets and elsewhere to exemplify his remarks. The Iranian foreign minister was referring to evidence showing how Bolton had received a \$40,000 "speaking fee" to address the MEK's annual gathering in Paris.

<https://www.tehrantimes.com/news/435351/Zarif-World-realizing-Bolton-s-chronic-warmongering>

### **Iran to continue nuclear enrichment despite U.S. move: parliament speaker**

Reuters, May 2, 2019

Iran will continue uranium enrichment under its nuclear deal with world powers, Iranian parliament speaker Ali Larijani was quoted as saying on Saturday, despite a U.S. move to stop it. The United States acted on Friday to force Iran to stop producing low-enriched uranium and expanding its only nuclear power plant, intensifying a campaign aimed at halting Tehran's ballistic missile programme and curbing its regional power.

"Under the (nuclear accord) Iran can produce heavy water and this is not in violation of the agreement. Therefore we will carry on with enrichment activity," the semi-official news agency ISNA quoted Larijani as saying. The Fars agency carried a similar report

<https://in.reuters.com/article/iran-usa-sanctions-speaker/iran-to-continue-nuclear-enrichment-despite-u-s-move-parliament-speaker-idINKCN1SA0DC>

### **Tehran slams U.S. for violating Resolution 2231**

Tehran Times, May 3, 2019

The administration of President Donald Trump said in a statement on April 22 that, in a bid to reduce Iran's oil exports to zero, that buyers of Iranian oil must stop purchases by May 1 or face sanctions, sending oil prices to their highest levels since last November.

The Iranian statement came after the U.S. State Department said U.S. Special Representative for Iran Brian Hook would be in New York on April 30 and May 1 to "underscore the importance of holding Iran accountable for its defiance of UN Security Council resolutions on the development and testing of ballistic missiles." Resolution 2231 terminated the provisions of previous UN resolutions against Iran, some of which had imposed restrictions on Iranian missile activities. It

“calls on” Iran “not to undertake any activity related to ballistic missiles designed to be capable of delivering nuclear weapons, including launches using such ballistic missile technology.”

<https://www.tehrantimes.com/news/435406/>  
*Tehran-slams-U-S-for-violating-Resolution-2231*

### **Admiral: Iran to stand against threats to protect interests**

Tehran Times, May 3, 2019

“History has proven that the noble nation of the Islamic Iran will firmly stand against any threat to protect its interests and values,” Sayyari reiterated, Mehr reported. He pointed to National Persian Gulf Day held on April 30, saying, “The Persian Gulf has long had geopolitical and strategic importance and for this, the arrogant powers have sought to dominate this area.”

On the name of Persian Gulf, the admiral said, “The Persian Gulf will remain with this glorious name forever.” Elsewhere in his remarks, Sayyari described Iran’s military power as one of the most important components of its national power, adding, “In the nuclear talks with world’s six major powers, which continued for more than a decade, the Islamic Republic of Iran showed its enormous power and strength to the world.”

<https://www.tehrantimes.com/news/435410/>  
*Admiral-Iran-to-stand-against-threats-to-protect-interests*

### **Zarif does not think Iran-U.S. military war is imminent**

Tehran Times, May 3, 2019

He told Independent in an interview published on Thursday, that “accidents can happen” that then spiral into a military conflict. He gave the example of the Persian Gulf and the Strait of Hormuz, a strategic waterway where most of the world’s oil exporters pass through, when he was asked about these “accidents”.

Zarif also mentioned the January 2016 incident in the Persian Gulf when two U.S.

Navy boats entered Iranian waters and were captured by the Islamic Revolutionary Guard Corps. Back then, Javad Zarif and his American counterpart John Kerry had a direct line of communication following their two years of nuclear negotiations. That direct line let the two top diplomats control the situation, secure the quick release of American sailors, and prevent a potential escalation. But today there is no such line of communication between the Iranian foreign minister and his U.S. counterpart. Zarif implied that he wants to reach out directly to the American public and warn them of the possibility of another war in the Middle East.

<https://www.tehrantimes.com/news/435402/>  
*Zarif-does-not-think-Iran-U-S-military-war-is-imminent*

### **It is time for Iran to stop implementing some terms of nuclear deal: MP**

Tehran Times, May 7, 2019

A source close to the supervisory board monitoring the JCPOA said on Monday that President Hassan Rouhani will announce Iran’s retaliatory actions against the U.S. withdrawal from the 2015 nuclear deal in a televised and radio program on Wednesday. According to the source, Iran will remove some limits on its nuclear activities which had been suspended under the agreement. The measures will be within the framework of the JCPOA’s 26 and 36 articles and quitting the deal is not still on the agenda, the source said. He said the move is also a response to the European Union which has failed to meet its obligations under the multilateral agreement.

The decision comes as Iran’s senior diplomat Ali Araqchi, who helped craft the JCPOA, announced over the past two days that Iran’s patience is running thin. However, according to the source, Iran is still insisting that the “door to diplomacy is open” and Iran’s gradual steps to remove cap on its nuclear program provide a “new opportunity for diplomacy so that

the other side rectify the wrong path of unilateralism and return to the JCPOA and fully implement its obligations.”

<https://www.tehrantimes.com/news/435607/It-is-time-for-Iran-to-stop-implementing-some-terms-of-nuclear>

### **Iran stops sale of enriched uranium, heavy water for 60 days: Rouhani**

Tehran Times, May 8, 2019

Under the 2015 nuclear agreement, officially called the Joint Comprehensive Plan of Action (JCPOA), Iran was only allowed to keep 300 kilograms of enriched uranium. Also, based on the agreement, Iran was authorized to exchange heavy water for importation of yellow cake. “This announcement is for 60 days. We have announced to the other side, the five countries [Germany, France, UK, Russia and China], that if they come to the negotiating table in 60 days and we reach a conclusion and safeguard our main interests which are oil [sale] and banking relations, we will return to the previous situation of May 7, 2019,” Rouhani told a cabinet meeting. However, he warned, if any conclusion is not reached, Iran will resume enriching uranium and will not follow obligations under the JCPOA according to which its uranium enrichment should not exceed the purity level of 3.67 percent. Pointing to a letter he sent to the leaders of the remaining parties to the JCPOA, Rouhani said he has mentioned in the letter that Iran will give a firm response if the remaining parties refer the issue to the UN Security Council.

<https://www.tehrantimes.com/news/435632/Iran-stops-sale-of-enriched-uranium-heavy-water-for-60-days>

### **Factbox: Iran’s commitments under its nuclear deal**

Reuters, May 8, 2019

Iran’s president on Wednesday threatened to reduce his country’s implementation of its nuclear commitments under its landmark 2015 deal with major powers.

That deal, signed by the United States,

Russia, China, France, Britain and Germany, lifted international sanctions against Iran in exchange for restrictions on its nuclear activities. The United States withdrew from the deal a year ago and re-imposed its sanctions.

The deal’s restrictions were aimed at extending the time Iran would need to produce a nuclear bomb, if it chose to, to a year from roughly 2-3 months. The United States and the U.N. nuclear watchdog believe Iran had a nuclear weapons programme that it abandoned. Tehran denies ever having had one. Below are some of the key restrictions imposed by the nuclear deal, the Joint Comprehensive Plan of Action.

<https://in.reuters.com/article/usa-iran-deal/factbox-irans-commitments-under-its-nuclear-deal-idINKCN1SE16O>

### **Iran to restart some nuclear activity in response to U.S. withdrawal from nuclear deal**

Reuters, May 8, 2019

Iran will restart part of its halted nuclear programme in response to the U.S. withdrawal from a landmark 2015 nuclear deal but does not itself plan to pull out of the agreement, the state-run IRIB news agency reported on Monday. Citing a source close to an official commission which oversees the nuclear deal, IRIB reported that President Hassan Rouhani would announce that Iran would reduce some of its “minor and general” commitments under the deal on May 8—exactly one year after U.S. President Donald Trump announced the U.S. pullout.

Trump subsequently reimposed tough sanctions on Iran, including on its lifeblood oil exports with the stated intent of reducing them to zero and starving Iran’s economy.

“The Islamic Republic of Iran in reaction to the exit of America from the nuclear deal and the bad promises of European countries in carrying out their obligations will restart a part of the nuclear activities

which were stopped under the framework of the nuclear deal," the source said, according to IRIB.

<https://in.reuters.com/article/usa-iran/iran-to-restart-some-nuclear-activity-in-response-to-u-s-withdrawal-from-nuclear-deal-idINKCN1SC1EZ>

### **Iran to continue tit-for-tat policy under NPT, JCPOA: top MP**

Tehran Times, May 9, 2019

Heshmatollah Falahatpisheh, chairman of the Majlis National Security and Foreign Policy Committee, said the nuclear accord, also known as the Joint Comprehensive Plan of Action (JCPOA), is a comprehensive document which says if a country doesn't fulfill its commitments, others can take countermeasures, Mehr reported.

Falahatpisheh also said Iran will enter into "serious" technical negotiations with the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA) and the remaining signatories of the JCPOA to "produce our required [nuclear] fuel at different degrees." He reiterated that pulling out of JCPOA and NPT is not on the agenda. President Hassan Rouhani declared on Wednesday that Iran would stop selling stockpiles of enriched uranium and heavy water for 60 days. The announcement by Rouhani came exactly a year after President Trump withdrew entirely from the 2015 agreement and announced sanctions on Iran.

<https://www.tehrantimes.com/news/435660/Iran-to-continue-tit-for-tat-policy-under-NPT-JCPOA-top-MP>

### **Salehi: Iran not obliged to restrict uranium to 300kg and heavy water to 130 tons**

Tehran Times, May 9, 2019

Ali Akbar Salehi, director of the Atomic Energy Organization of Iran, said on Wednesday that Iran is not obliged to restrict its stockpile of enriched uranium to 300kg and its heavy water to 130 tons. After a cabinet meeting, he told reporters that Iran will not follow these two restrictions for 60

days. The nuclear chief added Iran is acting within the framework of the 2015 nuclear deal, known as the JCPOA, and withdrawal from the deal is not on the agenda.

Iran's Supreme National Security Council (SNSC) issued a statement on Wednesday announcing that Iran will stop implementing some parts of its commitments under the nuclear deal. "The Islamic Republic of Iran upholds its rights under articles 26 and 36 of the JCPOA and will stop implementing some parts of its obligation under the JCPOA from today, May 8, 2019, in line with protecting the Iranian people's security and national interests," the statement said.

<https://www.tehrantimes.com/news/435638/Salehi-Iran-not-obliged-to-restrict-uranium-to-300kg-and-heavy>

### **Europe should speed up INSTEX implementation: Kharrazi**

Tehran Times, May 11, 2019

Kharrazi made the remarks in a meeting in Paris with French Parliament Foreign Affairs Committee chairwoman Marielle de Sarnez. On May 8, Iran announced a partial withdrawal from some "voluntary" aspects of the pact, saying that the country would no longer adhere to some of the limits on its nuclear activities. It also threatened to step up uranium enrichment if it was not shielded from the sanctions' effects within 60 days.

