

Nuclear, Missile & Space Digest

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- PLA Army holds first competition for border and coastal ship-and-boat troops
- China to complete BeiDou-3 satellite system by 2020
- Most cyber attacks from the US: report
- Xi, Putin meet in St. Petersburg
- China's 'artificial sun' to challenge 200 million degrees Celsius
- Air-defense missile system fires at targets in desert
- China's lunar rover travels over 212 meters on moon's far side
- New radar system immune to 'radar killer' missiles
- Private space companies draw inspiration from successful rocket launch at sea
- China rolls out rules for commercial space sector
- Shanghai plans to build hydrogen fuel cells center
- China strengthens technological cooperation with central Asian countries
- Korean Peninsula issue still within the framework of political solution: spokesperson
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- China's envoy calls for return to JCPOA track
- US gift to China questions enforcement of N. Korea sanctions
- Newly-launched 'Jilin-1' satellite sends back images
- Heads of Chinese and Foreign Ground Force Academies exchange on military education
- Beijing ready to join Tehran for steadfast comprehensive strategic partnership
- SCO Bishkek declaration calls for enhanced cooperation to promote peace, development
- 'One country, two systems' in Taiwan 'over my dead body:' Han Kuo-yu
- Global AI chip market to grow tenfold in next five years: white paper
- CCTV to dedicate channel to military affairs to promote national defense education

C. PAKISTAN

- H.E Mr Mohamed Karmoune, Ambassador of Morocco called on General Zubair Mahmood Hayat, Chairman JCS Committee.
- US urges Pakistan to improve ties with India
- Musharraf pressured me to read statement on nuclear proliferation, claims Dr Qadeer

D. USA

- Trump Administration Says It Will Negotiate With Iran With 'No Preconditions'
- US 2018 uranium purchase figures released
- Supposedly executed former North Korean nuclear envoy is alive: CNN
- U.S. shared nuclear power info with Saudi Arabia after Khashoggi killed
- Trump prepared to talk to Iran but says always a chance of military action
- US intel shows Saudi Arabia escalated its missile program with help from China
- Trump 'prepared' to handle responsibility of launching nukes
- Exclusive: U.S. pursues sale of over \$2 billion in weapons to Taiwan, sources say, angering China
- U.S. sanctions target Iran petrochemicals, analysts see modest effect
- US DOE changes waste interpretation
- Got \$50 million for a vacation? NASA to open space station to private citizens
- New U.S. sanctions show offer of talks with Iran not genuine: Foreign Ministry
- Trump criticizes NASA moon mission after promoting it earlier
- U.S. And Russia Train Together in Arctic, Where They Both Want to Be Top Power
- U.S. says Iran is in breach of nuclear deal but repeats offer of talks
- Third U.S.-North Korea summit possible, up to Kim - Bolton
- Factbox: The ups and downs since Trump first met North Korea's Kim

- Rocket firm Relativity signs lease with NASA for new robotic 3D printing factory
- U.S. sanctions Iraq-based company, says it backs Iran's IRGC
- Trump says he is 'in no rush' to make a nuclear deal with North Korea
- U.S. military intelligence steps up accusation against Russia over nuclear testing
- Trump says neither Iran nor U.S. ready to make a deal
- Trump says 'Iran did do it,' as U.S. seeks support on Gulf oil tanker attacks
- Trump says ready to hold talks with Iran despite tanker attacks
- U.S. allows Iraq to import Iranian energy for three more months
- U.S. Escalates Online Attacks on Russia's Power Grid
- Trump's consistent criticism of Iran pushes U.S. to point of potential conflict

E. EUROPE

- French weapons sales to Saudi jumped 50 percent last year
- German FM traveling to Iran to salvage nuclear accord
- German minister lands in Iran in bid to save nuclear pact
- Non-nuclear states discuss weapons proliferation in Sweden
- European officials frustrated over faltering Iran nuke pact
- Bulgaria ready to protect North Macedonia's airspace with F-16 jets
- British opposition leader questions Iran accusations
- EU warns against blaming Iran for oil tanker attack