According to Kharrazi, the next two months will be an appropriate time for the European powers to fulfill their obligations with regard to the activation of the financial mechanism which was designed to counter the impact of U.S. sanctions, Mehr reported. INSTEX was introduced in January 2019 by France, Germany and Britain - three parties to the 2015 nuclear deal - to facilitate legitimate trade between European economic operators and Iran.

<https://www.tehrantimes.com/news/435746/Europe-should-speed-up-INSTEX-implementation-Kharrazi>

## Iran may attack Israel if U.S. standoff escalates - Israeli minister

Reuters, May 11, 2019

An Israeli cabinet minister warned on Sunday of possible direct or proxy Iranian attacks on Israel should the stand-off between Tehran and Washington escalate.

The United States has increased economic and military pressure on Iran, with President Donald Trump on Thursday urging its leaders to talk to him about giving up their nuclear programme and saying he could not rule out an armed confrontation.

Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu's government, which supports Trump's hard tack against its arch-foe, has largely been reticent about the spiralling tensions.

Parting with the silence, Israeli Energy Minister Yuval Steinitz said that, in the Gulf, "things are heating up".

<https://in.reuters.com/article/usa-iran-israel/iran-may-attack-israel-if-u-s-standoff-escalates-israeli-minister-idINKCN1SI05Q>

## Exclusive: Eyeing Iran, U.S. sending more Patriot missiles to Middle East

Phil Stewart

Reuters, May 11, 2019

Acting U.S. Defense Secretary Patrick Shanahan has approved a new deployment of Patriot missiles to the Middle East, a U.S. official told Reuters on Friday, in the latest U.S. response to what Washington sees as a growing threat from Iran.

The decision further bolsters U.S. defences and comes after the Trump administration expedited the deployment of a carrier strike group and sent bombers to the Middle East following what it said were troubling indications of possible preparations for an attack by Iran.

The U.S. official, who spoke on condition of anonymity, declined to say how many Patriot batteries would be deployed. The Patriot missile defense system is made by

Raytheon Co. and is designed to intercept incoming missiles.

<https://in.reuters.com/article/uk-iran-usa-pentagon-missiles-exclusive/exclusive-eyeing-iran-u-s-sending-more-patriot-missiles-to-middle-east-idINKCN1SG2C9>

## Iran's Rouhani calls for unity to face 'unprecedented' U.S. pressure

Reuters, May 12, 2019

President Hassan Rouhani called on Saturday for unity among Iran's political factions to overcome conditions which he said may be harder than those during the 1980s war with Iraq, state media reported, as the country faces tightening U.S. sanctions.

U.S. President Donald Trump on Thursday urged Iran's leaders talk with him about giving up their nuclear program and said he could not rule out a military confrontation.

Trump made the offer as he increased economic and military pressure on Iran, moving to cut off all Iranian oil exports this month while beefing up the U.S. Navy and Air Force presence in the Gulf. Washington also approved a new deployment of Patriot missiles to the Middle East, a U.S. official said on Friday.

<https://in.reuters.com/article/usa-iran-rouhani/irans-rouhani-calls-for-unity-to-face-unprecedented-u-s-pressure-idINKCN1SI019>

## Iran rejects report on condition for staying in nuclear deal

Iran Daily, May 14, 2019

"The points of view and legitimate demands of Iran have been clearly and explicitly stated in Iranian President Hassan Rouhani's May 18 letter to the leaders of the countries remaining in the JCPOA," Seyyed Abbas Mousavi said in a statement on Tuesday, Tasnim News Agency reported. Mousavi further emphasized that such "incomplete and inaccurate speculations" in the media not

only are not constructive, but also can lead to “spoiling the needed atmosphere for serious diplomacy in the current situation.”

In a report on Monday, Reuters claimed that Iran insists on exporting at least 1.5 million barrels per day (bpd) of oil, triple May’s expected levels under US sanctions, as a condition for staying in nuclear deal, also known as the Joint Comprehensive Plan of Action.

<http://www.iran-daily.com/News/252823.html?catid=3&title=Iran-rejects-report-on-condition-for-staying-in-nuclear-deal>

### **Iran halts some commitments under nuclear deal**

Reuters, May 15, 2019

Iran has officially stopped some commitments under a 2015 nuclear deal with world powers following an order from its national security council, an informed official in the country’s atomic energy body told the ISNA news agency on Wednesday.

Last week, Iran notified China, France, Germany, Russia and the United Kingdom of its decision to halt some commitments under the nuclear deal, a year after the United States unilaterally withdrew from the accord and re-imposed sanctions.

Under the nuclear deal, Tehran was allowed to produce low-enriched uranium with a 300-kg limit, and produce heavy water with a stock capped around 130 tonnes. Tehran could ship the excess amounts out of the country for storage or sale. The official said Iran has no limit from now for production of enriched uranium and heavy water.

Iran’s initial moves do not appear to violate the nuclear deal yet. But Iran has warned that unless the world powers protect Iran’s economy from U.S. sanctions within 60 days, Iran would start enriching uranium at higher level. The European Union and the foreign ministers of Germany, France and Britain said they were still committed to the deal but would not accept ultimatums from Tehran.

<https://in.reuters.com/article/usa-iran-nuclear/>

*iran-halts-some-commitments-under-nuclear-deal-idINKCN1SL0G1*

### **H. Saudi Arabia**

### **Saudi oil tankers among those attacked off UAE amid Iran tensions**

Rania El Gamal, Bozorgmehr Sharafedin  
Reuters, May 14, 2019

Saudi Arabia said on Monday that two of its oil tankers were among those attacked off the coast of the United Arab Emirates and described it as an attempt to undermine the security of crude supplies amid tensions between the United States and Iran

The UAE said on Sunday that four commercial vessels were sabotaged near Fujairah emirate, one of the world’s largest bunkering hubs lying just outside the Strait of Hormuz. It did not describe the nature of the attack or say who was behind it. The UAE on Monday identified the vessels as two crude oil tankers owned by Saudi shipping firm Bahri, a UAE-flagged fuel bunker barge and a Norwegian-registered oil products tanker.

The owner of the Norwegian vessel, Thome Ship Management, said the vessel was “struck by an unknown object”. Footage seen by Reuters showed a hole in the hull at the waterline with the metal torn open inwards.

<https://in.reuters.com/article/gulf-iran-fujairah-explosions/iranian-lawmaker-says-explosions-at-uae-port-show-gulf-security-is-fragile-idINKCN1SI0KD>

### **Satellite images show no major damage to ‘sabotaged’ ships**

Arab News May 14, 2019

Four oil tankers anchored in the Mideast were damaged by what Gulf officials described as sabotage, though satellite images obtained by The Associated Press on Tuesday showed no major visible damage to the vessels. Details of the alleged sabotage to two Saudi, one

Norwegian and one Emirati oil tanker on Sunday remained unclear, and Gulf officials have declined to say who they suspected was responsible. But it demonstrated the raised risks for shippers in a region vital to global energy supplies as tensions are increasing between the US and Iran over its unraveling nuclear deal with world powers. The US has warned sailors of the potential for attacks on commercial sea traffic, and regional allies of the United Arab Emirates condemned the sabotage as the tankers were off the coast of the UAE port city of Fujairah.

<http://www.arabnews.com/node/1496776/middle-east>

### I. Israel

#### Israel had plutonium core ready to turn into nuke in '67 war, US journal reveals

Judah Ari Gross

The Times of Israel, May 2, 2019

In the lead-up to the 1967 Six Day War, Israel hid a plutonium core in an old British-built police station outside the town of Gedera, with plans to turn it into a functioning nuclear bomb if necessary, according to testimony from a former Israeli official who guarded the site, which was published Wednesday. The article was published as part of a new series on the nuclear aspect of the Six Day War in the Nonproliferation Review, a journal run by the Middlebury Institute of International Studies that describes itself as focusing on the "causes and consequences of the spread of weapons of mass destruction."

<https://www.timesofisrael.com/ex-official-tells-us-academic-i-had-in-my-control-first-israeli-nuclear-core/>

#### I Guarded Israel's First Nuclear Device, Former Israeli Reveals in U.S. Testimony

Ofer Aderet

Haaretz, May 2, 2019

A former Israeli is claiming that during the Six Day War, he commanded a secret base

in the center of the country where a nuclear core was stored that could have been used in a nuclear weapon. In an interview appearing on the website of the Woodrow Wilson Center, Elie Geisler, who was a trained radiation inspector, tells Prof. Avner Cohen that he had been assigned to guard the device for the Israeli Atomic Energy Commission. He also told Cohen that he feared there could be armed internal Israeli conflict over control of nuclear power.

<https://www.haaretz.com/us-news/.premium-former-israeli-in-u-s-interview-i-guarded-nuclear-device-during-six-day-war-1.7186402>

#### Israel won't let Iran get nuclear weaponry: Netanyahu

Reuters, May 8, 2019

Israel will not allow Iran to obtain nuclear weaponry, Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu said on Wednesday, reiterating a long-held Israeli position after Tehran announced it was scaling back some of its commitments under a 2015 nuclear deal.

"This morning, on my way here, I heard that Iran intends to pursue its nuclear program," Netanyahu said in a speech marking Israel's Memorial Day. "We will not allow Iran to achieve nuclear weaponry. We will continue to fight those who would kill us."

<https://www.reuters.com/article/us-usa-iran-rouhani-israel/israel-wont-let-iran-get-nuclear-weaponry-netanyahu-idUSKCN1SE0UI>

#### Putin's ploy to turn Turkey steams ahead

Alexander Kruglov

Asian Age, May 15, 2019

In a series of statements last week, Turkish President Recep Erdogan and high-ranking officials in Ankara reiterated their commitment to purchase Russian S-400 surface-to-air missiles - a deal that has angered Washington and strained relations between the NATO allies.

Though the countries face strategically thorny disagreements in Syria, these are unlikely to derail a surprising new bilateral alliance. Moscow is deploying multiple assets in a charm offensive designed to drive a wedge between Ankara and NATO – a strategy aided by the heavy-handedness of both Washington and Brussels.

<https://www.asiatimes.com/2019/05/article/putins-ploy-to-turn-turkey-steams-ahead/>

## EAST ASIA

### J. North Korea

#### **N. Korea fires short-range projectiles into East Sea**

Korea Herald, May 4, 2019

North Korea fired a barrage of unidentified short-range projectiles into the East Sea on Saturday, South Korea's Joint Chiefs of Staff (JCS) said, in apparent saber-rattling amid stalled nuclear talks with the United States.