F. RUSSIA

- Russia & Argentina Expand Nuclear Energy Cooperation
- Three Russian nuclear-powered subs surface through Arctic ice in drills
- Russia's Mideast Nuclear Projects Help Build Trust With Allies - Energy Corp.
- Russia Tests New Missile Defense System, Military Says
- Putin's Media Struggle to Deal With HBO's Chernobyl
- China and Russia sign general contract for two Xudabao units
- Russia Keeps Asking U.S. To Agree to No Nuclear Weapons Use, But It's Not Getting Any Answer
- NPT signatories must return nuclear weapons to their land - Russian, Chinese leaders
- Russia and China reiterate Iran SUPPORT as Tehran works on nuclear weapons
- Putin says Russia has most advanced weapons for its security, even if New START is nixed
- Russia's Putin warns nuclear arms control system risks breaking down
- Putin: Moscow, Beijing agree on building several more Russia-designed nuclear power units
- Rosatom opens a branch in Saudi Arabia
- Russia plans to deliver missiles to Turkey in July; U.S. takes dim view
- Lavrov urges Russia, US to adopt joint declaration on avoiding nuclear war
- US provokes Iran's radical steps on nuclear deal - Russian diplomat
- Russia says US troop build-up in Poland 'undermines stability in Europe'
- Russia's VVER-TOI reactor certified by European utilities
- No unanimity among US intelligence community over claims of nuclear test in Russia -expert

WEST ASIA

G. IRAN

- Iranian envoy: S. Arabia, Israel, Egypt, and UAE have been developing missiles with long ranges
- IAEA report proves Iran's support for multilateralism: envoy
- Iran's Rouhani says U.S. 'should return to normal state' for talks': official website

- Iran's defense power absolutely non-negotiable, admiral says
- Iran calls U.S. sanctions 'economic war', says no talks until they are lifted
- Iran's Khamenei: Tehran will not abandon its missile programme
- Iran rejects French call for wider talks beyond nuclear deal: state TV
- Heinonen: Iran's nuclear scientists are 'the best of the best'
- 'U.S., Israel won't allow the likes of Saudis to acquire atomic bomb'
- Zarif lambasts 'conceited interpretation' of Resolution 2231
- Iran's Zarif says nuclear deal talks with Germany were frank, serious
- Iran has accelerated production of enriched uranium, IAEA says
- IAEA chief worried about rising tension over Iran nuclear issue
- Iran to unveil phase II of stable isotopes on June 22
- Tehran says placed no order for Russian S400
- Zarif: Anyone who starts war on Iran will not be the one who ends it
- UN atomic watchdog chief worried about tensions over Iran's nuclear issue
- UN watchdog confirms Iran's promised uranium enrichment hike
- All nuclear deal parties must 'equally' honor their commitments: Iran
- Rouhani: Sanctions and pressure are starting to lose their effectiveness
- IAEA should see all aspect and be unbiased: Iranian diplomat
- New Chinese envoy submits credentials to Zarif
- Iran's Rouhani says security in the Gulf is highly important to Iran
- Iran calls for regional cooperation to protect strategic waterways - Fars
- Rouhani says Iran, China's resistance against U.S. unilateralism benefits world
- U.S. bullying has brought Iran, China, Russia closer together: Rouhani aide
- Iran months from hitting enriched uranium cap despite acceleration
- Iran fast-boats preventing towing of damaged Altair tanker: source
- Iran renews nuclear pact ultimatum amid tensions with U.S
- Everyone is concerned about fate of nuclear deal, Putin says
- INSTEX remains non-operational, Larijani says
- Iran cannot stick to nuclear deal unilaterally: Rouhani
- Iran urges U.S., allies to stop 'false flag operations' in region

H. ISRAEL

- Netanyahu tells Japan's Abe to pressure Iran as he prepares for Tehran visit
- Netanyahu: Zarif Is Lying; We Won't Allow Iran To Develop Nuclear Weapons
- Radioactive material leaked from Israel's nuclear reactor several times

I. SAUDI ARABIA

- Saudi Arabia, UAE, Norway tell UN Security Council tanker attacker 'most likely a state actor'
- Nuclear power the best solution for Saudi Arabia
- Saudi air defence intercepts two Houthi drones - SPA
- Stop Iran from expanding nuclear program: Saudi Arabia
- Riyadh meeting reviews enhancing Saudi-French nuclear cooperation
- Royal Saudi and US air forces carry out exercise over Arabian Gulf
- Crown Prince calls for decisive international position against Iran

J. QATAR

- Qatar seeks thaw in US-Iran row
- Qatar urges de-escalation in U.S.-Iran row

K. UAE

- Understanding The Saudi, Uae Arms Deals And Iran
- Frontline oil tanker struck by torpedo off UAE coast - Tradewinds

- State sponsor behind May tanker attacks, says UAE minister

L. TURKEY

- US gives Turkey July 31 deadline to scrap Russian S-400 missile defence system deal
- Turkish F-35 pilots no longer flying at U.S. base - Pentagon
- U.S. has not taken up offer to create S-400 working group, Turkey says
- Frontline oil tanker struck by torpedo off UAE coast - Tradewinds
- Erdogan spokesman Kalin says discussed F-35 letter with Bolton on phone
- Turkey says would retaliate against U.S. sanctions over Russian S-400s

EAST ASIA

M. JAPAN

- Pro-nuclear incumbent Shingo Mimura wins fifth term in Aomori gubernatorial election
- Japan plans carbon emission cuts, more nuclear energy
- Abe pushing idea that Fukushima nuclear disaster is 'under control'
- Japan premier hopes to ease US-Iran tensions in Tehran visit
- Japan premier warns US, Iran 'accidental conflict' possible
- Tighter rules for drones spark fears about the right to know
- Abe to Khamenei: Trump does not want to escalate tensions
- Sendai reactor to stop due to delay in anti-terror upgrade work
- NRA safety license for Sendai reactors legal, Fukuoka court finds, dismissing volcano risk lawsuit

N. SOUTH KOREA

- President Moon pushes for summits with Xi, Abe Posted
- US state department aims for one-time solution to denuclearize North Korea
- Moon suggests trust-based denuclearization, peace
- Moon back in Korea after Northern Europe trip

O. NORTH KOREA

- North Korea's Kim visits factories linked to missile launches
- North Korea's former top nuclear envoy seen with Kim Jong Un - KCNA
- Exclusive: U.N. bid to curb North Korean missile tests, revive air traffic, delayed amid U.S. concerns - sources
- US urged to change its approach towards DPRK

P. CENTRAL, SOUTH AND SOUTHEAST ASIA

- Kazakhstan's chairmanship of the nuclear suppliers group in 2019-2020

Q. MISC

- We Can Tell You All of the Ways to Kill a Hypersonic Missile
- Slovenské elektrárne signs Russian fuel supply deal
- 5 Submarines That Could Kill Billions of People in Minutes
- Research funding awarded for fast reactor support
- IAEA focus on verification and development

R. OP-ED

INDIA

- A blueprint for national security for Modi 2.0 govt
- The New India Versus The Nuclear Revolution: The Future Of Crises Among Nuclear Powers

- Imran needs a change in strategy and new pair of spectacles to read Modi's India
PAKISTAN
- Pakistan & Sino-US cold war
- Eyes on the prize
USA
- Could Trump Trash The Nuclear Test Ban Treaty?
- Will Arms Control Foes Take Aim at Another Treaty?
- In Face-Off With Iran, Escalation May Depend on Who Prevails Inside Washington and Tehran
RUSSIA
- Russia vs. Israel: The War That Could Become a Nuclear Disaster
WEST ASIA
- Iran's isolation on the international stage is growing
- Iran rejects French call for wider talks beyond nuclear deal
- Qatar admits having different 'assessment' to US on Iran threat
- Germany must respond to its approach
- Post-JCPOA talks and the Deal of Century: Two sides of the same coin
- Nuclear Iran: Europe should get behind Trump
- Is It Too Late To Stop Iran's Permanent Presence In Syria?
- Stop Iran!
- Hezbollah's Most Devastating Threat to Israel? Not Its Missiles
- Washington Watch: Is Trump Helping The Saudis Go Nuclear?
- Syrian WMD Proliferation Could Set the Middle East on Fire
- Introducing Nuclear Weapons to the Middle East
EAST ASIA
- Abe needs to convince Trump to ease tensions with Iran
SOUTH KOREA
- From nukes toward democracy
NORTH KOREA
- Third NK-US summit is possible despite lack of progress on denuclearization: analysts
- 'North Korea unlikely to change position on denuclearization'

S. THINK TANKS

- Nuclear Newcomers: Getting Organized for Success
- Important for Iran to Implement its JCPOA Commitments, IAEA Director General Says
- Wider Implementation of IAEA Code of Conduct to Enhance Safety and Security: Review Meeting Concludes
- Decision to keep nuclear weapons data classified hurts US national security
- Senior Operators, Regulators and Managers Discuss Best Practices at Beijing Meeting
- Trump Arms Control Plans Draw Criticism
- Despite Threat to Breach Limits, Iran Remains Below the Nuclear Deal's Caps

T. STATEMENTS

- DIA Statement on Lt. Gen. Ashley's Remarks at Hudson Institute
- U.S. military intelligence steps up accusation against Russia over nuclear testing

U. INTERVIEWS/REPORTS

- The drama and the facts about Chernobyl
- Full Text of Pakistan Prime Minister Imran Khan's Interview

A. India

Shri Rajnath Singh Assumes Office of the Defence Minister

PIB Delhi, June 1, 2019

Shri Rajnath Singh took over the responsibility as the Defence Minister, today. On his arrival at the Ministry of Defence in South Block, Shri Rajnath Singh was received by the Minister of State for Defence Shri Shripad Yesso Naik, three Services' Chiefs, Defence Secretary Shri Sanjay Mitra, Chairman DRDO Dr G. Satheesh Reddy, Secretary (Defence Production) Dr. Ajay Kumar and Mrs S Kutty, Secretary ESW. Shri Rajnath Singh was Minister of Home Affairs since May 27, 2014.