The JCS had earlier said the North fired multiple short-range "missiles" but later revised the announcement to portray what were fired only as "projectiles." The projectiles were fired from areas near the east coast town of Wonsan between 9:06 a.m. and 9:27 a.m., the JCS said. The change suggests the firings could have involved multiple rocket launchers, not missiles.

[http://www.koreaherald.com/view.php?ud=20190504000010&ACE\\_SEARCH=1](http://www.koreaherald.com/view.php?ud=20190504000010&ACE_SEARCH=1)

#### **Spy agency says N. Korea's firing of projectiles "not provocative"**

Korea Herald, May 6, 2019

South Korea's spy agency said Monday it does not see North Korea's firing of short-range projectiles last week as provocative as they appear to have been "ground-to-ground" weapons. The National Intelligence Service delivered an initial analysis of the North's projectiles fired into the sea off its east coast on Saturday in a briefing to Lee Hye-hoon, a representative of the minor opposition Bareunmirae Party, at the

National Assembly. The NIS didn't specify the type of the ground-to-ground projectiles, saying the analysis is still underway, according to Rep. Lee. The spy agency said North Korea's latest move suggests that it will not walk away from the negotiating table, the lawmaker told reporters following the briefing.

[http://www.koreaherald.com/view.php?ud=20190506000200&ACE\\_SEARCH=1](http://www.koreaherald.com/view.php?ud=20190506000200&ACE_SEARCH=1)

#### **North Korea fired "rockets and missiles" last week - acting Pentagon chief**

Reuters, May 8, 2019

Acting U.S. Defense Secretary Patrick Shanahan said on Wednesday that North Korea last week launched "rockets and missiles", the first time the Pentagon has detailed what they believe Pyongyang fired.

"Chairman Dunford called me up and said North Korea was now shooting rockets and missiles," Shanahan said during a Congressional hearing. He was referring to Chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff General Joseph Dunford.

North Korea has said it fired rockets and at least one short-range ballistic missile last week.

<https://in.reuters.com/article/northkorea-missiles-usa-pentagon/north-korea-fired-rockets-and-missiles-last-week-acting-pentagon-chief-idINKCN1SE2EH>

#### **North Korea says recent rocket drill was 'regular and self-defensive' - KCNA**

Josh Smith  
Reuters, May 8, 2019

North Korea's "strike drill" last week at which leader Kim Jong Un oversaw the launch of rockets and at least one short-range ballistic missile was "regular and self-defensive," the country's foreign ministry said on Wednesday.

“The recent drill conducted by our army is nothing more than part of the regular military training, and it has neither targeted anyone nor led to an aggravation of the situation in the region,” an unidentified ministry spokesperson said in a statement to the state-run KCNA news agency. Acting U.S. Defense Secretary Patrick Shanahan told a congressional hearing on Wednesday that North Korea launched “rockets and missiles”, the first time the Pentagon has detailed what it believes Pyongyang fired. Saturday’s drill was the first test of a ballistic missile by North Korea since it launched a long-range intercontinental ballistic missile in November 2017.

<https://in.reuters.com/article/northkorea-missiles/north-korea-says-recent-rocket-drill-was-regular-and-self-defensive-kcna-idINKCN1SE1NI>

### **N.Korea’s missile launch was a protest after failed Trump summit: S.Korea’s Moon**

Reuters, May 9, 2019

South Korea’s President Moon Jae-in said on Thursday that North Korea’s latest missile launch was probably a subdued protest against the United States after a failed summit of the two countries’ leaders in Hanoi in February.

North Korea fired what appeared to be two short-range missiles on Thursday, according to South Korea’s military, days after its leader Kim Jong Un oversaw the test of multiple rockets and a missile. “North Korea seemed to be discontented it could not reach a deal in Hanoi,” Moon said in an interview with South Korean broadcaster KBS. But the North appeared to have refrained from using weapons that directly threaten the United States, Moon said.

<https://in.reuters.com/article/northkorea-missiles-moon/n-koreas-missile-launch-was-a-protest-after-failed-trump-summit-s-koreas-moon-idINKCN1SF1F2>

### **North Korea’s Kim orders stronger strike power; U.S. still open to talks**

Joyce Lee, Josh Smith  
Reuters, May 9, 2019

The leader of North Korea ordered its military to boost its strike capability as he directed another missile firing, state media said on Friday, as tensions grew over tests that appeared to show development of a new advanced missile system. Kim Jong Un’s call for a “full combat posture” follows the U.S. seizure of a large North Korean cargo ship accused of illicit coal shipments in violation of U.N. sanctions.

The increased tensions come amid a gridlock in dialogue after the second summit between Kim and U.S. President Donald Trump collapsed over U.S. demands for Pyongyang’s nuclear disarmament and Kim’s demands for relief from sanctions.

“(Kim) stressed the need to further increase the capability of the defence units in the forefront area and on the western front to carry out combat tasks and keep full combat posture to cope with any emergency,” KCNA news agency reported.

<https://in.reuters.com/article/northkorea-missiles/north-koreas-kim-orders-stronger-strike-power-u-s-still-open-to-talks-idINKCN1SF009>

### **‘Missiles like these will start the war’: North Korea tests showcase growing capability**

Josh Smith  
Reuters, May 10, 2019

North Korea’s second missile test on Thursday signals it is serious about developing new, short-range weapons that could be used early and effectively in any war with South Korea and the United States, analysts studying images of the latest launches say. Last week, North

Korean leader Kim Jong Un oversaw the first flight of a previously untested weapon - a relatively small, fast missile experts believe will be easier to hide, launch, and manoeuvre in flight.

Photos released by state media on Friday showed Thursday's test involved the same weapon.

The tests have increased tensions after the last U.S.-North Korea summit collapsed in February in Hanoi with no agreement over Pyongyang's nuclear weapons and ballistic missile programme.

South Korean President Moon Jae-in said late on Thursday the launches seemed like a protest over the failed summit, while North Korea has defended the tests as routine and self defensive.

<https://in.reuters.com/article/northkorea-missiles-capability/missiles-like-these-will-start-the-war-north-korea-tests-showcase-growing-capability-idINKCN1SG0CW>

### **North Korea missile test violated U.N. resolutions, says Japan**

Reuters, May 10, 2019

North Korea's latest missile launch violated United Nations resolutions calling for a halt to such ballistic weapons tests, a spokesman for Japan's government said on Friday. "They were ballistic missiles and that puts it in contravention of U.N. resolutions," Deputy Chief Cabinet Secretary Kotaro Nogami said at a regular press briefing. North Korea fired what appeared to be two short-range missiles on Thursday, its second missile test in less than a week.

Japan, which is within striking distance of North Korean mid-range missiles, has been a strong advocate of tough resolutions to force Pyongyang to abandon its ballistic missiles and nuclear weapons programs.

<https://www.reuters.com/article/us-northkorea-missiles-japan/north-korea-missile-test-violated-u-n-resolutions-says-japan-idUSKCN1SG0ME?feedType=RSS&feedName=worldNews>

### **Experts see Russia fingerprints on North Korea's new missile**

Eric Talmadge  
AP News, May 10, 2019

The missiles were short-range and the launches do not mean Kim has decided to end his self-imposed moratorium on testing long-range missiles that could reach the United States mainland. They do indicate, however, that Kim is methodically expanding the battle readiness of his missile forces and that could have a major impact on the safety of American allies and U.S. forces in the region. The missiles bear a strong resemblance to the Russian-designed Iskander, a short-range, nuclear-capable ballistic missile that has been in the Russian arsenal for more than a decade.

"There are Russian technology fingerprints all over it," said Marcus Schiller, a leading expert on North Korean missiles who is based in Germany. He added that short of actually procuring the missiles from Russia, the North could have had key parts delivered from somewhere else, perhaps not directly from Russia, while making components such as the outer shell, or airframe, domestically. The Iskander, or something like it, would be of particular interest to North Korea.

<https://www.apnews.com/20afeea785634442b8300ba2fab0c002>

### **North Korea says ship seizure by U.S. violates spirit of Trump-Kim summit**

Reuters, May 14, 2019

North Korea said on Tuesday the seizure of one of its cargo ships by the United States was an illegal act that violated the spirit of a summit between the two countries' leaders, and demanded the return of the vessel without delay.

The North's foreign ministry said in a statement that it rejected U.N. Security

Council resolutions against it which the United States cited in impounding the vessel, as a violation of its sovereignty.

“The United States committed an unlawful and outrageous act of dispossessing our cargo ship,” an unnamed ministry spokesman said in a statement carried by the North’s official KCNA news agency.

<https://in.reuters.com/article/northkorea-usa-seizure/north-korea-says-ship-seizure-by-u-s-violates-spirit-of-trump-kim-summit-idINKCN1SK0B7>

### **K. South Korea**

#### **Food aid to Pyongyang unlikely to fuel Seoul’s nuclear diplomacy**

Korea Herald, May 9, 2019

The South Korean government is ramping up efforts to send food aid to North Korea in an attempt to thaw relations and revive stalled denuclearization negotiations between the US and the North, but it remains unclear how Pyongyang will respond.

The presidential office Cheong Wa Dae, the Unification Ministry and Foreign Ministry are moving swiftly to clear obstacles in providing humanitarian assistance to North Korea, after a call between President Moon Jae-in and US President Donald Trump on Tuesday. During the conversation, Trump had expressed support for the food aid plan. “The government recognizes the need for humanitarian aid to improve the livelihood of North Koreans. Regarding the issue, we have a common understanding with the US,” the Foreign Ministry’s deputy spokesperson Kim Deuk-hwan said during a press briefing Thursday.

After a summit between Trump and North Korean leader Kim Jong-un ended without an agreement in February, Pyongyang has been reluctant to engage with Seoul. It has not responded to President Moon’s request for an inter-Korean summit.

[http://www.koreaherald.com/view.php?ud=20190509000672&ACE\\_SEARCH=1](http://www.koreaherald.com/view.php?ud=20190509000672&ACE_SEARCH=1)

#### **Biegun says door remains open for NK’s return to nuclear talks**

Korea Herald, May 10, 2019

US special envoy for North Korea Stephen Biegun was quoted as saying Friday that the door remains open for North Korea to return to nuclear negotiations, despite Pyongyang’s firing of two missiles the previous day. Biegun made the remarks during his courtesy call on South Korean Foreign Minister Kang Kyung-wha amid fears that the North’s escalatory moves could derail the allies’ ongoing efforts to bring a lasting peace to the divided peninsula.

Just five days after firing off multiple projectiles, the North launched the short-range missiles on Thursday, putting a damper on Seoul’s moves to provide food aid to Pyongyang as a potential catalyst for the resumption of nuclear negotiations between the United States and the North.

[http://www.koreaherald.com/view.php?ud=20190510000588&ACE\\_SEARCH=1](http://www.koreaherald.com/view.php?ud=20190510000588&ACE_SEARCH=1)

#### **US stresses diplomacy; Seoul cautious on NK missiles**

Korea Herald, May 13, 2019

South Korea and the US appear determined to stay the course on North Korea in the face of an increasingly belligerent Pyongyang. In the latest hint that Washington will, at least for the time being, continue on its current course, US Secretary of State Mike Pompeo said the goal of the Trump administration’s North Korea diplomacy remains clear. “Past efforts, agreements that we entered into with North Korea, only produced more North Korean nukes and American diplomatic failure,” Pompeo said, speaking at an event marking the 40th anniversary of the think tank Claremont Institute on Saturday.

“Our diplomacy with the DPRK is laser-focused on making sure that we never again have to reopen the North Korean nuclear file,” he said, referring to North

Korea by the acronym for its official name, the Democratic People's Republic of Korea. Pompeo also lauded the Trump administration's North Korea policy in an apparent move to dispel criticism that engaging Pyongyang has failed.

"Our diplomatic efforts to get the entire world to engage, to see the risk for what it is, and to help us get North Korea to a brighter future, is something that our administration is profoundly proud of," he said.

[http://www.koreaherald.com/view.php?ud=20190513000627&ACE\\_SEARCH=1](http://www.koreaherald.com/view.php?ud=20190513000627&ACE_SEARCH=1)

### **Defense Ministry says it is reinforcing missile defense system, amid rising concerns over NK threats**

Jo He-rim  
Korea Herald, May 13, 2019

Seoul's Defense Ministry said Monday that it was reinforcing its missile defense system, while maintaining that further analysis is needed to determine whether the short-range missiles fired by North Korea last week were ballistic missiles. Since North Korea fired multiple projectiles into the East Sea on May 4 and again Thursday, the South Korean government has delayed revealing the types of projectiles that were launched. The Defense Ministry confirmed that Thursday's incident involved two short-range missiles, but did not clarify whether they were ballistic or cruise missiles.

As concerns are rising over military capabilities to identify and defend against missile threats, the Defense Ministry said it was constructing a defense system that could effectively deal with any kind of threat." (South Korea's) military has been building a missile defense system for the past 10 years. We will continue to construct a terminal phase intercepting defense system based on the Patriot (missile defense system). And we will continue to reinforce our missile defense capabilities," Defense Ministry

spokeswoman Choi Hyun-soo said during a regular press briefing.

[http://www.koreaherald.com/view.php?ud=20190513000641&ACE\\_SEARCH=1](http://www.koreaherald.com/view.php?ud=20190513000641&ACE_SEARCH=1)

### **L. Japan**

### **Japan PM Abe: Agree with Trump that North Korea must denuclearise**

Reuters, May 6, 2019

Japan's Prime Minister Shinzo Abe said on Monday he and U.S. President Donald Trump agreed completely on the need for North Korea to promptly denuclearise.

"Regarding our response to North Korea going forward, I completely agreed with President Trump in all respects," Abe told reporters after a phone call with the U.S. leader. "Going forward, the United States and Japan will respond together, completely agreeing with a singular understanding on responding together."

North Korea fired several "unidentified short-range projectiles" into the sea off its east coast on Saturday, prompting the South to urge its communist neighbour to "stop acts that escalate military tension on the Korean peninsula".

<https://in.reuters.com/article/abe-trump-nkorea/japan-pm-abe-agree-with-trump-that-north-korea-must-denuclearise-idINKCN1SC1EI>

### **M. Taiwan**

### **Taiwan building submarine shipyard to counter China**

The Associated Press, May 9, 2019

Taiwan broke ground Thursday on a shipyard to produce submarines to counter China's growing military threat. The self-governing island's President Tsai Ing-wen presided over a ceremony in the southern port city of Kaohsiung, saying submarines were an effective way to deter a foe from surrounding the island by sea. "We must

have concept and thinking of asymmetric warfare," Tsai said, referring to the military concept where a smaller opponent can hold off a larger one using specialized strategies and tactics.

China, which claims Taiwan as its territory to be annexed for force if necessary, operates a growing navy that boasts some 75 submarines, including latest generation homebuilt vessels. Taiwan relies on the U.S. for much of its defense needs, but the U.S. now only produces nuclear-powered submarines. Holland's decision to sell Taiwan two Zwaardvis Class submarines 30 years ago resulted in a major diplomatic rift with Beijing and, under Chinese pressure, they would not sell more, Tsai said.

<https://www.apnews.com/462bc78f962e452f8df34fe7183b13fb>

### ***N. Central, South and Southeast Asia***

#### **Kazakhstan supports NPT nuclear treaty implementation**

New Europe, May 1, 2019

Kazakhstan, as an active supporter of nuclear disarmament and strengthening the nuclear non-proliferation regime, firmly supports the strict and complete compliance by all parties of the provisions of the Nuclear Non-Proliferation Treaty (NPT), Kazakhstan's Deputy Foreign Minister Yerzhan Ashikbayev said at the opening of the Third Preparatory Session for the 2020 NPT Review Conference in New York on 29 April.

As the Acting Coordinator of the Central Asian zone, the head of the Kazakh delegation urged the United States to ratify the Protocol on negative guarantees (non-use of nuclear weapons) to the Semipalatinsk Treaty, as soon as possible, and expressed hope for the further creation of new nuclear-free zones in the world.

<https://www.neweurope.eu/article/kazakhstan-supports-npt-nuclear-treaty-implementation/>

#### **Uzbekistan, Russia agree on site for nuclear plant**

Eurasia Net, May 2, 2019

A site has been chosen for construction of Uzbekistan's first nuclear power plant, Russia's Foreign Minister said on May 2 during a visit to the Central Asian nation. The plant may become the first of its kind in Central Asia.

"[Uzbek President Shavkat] Mirziyoyev today expressed satisfaction with how this project was coming along and said that we have managed to come to an agreement about a site. This was an important stage in this operation," Sergei Lavrov was reported as saying by Sputnik news website.

<https://eurasianet.org/uzbekistan-russia-agree-on-site-for-nuclear-plant>

#### **Quarterly uranium output decreases in Kazakhstan and USA**

World Nuclear News, Mar 3, 2019

Kazatomprom's uranium production for the first quarter of 2019 was 4% down from the same period in 2018 as the Kazakh company continues with its plan to reduce production. Meanwhile, US uranium production for the quarter was 74% down from 2018.

Total production for the first quarter was 5294 tU, down from 5528 tU in 2018, although Kazatomprom's attributable production - that is, the portion of production of an entity in which the company has an interest - at 3063 tU was up from 2911 tU in 2018. Sales volumes for the first quarter of 2019 were lower compared to the same period in 2018, primarily due to a customer's request to shift an 800 tU delivery from the first to the second quarter, the company said. The average realised price for the first quarter - USD26.78 per pound U3O8 - was 16% higher compared to 2018.

<http://world-nuclear-news.org/Articles/Quarterly-uranium-output-decreases-in-Kazakhstan-a>

## Azarga evaluating situation after Kyrgyzstan uranium ban

World Nuclear News, May 7, 2019

Azarga Uranium Corp has suspended activities at the Kyzyl Ompul uranium project in Kyrgyzstan, the company confirmed on 3 May - the day after the Kyrgyz parliament voted to ban uranium mining and exploration in the country.

"The Company understands that the Kyrgyz Republic's parliament has voted to ban uranium exploration and mining in the country. The Company further understands that before this ban can be implemented into law, a strict lawmaking process must be followed, requiring further parliamentary readings and the President's sign-off of the proposed law. The Company has not received official notification from the State Committee on Industry, Energy and Subsoil Use or the Government of the Kyrgyz Republic that the Kyzyl Ompul Uranium Project licence has been revoked; however, activities at the non-core Kyzyl Ompul Uranium Project have been suspended," Azarga said.

<http://www.world-nuclear-news.org/Articles/Azarga-evaluating-situation-after-Kyrgyzstan-urani>

## New dawn breaking for SE Asian energy deals

Simon Roughneen  
Asia Times, May 15, 2019

As oil prices fluctuate and markets brace for the impact of the end of a US sanctions waiver on fuel purchases from Iran, Asia's energy companies are making deals closer to home as bigger global players pull away from the region.

Southeast Asia has already seen up to US\$2.8 billion in mergers and acquisition (M&A) deals so far this year, according to Wood Mackenzie, a United Kingdom-based consultancy.

<https://www.asiatimes.com/2019/05/article/new-dawn-breaking-for-seasian-energy-deals/>

## First nuclear power plant in Bangladesh

Andy Brown  
KHL Magazine, May 3, 2019

Thyssenkrupp Infrastructure GmbH is supplying key materials, engineering equipment and components for the foundations of the first nuclear power plant in Bangladesh.

In Ruppur, approximately 180km west of the capital Dhaka, the first national nuclear power plant will secure energy supplies in Bangladesh from 2023. Ruppur was selected due to its proximity to the Padma river, which will supply the cooling water for the planned power plant.

<https://www.khl.com/international-construction/first-nuclear-power-plant-in-bangladesh-138221.article>

## Nuclear Energy can play significant role in achieving Agenda 2030

Energy Bangla, May 9, 2019

Ambassador Masud Bin Momen, Permanent Representative (PR) of Bangladesh to the United Nations said that utilizing nuclear energy can play a vital role to achieve the Sustainable Development Goals (SDG) for Bangladesh which is also known as agenda 2030.

Masud Bin Momen, said, "We can use the potentials of nuclear energy to bring tremendous benefits to the humankind such as meeting the energy needs, medicinal science, research, water management and food security etc. So, nuclear energy can play an instrumental role in achieving the Sustainable Development Goals."

<http://energybangla.com/nuclear-energy-can-play-significant-role-in-achieving-agenda-2030/>

## O. World/Misc

### Cubans protest U.S. sanctions as Trump raises pressure on Venezuela

Marc Frank, Nelson Acosta  
Reuters, May 1, 2019

Millions of Cubans took to the streets on Wednesday in protest over new sanctions imposed on the Caribbean island by the Trump administration and U.S. efforts to topple the government of socialist ally Venezuela.

“We will give a strong, firm and revolutionary response to the statements loaded with threats, provocations, lies and slander of the Yankee empire,” tweeted Cuban President Miguel Diaz-Canel as dawn broke over Havana.

The annual marches across the Communist-run country, marking International Workers Day, provided the first opportunity to publicly protest a U.S. offensive against socialism in the region declared by U.S. national security advisor John Bolton late last year. That was followed by a series of new sanctions against Venezuela, Cuba and Nicaragua and the appearance of shortages of basic goods on the island.

<https://in.reuters.com/article/cuba-protests-usa/cubans-protest-u-s-sanctions-as-trump-raises-pressure-on-venezuela-idINKCN1S743B>

### Huge move of HEU from UK to USA

World Nuclear News, May 7, 2019

The fuel was repacked into transport containers by specialists using equipment designed for the task by Wood. The company created a suite of bespoke gloveboxes within a purpose-built seismically qualified structure inside an existing facility. Specialists handled the material within that controlled environment and packaged it for air transport.