Raksha Mantri Shri Rajnath Singh was given a brief presentation on the functioning of the MoD and all the four Departments of the MoD namely Department of Defence, Department of Defence Production, Department of Ex-serviceman Welfare and Department of Research and Development Organization.

<http://pib.nic.in/PressReleaseDetail.aspx?PRID=1573089>

IAF AN-32 Aircraft Missing

PIB Delhi, June 3, 2019

An AN-32 got airborne today from Jorhat at 1227 hrs for Mechuka Advanced Landing Ground. The aircraft last contacted ground agencies at 1300 hrs (approx). Thereafter, there was no contact with the aircraft. Since the aircraft did not reach the destination, overdue actions were initiated by Indian Air Force. A total of eight aircrew and five passengers were onboard the aircraft. C-130, AN-32 aircraft, two Mi-17 of IAF and Indian Army ALH helicopters were launched to locate the missing aircraft. Some ground reports were received on possible location of a crash site. Helicopters were routed to the location, however, no wreckage has been sighted so far. IAF is coordinating with Indian Army as well as various government and civil agencies to locate the missing aircraft. The search operations from air and by ground parties

of Indian Army are planned to continue through the night.

<http://pib.nic.in/PressReleaseDetail.aspx?PRID=1573296>

Raksha Mantri Reviews Defence Cooperation Mechanism

PIB Delhi, June 6, 2019

Raksha Mantri Shri Rajnath Singh reviewed activities of the Ministry of Defence. The RM was briefed regarding Defence Cooperation activities with Friendly Foreign Countries (FFCs). He was also briefed about planning activities of the Armed Forces including Tri-Services agencies viz. HQ IDS and Defence Cyber Agency, Defence Space Agency and Armed Forces Special Forces Division which were approved by the CCS in 2019. He was also briefed about the Defence Planning Committee setup in 2018.

Raksha Mantri reviewed the policy matters pertaining to defence diplomacy including bilateral/multilateral exercises, capacity building, training, material assistance to FFCs, etc. Raksha Rajya Mantri Shri Shripad Yesso Naik, Defence Secretary Shri Sanjay Mitra and other senior officials of MoD were also present on the occasion.

<http://pib.nic.in/PressReleaseDetail.aspx?PRID=1573610>

Wreckage of Missing An-32 Aircraft Located

PIB Delhi, June 11, 2019

An An-32 of the Indian Air Force went missing on 03 Jun 2019 after getting airborne from Air Force Station, Jorhat Assam. The wreckage of the aircraft was spotted today 16 Kms North of Lipo, North East of Tato at an approximate elevation of 12000 ft by the IAF Mi-17 Helicopter undertaking search in the expanded search zone.

Efforts are now continuing to establish the status of occupants and establish survivors. Further details will be communicated as the recovery actions progress.

<http://pib.nic.in/PressReleaseDetail.aspx?PRID=1573893>

Dr. K Sivan, Chairman, ISRO briefs media in Bengaluru

PIB Delhi, June 12, 2019

A Press Meet was organized today, at ISRO Headquarters, Bengaluru on the occasion of the forthcoming launch of India's Chandrayaan-2 mission to Moon. Dr K Sivan, Chairman, ISRO addressed and interacted with regional, national and international media persons during the meet.

Dr Sivan outlined ISRO's vision on space science and interplanetary missions.

Understanding the secrets of the inner solar system is an aspiration of both national and international scientific community. Specifically talking about Chandrayaan-2, he announced "The launch of Chandrayaan-2 onboard GSLV MkIII-M1 is planned on July 15, 2019 at 02.51 Hrs from Sriharikota". Further, he said the soft landing of the Vikram lander of Chandrayaan-2 on the Moon's surface is likely to be on September 06, 2019. The briefing included the scientific objectives, challenges and benefits of the mission.

<http://pib.nic.in/PressReleaseDetail.aspx?PRID=1574068>

DRDO launches Technology Demonstrator Vehicle

PIB Delhi, June 12, 2019

Defence Research and Development Organisation (DRDO) Today launched a Technology Demonstrator Vehicle to prove a number of critical technologies for futuristic missions from Dr Abdul Kalam Island off the coast of Odisha.