The BBC reported that the HEU was moved in batches from Dounreay to Wick John O’Groats airport and then flown to the USA using US military Boeing C-17 aircraft.

“The successful completion of the complex work to transfer HEU is an important milestone in the programme to decommission and clean up Dounreay site,” said David Peattie, CEO of the UK Nuclear Decommissioning Authority (NDA), which manages the overall programme to manage and dismantle UK legacy sites.

<https://www.world-nuclear-news.org/Articles/Huge-move-of-HEU-from-UK-to-USA>

### Nuclear Deal Traps E.U. Between Iran and U.S.

Steven Erlanger  
New York Times, May 8, 2019

As the divide widens between the United States and Iran over the 2015 nuclear deal, the European Union finds itself trapped between them, with no easy or quick way to respond to its dilemma.

President Trump pulled out of the deal, which the European Union championed and which three key European allies of the United States – Britain, Germany and France – all continue to support. The United States has reinstated punishing sanctions intended to disrupt Iranian oil exports and trade.

<https://www.nytimes.com/2019/05/08/world/europe/eu-iran-nuclear-sanctions.html>

### China Trains Nuclear Engineers from Nuclear Newcomer Countries – IAEA Facilitates Selection Process

Miklos Gaspar  
IAEA, May 6, 2019

Thirty-five master’s and PhD students from Africa and South Asia received scholarships under China’s Atomic Energy Scholarship (AES) Programme last year to study at the country’s largest nuclear engineering school, part of Harbin Engineering University (HEU). Under an agreement between the China Atomic Energy Authority and the IAEA to assist emerging nuclear power countries, the

IAEA facilitates the application process and pays the students' airfare, while the Chinese government covers tuition and living expenses. The programme began in 2012 and has been in full swing since 2017. The application process for the 2019-2020 academic year is now under way.

"You can study nuclear sciences in Ghana, but there are limited experimental laboratories to carry out research related to nuclear power plants," said Michael Kwaku Annor-Nyarko, a PhD student, who arrived at Harbin Engineering University this past September to research the health

<https://www.iaea.org/newscenter/news/china-trains-nuclear-engineers-from-nuclear-newcomer-countries-iaea-facilitates-selection-process>

### **Now Available: IAEA Handbook for Regulatory Inspectors of Nuclear Power Plants**

Joanne Liou  
IAEA, May 8, 2019

Nuclear safety regulators and inspectors require rigorous training, particularly as their workload increases with new nuclear reactors opening and older ones going through decommissioning. While nuclear safety is a national responsibility, the IAEA provides support to regulators worldwide. The recently issued Handbook for Regulatory Inspectors of Nuclear Power Plants is part of the IAEA's continued effort to develop training materials to support regulatory inspection programmes.

"The handbook is a very practical document. It offers general guidance on how to plan, prepare and conduct regulatory inspections. It also offers some guidance on how to evaluate inspection findings," said Greg Rzentkowski, Director of Nuclear Installation Safety at the IAEA. "It is designed to support regulatory inspectors in developing and enhancing their competencies to inspect nuclear power plants."

<https://www.iaea.org/newscenter/news/now-available-iaea-handbook-for-regulatory-inspectors-of-nuclear-power-plants>

### **Nuclear Professionals Share How to Promote Strong Safety Cultures: IAEA School on Leadership for Safety**

Nathalie Mikhailova,  
IAEA, May 13, 2019

Leadership for nuclear safety and the development of a strong safety culture within organizations requires creating space for open and meaningful discussions between nuclear professionals of different backgrounds, participants of the IAEA School of Nuclear and Radiological Leadership for Safety held in Ankara, Turkey from 22 April to 3 May 2019, have said.

Safety leadership is particularly important in nuclear and radiological work environments, in both routine and emergency situations, due to their inherent complexities. The IAEA school on leadership for safety helps early- to mid-career nuclear and radiation professionals develop the skills they need to lead for safety throughout their careers.

Twenty-nine professionals from regulatory bodies, nuclear operators and technical organizations in 14 countries participated in the course held in Turkey. They analyzed case studies, conducted exercises, took part in discussions and listened to invited experts' presentations on nuclear and radiation safety, including emergency preparedness. The course was held in the framework of an IAEA technical cooperation project on enhancing capacity-building activities in European nuclear day, but we need to get started with clear goals and great commitment to achieve them.

<https://www.iaea.org/newscenter/news/nuclear-professionals-share-how-to-promote-strong-safety-cultures-iaea-school-on-leadership-for-safety>

## Europe sees China and India as last hope to save Iran nuclear deal, but expects it to collapse

Firstpost, May 10, 2019

The European Union will defend the Iran nuclear accord despite Tehran's decision to backtrack on its commitments in response to US sanctions, diplomats believe, but European powers expect it to collapse without a deal to sell Iranian oil to China or India. Britain, France and Germany, which signed the 2015 deal along with the United States, China and Russia, are determined to show they can compensate for last year's US withdrawal from the accord, protect trade and still prevent Tehran from developing a nuclear bomb.

But with Iran's economy dependent on crude exports that are traded in US dollars, a promised European trade channel to bypass American sanctions has proved complicated, is not yet operational, and may never be able to handle oil sales. "This situation now risks deteriorating, but it will be step by step and not a collapse all in one go," said a senior European diplomat. A French diplomat talked of a "negative spiral" in which trade in food and medicines was simply not enough, while another European envoy spoke of Iran's "phased exit" from the deal.

<https://www.firstpost.com/world/europe-sees-china-and-india-as-last-hope-to-save-iran-nuclear-deal-but-expects-it-to-collapse-6609591.html>

## Nuclear Professionals Share How to Promote Strong Safety Cultures: IAEA School on Leadership for Safety

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International Atomic Energy Agency, May 13, 2019

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<https://www.iaea.org/newscenter/news/nuclear-professionals-share-how-to-promote-strong-safety-cultures-iaea-school-on-leadership-for-safety>

## Radioactive carbon from Cold War nuclear tests has been found deep in the ocean

Christina Zdanowicz  
CNN, May 14, 2019

Decades after the nuclear bomb tests of the Cold War, traces of radioactive carbon have been found in the deepest parts of the ocean.

Crustaceans found in the deepest trenches of the Pacific Ocean showed high levels of radioactive carbon in their muscle tissues, according to a study published in the journal *Geophysical Research Letters* in April.

The "bomb carbon" found its way into their molecules from nuclear tests performed in the 1950s and '60s — and it's been found miles down into the ocean where these creatures live. The results show how quickly human pollution can enter the ocean's food chain and reach the deep ocean, according to the study's authors.

<https://edition.cnn.com/2019/05/13/asia/bomb-carbon-deep-ocean-scn/index.html>

## Global Nuclear Magnetic Resonance Spectrometer (NMR)

## Market 2019, Trend, CAGR Status, Growth, Analysis and Forecast to 2024

Research Hunt, May 15, 2019

In 2019, the market size of Nuclear Magnetic Resonance Spectrometer (NMR) is million US\$ and it will reach million US\$ in 2025, growing at a CAGR of from 2019; while in China, the market size is valued at xx million US\$ and will increase to xx million US\$ in 2025, with a CAGR of xx% during forecast period.

In this report, 2018 has been considered as the base year and 2019 to 2025 as the forecast period to estimate the market size for Nuclear Magnetic Resonance Spectrometer (NMR).

This report studies the global market size of Nuclear Magnetic Resonance Spectrometer (NMR), especially focuses on the key regions like United States, European Union, China, and other regions (Japan, Korea, India and Southeast Asia)

<https://researchhunt.com/report/global-united-states-european-union-and-china-nuclear-magnetic-resonance-spectrometer-nmr-market-research-report-2019-2025/>

## Russia Aims To Exploit Africa's Energy Potential

Vanand Meliksetian  
Oil Price, May 15, 2019

Africa's economic potential is enormous: the continent contains significant mineral and energy deposits, a young and growing population, and an underdeveloped energy sector desperately in need of investment. Approximately 640 million people, or two-thirds of the entire populace, don't have access to electricity. According to the African Development Bank, energy poverty reduces GDP growth by 4 percent every year. Russia's energy industry, in comparison, is booming. Its state-run nuclear energy company Rosatom has an order book of 34 reactors in 12 countries worth \$300 billion. Recently, Moscow has set its eyes on Africa where most states have

either already struck a deal with the Kremlin or are considering one.

<https://oilprice.com/Alternative-Energy/Nuclear-Power/Russia-Aims-To-Exploit-Africas-Energy-Potential.html>

## Energy investment insufficient to meet demand, says IEA

World Nuclear News, May 15, 2019

The findings of the World Energy Investment 2019 report signal a "growing mismatch" between current trends and the paths to meeting the Paris Agreement and other sustainable development goals.

"[T]he bottom line is that the world is not investing enough in traditional elements of supply to maintain today's consumption patterns, nor is it investing enough in cleaner energy technologies to change course. Whichever way you look, we are storing up risks for the future," Birol said.

<http://www.world-nuclear-news.org/Articles/Energy-investment-insufficient-to-meet-demand,-say>

## Three Accidents That Derailed The Nuclear Power Industry

Robert Rapier  
Forbes, May 12, 2019

When nuclear power was first commercialized in the mid-1950s, many viewed it as an ideal solution for the electricity needs of a growing global population. One pound of uranium-235 can produce two to three million times as much electricity as one pound of coal or oil - but without producing any direct atmospheric emissions under normal operations.

But then a couple of accidents in the 1970s and 1980s seriously damaged enthusiasm for nuclear power. The Three Mile Island accident in Pennsylvania in 1979 remains the most serious nuclear power accident in U.S. history. There weren't any injuries as a result of this accident, but there was

a small release of radioactive material during the incident.

<https://www.forbes.com/sites/rrapier/2019/05/12/three-accidents-that-derailed-the-nuclear-power-industry/#786b7a65641b>

## What is a nuclear power station?

Jack Unwin

Power Technology, May 14, 2019

As well as being the unwilling workplace of Homer Simpson, the nuclear power station is the breeding ground of civil nuclear power across the world. According to the World Nuclear Association nuclear power forms about 11% of the world's electricity, with 450 reactors providing 424GW of power, making it the second largest source of low-carbon power in the world. Nuclear plants are different to energy plants such as coal and natural gas, because despite being a thermal generation process they do not need to burn anything to create steam.

In a nuclear plant, uranium atoms are split in a process called fission, which requires low-enriched uranium fuel. Uranium fuel is formed into pellets, one of which can produce as much energy as one tonne of coal, 3 barrels of oil or 17,000 cubic feet of natural gas. These pellets are generally stacked into 12 foot metal fuel rods, which are grouped together in bundles that are called fuel assemblies.

<https://www.power-technology.com/features/what-is-a-nuclear-power-station/>

*P. Op-Ed*

**INDIA**

## How to Sink a \$3 Billion Dollar Submarine: Forgetting to Close a Hatch

National Interest Blog, May 5, 2019

"Arihant is the most important platform within India's nuclear triad covering land-air-sea modes," the Hindu reports. Well, it's important if it works – and it probably helps to make your submarine watertight.

Call it a lesson learned for the Indian navy,

which managed to put the country's first nuclear-missile submarine, the \$2.9 billion INS Arihant, out of commission in the most boneheaded way possible. The Hindu reported yesterday that the Arihant has been out of commission since suffering "major damage" some 10 months ago, due to what a navy source characterized as a "human error" – to wit: allowing water to flood to sub's propulsion compartment after failing to secure one of the vessel's external hatches.

<https://nationalinterest.org/blog/buzz/how-sink-3-billion-dollar-submarine-forgetting-close-hatch-55942>

## Emerging technologies and geopolitical contestation

Harsh V. Pant, Aarshi Tirkey

ORF, May 7, 2019

The battle for setting up the 5G network has become the latest flash-point for geopolitical competition between the US and China.

The roll-out of the 5G network, the next generation of global communications, has turned into a geopolitical confrontation between China and other western countries, led by the US. Of the few telecommunications companies that are ready to deploy 5G on a large scale, Huawei promises to provide the most affordable and technologically advanced alternative. Many nations consider this as a security risk and have flagged legal, political and economic concerns for sourcing the new communications infrastructure from a Chinese company. What is at the heart of this contestation is an attempt by the western nations, particularly the US, to prevent China from gaining global and economic clout as a first mover of the next gen technology. And as a result the battle for setting up the 5G network has become the latest flash-point for geopolitical competition between the US and China.

The rollout of the 5G network, the next generation of global communications, has turned into a geopolitical confrontation

between China and other western countries, led by the US.

<https://www.orfonline.org/expert-speak/emerging-technologies-and-geopolitical-contestation-50562/>

### **Small Satellites: Breaking the monopoly of powerful nations in space industry**

Nandini Sarma  
ORF, May 9, 2019

In 2017, India launched a record 104 satellites into space. Barring one, the rest of the satellites that were launched were small satellites.

In 2017, India launched a record 104 satellites into space. Barring one, the rest of the satellites that were launched were small satellites. Small satellites are miniaturised satellites that weigh under 500 kilograms. Evolution of the technology for building small satellites is making it accessible to a wide range of users, from university students to engineers and scientists all over the world. Small satellites have several advantages over large satellites namely cost effective ways to test newer technologies, opportunities for local industry, bigger basket of potential users and thus a large variety of mission possibilities. Further, the number of countries that are pursuing their own space programmes has grown over the years. Financing the space programmes for these emerging players is quite a challenge, but small satellites offer a possible solution. In 2017, India launched a record 104 satellites into space. Barring one, the rest of the satellites that were launched were small satellites.

<https://www.orfonline.org/research/small-satellites-breaking-the-monopoly-of-powerful-nations-in-space-industry-50622/>

### **India's Space Program: The commercial domain**

Rajeshwari Pillai Rajagopalan

ORF, May 10, 2019

The establishment of a new private institution has spotlighted New Delhi's

ongoing efforts to build out the commercial aspect of its space program.

In the beginning of March this year, the Indian Cabinet cleared the establishment of a private institution, the Newspace India Limited (NSIL), under the Department of Space. While the development may not have received as much international attention as some of the other space- and defense-focused developments in India, it bears careful watching as it is in line with New Delhi's ongoing efforts to build out the commercial aspect of its space program.

India's focus on the commercial aspect of its space program in general and moves such as the establishment of NSIL are not entirely new or surprising. This follows from the Narendra Modi government's plan to make space a major industry focus under the government's Vision 2030 announced in this year's interim budget.

The 10-point agenda in Vision 2030 included making India "the launchpad of the world and placing an Indian astronaut in space by 2022."

<https://www.orfonline.org/research/indias-space-program-the-commercial-domain-50747/>

### **Why India and Pakistan Keep Clashing**

Iain Marlow  
Bloomberg, May 10, 2019

Two of the world's most acrimonious neighbors also happen to be among the few countries on the planet to have nuclear weapons. Long-running tension between India and Pakistan centers on the border region of Kashmir, an area in the Himalayas claimed in full – and ruled in part – by both. Violence flares often, as it did early in 2019 when a terrorist attack led to the most serious military escalation in more than a decade. The repeated skirmishing plays out against a backdrop of superpower jockeying by China and the U.S.

<https://www.bloomberg.com/news/articles/2019-05-09/why-india-and-pakistan-keep-on-clashing-quicktake>

## Why India must stand with Iran

Rajoli Siddharth

Deccan Herald, May 13, 2019

On May 2, the six-month long Congressional waiver on buying oil from Iran elapsed. The waiver applied to eight countries. Italy and Greece immediately cut off oil supply from Iran. South Korea, Japan and Taiwan are likely to follow suit.

India is by far the only country in America's Asia-Pacific neighbourhood to have a military force minimally capable of stopping China. India also seems reliable enough not to join the Chinese bandwagon like Philippines or Thailand.

Starving Iran will only make the Ayatollah more hostile and can brew a security dilemma leading to Iran developing nuclear weapons, which will result in the Al-Sauds building their nuclear arsenal and even a probable US intervention in the Persian Gu...

<https://www.deccanherald.com/opinion/in-perspective/why-india-must-stand-with-iran-733527.html>

## Deal in danger: on Iran and nuclear deal

The Hindu, May 13, 2019

Iran's decision to reduce its commitments under the 2015 Joint Comprehensive Plan of Action, which sought to curtail its nuclear capabilities, is more of a warning than a move to break the nuclear deal. Iran has been under economic and political pressure since President Donald Trump pulled the U.S. out of the deal a year ago. The U.S. has since amped up its anti-Iran rhetoric and reimposed sanctions. While President Hassan Rouhani clinched the agreement in 2015 despite opposition from hardliners, his promise was that it would help lift sanctions, providing relief to Iran's economy. But the economic benefits did not last even three years, weakening Mr. Rouhani's position in Iran's complex power dynamics. With the U.S. having ended the sanctions-waiver it had given to certain countries, including India, on purchasing Iranian oil, from the first week of May, the Iranian economy has

come under more pressure. It is in this context that Mr. Rouhani announced the suspension of some of the restrictions in the deal.

<https://www.thehindu.com/opinion/editorial/deal-in-danger/article27109867.ece>

## CHINA

### Can Iran nuclear deal avoid collapse?

Global Times, May 9, 2019

One year after the US withdrawal from the Iran nuclear deal, Iran made an announcement on May 8 that it would withdraw from some of the provisions of the deal. Iran gave the deal's remaining signatories a 60-day grace. This was a response to the US sanctions, as well as a signal to international society: Act or lose the deal. Most people are pessimistic. They think the nuclear deal, as a milestone, is almost collapsing, and the region is entering a more dangerous stage. We have to say that Washington leads this trend.

<http://www.globaltimes.cn/content/1149241.shtml>

### New nuclear deal should be based on reality

Liu Jianna

China Daily, May 14, 2019

The US is in a hurry to work out a trilateral nuclear deal not only to maintain its advantage in the security and nuclear fields but also to weaken China's nuclear deterrent. Let's be clear, the mask of promoting world security aside, the US and Russia want to reduce their nuclear arsenals because maintaining them is proving to be a big drain on their coffers.

Besides, the US and Russia both are developing conventional prompt-strike capabilities with new-concept weapons, including directed-energy and laser weapons. So their national strength and security will not be undermined even if they reduce their nuclear arsenals. Instead, the move will help free huge amounts of

funds and resources which they can divert to the other sectors and enjoy the resultant benefits. Overburdened by their nuclear arsenals, the US is in no position to ask China or other nuclear countries that still have many developmental problems, including poverty, to solve, to reduce their nuclear arms. Given China's defensive nuclear strategy, it has to maintain a basic, if not complete, nuclear arsenal in order to safeguard its sovereignty and territorial integrity.

<http://africa.chinadaily.com.cn/a/201905/14/WS5cd9fee7a3104842260bb628.html>

### **Nuclear deterrence targeting non-nuclear states a sign of hegemonism: Chinese ambassador**

Xinhua, May 15, 2019

Nuclear deterrence targeted against non-nuclear-weapon states is a manifestation of hegemonism and power politics, said Chinese Ambassador for Disarmament Affairs Li Song at the ongoing Conference on Disarmament here in Geneva. He made the remarks on Tuesday during the second part of the 2019 session of the Conference on Disarmament, when discussions were held in an informal setting on the question of nuclear deterrence. The session will conclude on June 28.

Li pointed out that the nuclear deterrence policy based on the first use of nuclear weapons is itself one of the greatest threats to international peace and security. "The ghost of the Cold War mentality is still in the genes of some major power when contemplating its national security strategy. The pursuit of unilateralism, hyping up of major power competition and geopolitical rivalry, and the search for overwhelming military advantage by the relevant country have continued to worsen the international security environment," he noted. During the session, the ambassador reiterated China's nuclear strategy and its position on nuclear disarmament.

[http://www.xinhuanet.com/english/2019-05/16/c\\_138061422.htm](http://www.xinhuanet.com/english/2019-05/16/c_138061422.htm)

## **Pakistan**

### **South Asia needs a Batman to Modi's Joker(s)**

Ayesha Abbasi  
Daily Times, May 13, 2019

"[S]ome men aren't looking for anything logical, like money. They can't be bought, bullied, reasoned, or negotiated with. Some men just want to watch the world burn;" this memorable remark – made by Batman's butler Alfred Pennyworth – rings true in a world where national leaders are growing increasingly ultra-nationalist. Here is an instance, finally, where no one can be happy to see life imitating art. To ensure peace for everyone, the world needs rational people to oversee the matters of states and governments.

One does not need to go very far to look for rising ultra-nationalism and manifestation of "small men occupying big offices" who are willing to watch the world burn, as long as it serves their vested interests. For Pakistan, this is happening in its immediate neighborhood. Indian Prime Minister Narendra Modi's is the perfect case of a political leader pushing the world closer to catastrophe, every single day. Mr Modi diverges slightly from Alfred Pennyworth's definition though. He is, in fact, looking for something logical – another term as India's prime minister. He is willing to do anything to ensure that his Bharatiya Jannata Party wins the general elections. To this end, he is willing to sacrifice lives and create societal discord and intolerance.

<https://dailytimes.com.pk/393671/south-asia-needs-a-batman-to-modis-jokers/>

### **Nuclear Trigger-Happy: India or Pakistan?**

Dr. Zafar Jaspal  
Global Village Space, May 14, 2019

India and Pakistan have successfully developed and institutionalized the nuclear-triad but simultaneously manifested their unwillingness to adhere

to any nuclear arms control. The unrestrained nuclear arms race between them and India's nuclear undertaking in post-Pulwama incident is alarming and pessimistic for the South Asian strategic environment. India's surgical strike mantra from September 29, 2016, and Balakot military adventurism on February 26, and Pakistan's befitting-cum-restraint response on February 27, 2019, added a new dimension in the nuclear lexicon.

The dogfight between the two nuclear-armed states' air forces, shooting down two Indian fighter-jets, and capturing of Wing Commander Abhinandan Varthaman by Pakistan ground forces were unprecedented perilous developments in the nuclear era. Even during the peak of the cold war, the United States and former Soviet Union air forces avoided such incidences due to the fear of escalation of conflict into nuclear war. Islamabad released imprisoned Indian pilot on March 1, 2019.

<https://www.globalvillagespace.com/nuclear-trigger-happy-india-or-pakistan-dr-zafar-nawaz-jaspal/>

### South Asia in flux

Asad Hussain  
Daily Times, May 15, 2019

The region of South-Asia constitutes eight independent nations and intakes around one-sixth of the world population which makes it consequential in global politics. The geography of the South-Asian region holds the vanguard position in the geopolitics as it is connected with the three continents of the world. The northern borders of South-Asia touch China and Central-Asia, while southern peninsula links up with the significant Indian ocean and provides it with the world's most important maritime routes ranging from Malacca strait to South Atlantic through the rim of South-Africa. Hence, this provides the South-Asian region with the tri-continental dynamics of the geopolitical structure. These multiple dimensions of geography invite a plethora of complexities in the afore-stated region.

The two important nuclear states in the

region – Pakistan and India – are the *raison d'être* for most of the problems in the region stretching from traditional geopolitical and military security, dilapidated economic dislocation to exasperating nuclear war threats. Not only this, poverty, sectarian cleavages, health and educations problems, low trade links and high tariffs, energy issues and intolerance are some worth-mentioning factors which keep hindering region's integrity and progression.

<https://dailytimes.com.pk/394812/south-asia-in-flux/>

### USA

#### U.S. Seeks Broader Nuclear Arms Pact

Arms Control Association, May 2019

President Donald Trump has ordered his staff to seek a new agreement on nuclear weapons that would encompass all Russian and Chinese nuclear arms, senior administration officials told reporters in April. Currently, the United States and Russia abide by the bilateral 2019 New Strategic Arms Reduction Treaty (New START) that limits only deployed strategic weapons and does not involve China. The treaty is due to expire in February 2021, but the pact allows the two sides to extend it for up to five years.

Russian Deputy Foreign Minister Sergei Ryabkov (center), speaking here at January conference in Beijing, suggested in April that any future U.S.-Russian arms control talks would need to address a variety of previously unnegotiated issues. (Photo: Thomas Peter/Getty Images) Russian Deputy Foreign Minister Sergei Ryabkov (center), speaking here at January conference in Beijing, suggested in April that any future U.S.-Russian arms control talks would need to address a variety of previously unnegotiated issues. (Photo: Thomas Peter/Getty Images) "The president has made clear that he thinks that arms control should include Russia and China and should include all the

weapons, all the warheads, all the missiles,” said a senior White House official on April 25. “We have an ambition to give the president options as quickly as possible to give him as much space on the calendar as possible.”

<https://www.armscontrol.org/act/2019-05/news/us-seeks-broader-nuclear-arms-pact>

### **Backstory: How to capture a rocket**

Reuters, May 2, 2019

“It’s a challenge to describe that noise,” says Reuters senior photographer Mike Blake, after witnessing his first rocket launch. “It’s a sound of rippling energy. Reverberating, cracking. It’s something that stays with you.”

Blake worked with Joe Skipper, a veteran of more than 200 launches, to produce Reuters visual coverage of SpaceX out of Kennedy Space Center in Florida in March.

Apart from the visual thrill of a launch, readers want to know as much as possible about Elon Musk’s SpaceX, which resupplies the International Space Station and ultimately aims to put people on other planets.

Providing images is key to capturing the drama of a launch and whether it is successful, with hundreds of millions of dollars at stake.

<https://in.reuters.com/article/us-space-spacex-backstory/backstory-how-to-capture-a-rocket-idINKCN1S807V>

### **This Old U.S. Navy Nuclear Submarine Could Nuke 24 Cities (In One Shot)**

Sebastien Roblin

National Interest Blog, May 13, 2019

In short, a full salvo from an Ohio-class submarine – which can be launched in less than one minute – could unleash up to 192 nuclear warheads to wipe twenty-four cities off the map. This is a nightmarish weapon of the apocalypse.

As a Trident II reenters the atmosphere at speeds of up to Mach 24, it splits into up to eight independent reentry vehicles, each with a 100- or 475-kiloton nuclear warhead. In short, a full salvo from an Ohio-class submarine – which can be launched in less than one minute – could unleash up to 192 nuclear warheads to wipe twenty-four cities off the map. This is a nightmarish weapon of the apocalypse.

<https://nationalinterest.org/blog/buzz/old-us-navy-nuclear-submarine-could-nuke-24-cities-one-shot-57332>

### **Physics department to develop nuclear science program for graduate students**

Jared Gans

The GW Hatchet, May 13, 2019

Faculty in the physics department will receive funding from the Department of Energy to develop new nuclear science and engineering programming for international students.

Faculty said they are working to form a Nuclear Education Hub that will teach aspects of operating nuclear reactors to graduate students in a partnership with Virginia Tech. The efforts, which faculty aim to complete this fall, will focus on recruiting Ukrainian graduate students by offering them the opportunity to learn about nuclear physics unconstrained by outdated Russian safety standards for nuclear power plants, the standards most Ukrainian plants were built on.

Andrei Afanasev, the director of the project and an associate professor of theoretical physics, said faculty are primarily designing the program for Ukrainian students because Ukraine relies on nuclear power plants to generate electricity and because American nuclear companies have shown increasing interest in Ukraine’s nuclear operations.

<https://www.gwhatchet.com/2019/05/13/physics-department-to-develop-nuclear-science-program-for-graduate-students/>

## Viewpoint: Scientists urge commitment to nuclear in clean energy growth

World Nuclear News, May 14, 2019

More than 40 nuclear associations representing over 80,000 scientists have called on the Clean Energy Ministerial Conference - which will be held in Vancouver between 28 and 29 May - to commit to doubling public investment in nuclear-related R&D and innovation within the next five years.

Their declaration was signed yesterday at the International Congress on Advances in Nuclear Power Plants (ICAPP), in Juan-les-Pins, France.

<http://www.world-nuclear-news.org/Articles/Viewpoint-Scientists-urge-commitment-to-nuclear-in>

## Wanna Make Russia or China Freak Out? Build 200 B-21 Stealth Bombers

Kyle Mizokami  
The National Interest, May 15, 2019

The mature F-100, which powers the F-15 Eagle series of fighters, seems a sound choice, but the Air Force may want the F-135, which powers the F-35 Joint Strike Fighter, for its growth potential and ability to lower engine costs for the F-35 fleet.

The B-21 Raider bomber takes its name from both the twenty-first century and the legendary 1942 raid by Gen. James "Jimmy" Doolittle's force of B-25 Mitchell bombers against targets in and around Tokyo, Japan. In invoking the Doolittle Raid, the Air Force is drawing attention to attack's audacious nature, the strategic and tactical surprise, and the epic distances General Doolittle and his "raiders" flew to accomplish their mission.

<https://nationalinterest.org/blog/buzz/wanna-make-russia-or-china-freak-out-build-200-b-21-stealth-bombers-57382>

## RUSSIA

### 'Chernobyl' Review: Revisiting Russia's Nuclear Disaster as a Season in Hell

David Fear  
Rolling Stone, May 7, 2019

HBO's Chernobyl, which premieres May 6th, spends some five hours showing you how a perfect storm of screw-ups and cover-ups led to a genuine catastrophe, as well as diving into an aftermath of devastation that plays like a slow-motion nightmare. But it's the way this miniseries introduces the event that initially grabs you. Padding across the darkened, silent apartment she shares with her fireman husband, Lyudmilla Ignatenko (Jessie Buckley) sleepily enter her kitchen to make coffee. Framed through her window, we can see a tiny bright dot in the background; suddenly, it expands into a near-perfect sphere of white light. The woman doesn't even notice it until her flat begins to shake from the blast a good six or seven seconds later. This is the bang experienced first as a whimper, then a roar. But it serves to present an infamous massive disaster from a decidedly human perspective, starting with the catalyst and ending with the cost. And that will make all of the difference.

<https://www.rollingstone.com/tv/tv-reviews/chernobyl-tv-review-hbo-830621/>

### Russia Might Take the Biggest Submarine Ever and Add 200 Cruise Missiles

Sebastien Roblin  
National Interest Blog, May 15, 2019

Thus, while the idea of Russia reviving its cold war leviathans sounds compellingly scary, there's evidence it makes little practical or financial sense given more cost-efficient and survivable means to achieve the same ends. It could also be the project is being trumpeted for the

propagandistic symbolism behind deploying super-submarines that are larger and carry more missiles than their American counterparts.

The Typhoon ballistic missile submarines (SSBNs), famously featured in the film *Hunt for Red October*, are by far the biggest and most expensive submarines ever built. Cruise-missile-armed Typhoons would give Russia direct analogs of the United States' four Ohio-class cruise missile submarines (SSGNs), which had their launch tubes for nuclear-armed ballistic missiles replaced with vertical launch systems for 154 conventionally-armed Tomahawk cruise missiles.

<https://nationalinterest.org/blog/buzz/russia-might-take-biggest-submarine-ever-and-add-200-cruise-missiles-57647>

## WEST ASIA

### How a Standoff With the U.S. Almost Blew Up Israel's Nuclear Program

Avner Cohen and William Burr  
Haaretz, May 3, 2019

Throughout the spring and summer of 1963, the leaders of the United States and Israel – President John F. Kennedy and Prime Ministers David Ben-Gurion and Levi Eshkol – were engaged in a high-stakes battle of wills over Israel's nuclear program. The tensions were invisible to the publics of both countries, and only a few senior officials, on both sides of the ocean, were aware of the severity of the situation

In Israel, those in the know saw the situation as a real crisis, as a former high-level science adviser, Prof. Yuval Ne'eman, told one of us (Avner Cohen) 25 years ago. Ne'eman recalled that Eshkol, Ben-Gurion's successor, and his associates saw Kennedy as presenting Israel with a real ultimatum. There was even one senior Israeli official, Ne'eman told me, the former Israel Air Force commander Maj. Gen. (res.) Dan Tolkowsky, who seriously entertained the fear that Kennedy might send U.S. airborne

troops to Dimona, the home of Israel's nuclear complex.

<https://www.haaretz.com/israel-news/.premium.MAGAZINE-how-a-standoff-with-the-u-s-almost-blew-up-israel-s-nuclear-program-1.7193419>

### Documents Reveal Israel's Nuclear Deceit of the US

Asharq Al-Awsat, May 4, 2019

Two researchers, an American and an Israeli, published Friday documents that illuminate for the first time the full scope of the confrontation between US President John F. Kennedy and Israeli Prime Ministers David Ben-Gurion and Levi Eshkol at the beginning of the 1960s over Israel's nuclear program.

In recent days, they published a collection of nearly 50 classified documents that include the entire exchange of messages between the leaders of the two countries, archiving the visits of US inspectors to the Israeli Dimona reactor in 1964.

<https://aawsat.com/english/home/article/1707501/documents-reveal-israels-nuclear-deceit-us>

### 12 Years Ago, Israel's Air Force Crushed This Nation's Nuclear Weapons Program

Daniel R. DePetris  
National Interest Blog, May 5, 2019

Instead of a massive bombardment, the air force used eight aircraft for the mission. When the operation was over, Israel kept the boasting to a minimum and the Assad regime was happy to spin the ordeal as a successful defense of the homeland for domestic propaganda.

It was late on a Wednesday night in Israel when the director of the Mossad placed an urgent telephone call to then-Prime Minister Ehud Olmert in early March 2007. The Assad regime, the Mossad chief reported, was building a nuclear reactor

in the middle of the Syrian desert, and the evidence was incontrovertible.

<https://nationalinterest.org/blog/buzz/12-years-ago-israels-air-force-crushed-nations-nuclear-weapons-program-56022>

## President Kennedy Gave Israel A Strong Warning About Its Nuclear Reactor In 1963

Ron Kampeas/Jta  
The Jerusalem Post, May 8, 2019

Declassified documents show President John Kennedy warned Israeli Prime Minister Levi Eshkol in 1963 that U.S. support for the young country would be “seriously jeopardized” if Israel did not allow the United States periodic inspections of Israel’s nuclear reactor.

Shimon Peres, then the deputy defense minister – he would later lead the country as prime minister for two stints and then become president – improvised the statement when he was surprised by Kennedy during a meeting that Peres had scheduled with Kennedy’s adviser, Myer Feldman, who also functioned as the administration’s liaison to Israel and the U.S. Jewish community. Unbeknownst to Peres, Kennedy and Feldman had planned the “surprise” encounter.

<https://www.jpost.com/Diaspora/President-Kennedy-gave-Israel-a-strong-warning-about-its-nuclear-reactor-in-1963-589107>

## It’s up to Israelis to stop Iran’s nuclear program. Here’s how they did it before

Yaakov Katz  
Washington Post, May 14, 2019

In March 2007, agents from Israel’s intelligence agency, Mossad, broke into the Vienna suite of the director of Syria’s atomic energy agency and secretly downloaded the contents of his computer. They discovered that Syria was building a nuclear reactor with the assistance of the North Korean regime in a region known as Deir al-Zour near the Euphrates River. Additional intelligence showed that the reactor was just

months away from being activated, posing an urgent, existential threat to Israel – one found not in a more remote country such as Iran or Iraq, but in Israel’s backyard, just over the border with Syria.

Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu will, no doubt, rely on his warm relationship with President Trump – already a key ingredient in Trump’s decisions to move the U.S. Embassy from Tel Aviv to Jerusalem and to recognize Israel’s sovereignty in the Golan Heights – to coordinate the response to Iran’s new posture. But as close as these two leaders are, Israeli leaders learned with Syria and Iraq that while Israel and the U.S. might be aligned in identifying the threats they face, they approach them from different vantage points. Today, Iran’s military boasts that Israel is within range of Iran’s long-range ballistic missiles. The United States isn’t. That’s why, with Iran’s announcement last week, Israel’s next test might not be that far away.

[https://www.washingtonpost.com/outlook/2019/05/14/its-up-israelis-stop-irans-nuclear-program-heres-how-they-did-it-before/?noredirect=on&utm\\_term=.5e0c15242d65](https://www.washingtonpost.com/outlook/2019/05/14/its-up-israelis-stop-irans-nuclear-program-heres-how-they-did-it-before/?noredirect=on&utm_term=.5e0c15242d65)

## War clouds gather in Persian Gulf

Skand Tayal  
The Asian Age, May 15, 2019

Since 2018, Mr Netanyahu has found a soulmate in US President Donald Trump, who is willing to see West Asia and the Gulf through Israeli lenses.

Many American influential right wing foreign policy experts and strategic policymakers have not forgotten or forgiven Iran over the occupation of the US Embassy in Tehran by the Iranian college student followers of Ayatollah Khomeini in November 1979 and the subsequent 444-day incarceration of 52 US diplomats and citizens. The repeated shrill cries of destroying this “Great Satan” emanating from the radical Iranian establishment have only added fuel to the burning embers of US-Iran hostility.

<https://www.asianage.com/opinion/oped/150519/war-clouds-gather-in-persian-gulf.html>

## Iran nuclear deal shows Europe is no counterweight to US

Kerry Boyd Anderson  
Arab News, May 14, 2019

The fundamental bargain behind the JCPOA was that Iran would accept significant restrictions on its nuclear program in exchange for significant sanctions relief. In the last year, the Trump administration has reimposed numerous sanctions on Iran, including secondary sanctions that would impose penalties on foreign companies for doing business with Tehran. As these sanctions have tightened, Iran's economy has plunged into a deep recession. A year ago, European leaders criticized the US' decision to pull out of the JCPOA and promised to maintain economic links with Iran, fundamentally to continue providing at least some economic benefits to Iran for its continued compliance with the JCPOA's terms. Iran understood that the US decision would necessarily damage its international economic links, but Tehran hoped that Europe, China and Russia would find ways to mitigate the effects. However, it has become clear that US sanctions have been effective in cutting off much of Iran's trade and financial links with the world and thus raised questions about what Iran now gains from the deal.

<http://www.arabnews.com/node/1496911>

## Time to act against Iran and its militias

Dr. Hamdan Al-Shehri  
Arab News, May 15, 2019

Iran is continuing its terrorist activities, and is carrying them out by sea, sky and land against targets in Gulf countries. Two days ago, Saudi oil tankers were attacked off the coast of the UAE. On Tuesday, oil pipelines in Saudi Arabia were attacked by armed drones. Tehran is showing its real face by undermining stability in the region. It is demonstrating that it can use its terrorist militias in the region to implement its nefarious designs. The two incidents have sent a message to the whole world that Iran is out to destroy regional security and stability. By undermining regional security,

Iran has become a threat to international security as well.

The drone attack on oil pipelines and the sabotage of four vessels, including two Saudi tankers, are aimed directly at threatening global oil supplies. This should force the international community to stand against these terrorist attacks and make joint efforts to condemn and punish the perpetrators of these acts. Now is the time for real, concrete and serious actions against Iran and its militias.

<http://www.arabnews.com/node/1497076>

## Houthis' retreat from Hodeidah hints at Iran's mindset

Mohamed Chebaro  
Arab News, May 15, 2019

The UN's announcement at the weekend that Yemen's Houthi militia had begun withdrawing from Hodeidah port must be welcomed, as long as the group's departure is completed, as was announced on Twitter by its leadership.

The port issue has been a sticking point in UN efforts to mediate between the warring parties for months. It wanted the Houthis to hand over the port as a step toward improving the humanitarian situation in the country. Hodeidah is the main international entry point for 70 percent of imports and humanitarian aid to Yemen, where the four-year civil war has killed an estimated 60,000 people and pushed much of the country to the brink of famine. Nearly two-thirds of Yemenis are in need of some sort of aid and 3 million have been displaced. According to the UN, thousands are said to have died of malnutrition, preventable diseases and epidemics.

<http://www.arabnews.com/node/1497441>

## Iran's policies threaten its own people

Saudi Gazette, May 14, 2019

Iran is backed by Russia, Turkey and Syria's Bashar Al-Assad, but what about

the United States? America could demolish Iran immediately and effectively as it did with Iraq in 2003. Is there a hidden interest between the United States and Iran? If the United States destroyed Iran it would counter its intention to keep the Middle East in a state of tension.

Iran's condition has deteriorated. In 1979 when Iran was a monarchy, it had a stable economy and well-educated citizens. Nowadays, it works directly and violently to seek power and it supports terrorism and violates international laws. Saudi Arabia has played an important role in isolating Iran, along with US economic sanctions.

However, Iran is an example of how nations fail. There are two main pillars that a country must build to ensure its stability which are international alliances and the loyalty of its people. In fact, Iran is concentrating on its military and is forgetting about trade, culture and development. It sacrifices its people, and a nation that attempts to succeed without its own citizens will suffer from a brain drain and migration.

*<http://saudigazette.com.sa/article/566346/Opinion/OP-ED/Irans-policies-threaten-its-own-people>*

## EAST ASIA

### **Nuclear powers should lead world toward a mood for disarmament**

*Asahi Shimbun, May 16, 2019*

The world's efforts to build a future without nuclear weapons are now at a critical juncture. Strong countervailing winds are blowing against the long-established international framework for promoting nuclear arms reductions through international treaties. The core of this framework is the Nuclear Non-Proliferation Treaty (NPT), a landmark international treaty to prevent the spread of nuclear arms. A meeting was recently held at the United Nations headquarters to prepare for the 2020 review conference of the treaty, which will mark the 50th anniversary of its enforcement.

But the meeting failed to work out a draft text to be used in discussions for the review conference as the rift between the nuclear powers and countries without nuclear arms remains as wide as ever. The leaders of the United States and Russia, which together account for more than 90 percent of all the nuclear arms on Earth, have even shown their ambitions to beef up their countries' nuclear arsenals.

The foreign ministers of the two countries held talks on May 14 without making any notable progress for the promotion of nuclear disarmament. They only referred to the establishment of a working group on nuclear arms reductions. The current situation will only further worsen the prospects for nuclear arms reduction.

*<http://www.asahi.com/ajw/articles/AJ201905160028.html>*

## Contribute Articles

Indian Pugwash Society welcomes research articles from students, researchers and faculties on Space, Missile, nuclear technology, WMD proliferation, arms control, disarmament, export controls and other related issues. Articles should be crisply written and should address contemporary debates in the policy arena. Manuscripts submitted for the consideration of the Indian Pugwash Society should be original contributions and should not have been submitted for consideration anywhere else. For further assistance, please contact us at : indianpugwashsociety@gmail.com

The Indian Pugwash Society aims to promote the study, discussion, and knowledge of and to stimulate general interest in, and to diffuse knowledge in regards to problems relating on WMD proliferation, arms control, disarmament, space security, export controls, nuclear technology and other related issues. This newsletter is part of the project "Emerging Nuclear Order in Asia: Implications for India" sanctioned to us by Department of Atomic Energy-Board of Research in Nuclear Sciences (DAE-BRNS).

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