The missile was successfully launched at 1127 Hours. Various radars, telemetry stations and electro optical tracking sensors tracked the vehicle through its course. The data has been collected and will be analysed to validate the critical technologies.

<http://pib.nic.in/PressReleaseDetail.aspx?PRID=1574035>

IAF to buy 100 more Balakot bombs, signs Rs 300 cr deal with Israel

Manjeet Singh Negi, India Today, June 6, 2019

The Indian Air Force on Thursday signed a deal worth around Rs 300 crore for buying more than 100 SPICE bombs from Israel.

SPICE bomb has a standoff range of 60 kilometres and approaches the target as its unique scene-matching algorithm compares the electro-optical image received in real-time via the weapon seeker with mission reference data stored in the weapon computer memory and adjusts the flight path accordingly. SPICE 2000 consists of an add-on kit for warheads such as the MK-84, BLU-109, APW and RAP-2000.

<https://www.indiatoday.in/india/story/iaf-to-buy-100-more-balakot-bombs-signs-rs-300-cr-deal-with-israel-1544063-2019-06-06>

India sees new deals with Moscow on nuclear energy, space & high tech as a priority – ambassador

Anushree Fadnavis, Russian Times, June 7, 2019

India is set to diversify economic ties with Russia as new deals on the digital economy, nuclear energy, and space are expected to be sealed in September during Prime Minister Modi's visit, India's ambassador to Russia told RT.

The diplomat made the remarks during a major Russian economic forum, currently being held in Saint Petersburg. In an interview with RT, Bala Venkatesh Varma, who was appointed India's ambassador to Russia in August 2018, hailed "time-tested historically friendly relations" between the countries but insisted that both nations "can do more."

<https://www.rt.com/news/461308-india-russia-deals-ambassador/>

BHEL secures Kudankulam contract

World Nuclear News, June 11, 2019

Indian company Bharat Heavy Electricals Ltd (BHEL) has secured an INR440 crore (USD64 million) order from Nuclear Power Corporation of India Ltd (NPCIL) to erect the turbine generator islands for Kudankulam units 3 and 4.

The Russian-designed AES-92 VVER reactors are being built with Russian technical assistance as the first stage of phase 2 at the site in Tamil Nadu, which is already home to two operating AES-92 units. BHEL performed a similar role at Kudankulam 1 and 2, which the company says "showcased" its capability in installing equipment designed and supplied by other manufacturers. The turbines for the first two Kudankulam units were made by Silmash in St Petersburg.

<http://world-nuclear-news.org/Articles/BHEL-secures-Kudankulam-contract>

India-Iran bilateral talks at sidelines of SCO summit to discuss way forward on US oil sanctions

Geeta Mohan, India Today, June 12, 2019

India and Iran will hold a bilateral meeting on the sidelines of the SCO summit in Bishkek to be held on June 13-14.

This would be the first meeting between the leadership of the two countries after Prime Minister Modi resumed office. Earlier, during the thick of elections, then External Affairs Minister Sushma Swaraj had said that any decision on Iran and its oil import to India would be taken after the elections.

With tough US sanctions and no elbow room for a compromise on the 'zero oil from Iran' policy of Washington, India did not place an order for oil since June. This is an issue that has severely concerned Tehran.

<https://www.indiatoday.in/india/story/exclusive-india-iran-bilateral-talks-at-sidelines-of-sco-summit-to-discuss-way-forward-on-us-oil-sanctions-1547710-2019-06-12>

India set to launch second lunar mission; land rover on the moon

Chris Thomas, Nivedita Bhattacharjee, Reuters, June 13, 2019

India said on Wednesday it will launch its second lunar mission in mid-July, as it moves to consolidate its status as a leader in space technology by achieving a controlled landing on the moon.

The mission, if successful, would make India only the fourth country behind the United States, Russia and China to perform a "soft" landing on the moon and put a rover on it. China successfully landed a lunar rover in January.

The mission is scheduled to launch on July 15 aboard ISRO's Geosynchronous Satellite Launch Vehicle Mark III. It will cost about 10 billion rupees (\$144 million), ISRO said. After a journey of more than 50 days, ISRO's lander will attempt a "soft", controlled landing on the lunar surface on around Sept. 6.

"The last 15 minutes to the landing are going to be the most terrifying moments for us," ISRO Chairman K. Sivan told media on Wednesday. The agency said variations in lunar gravity, terrain and dust could all cause problems.

<https://in.reuters.com/article/space-exploration-india-moon/india-set-to-launch-second-lunar-mission-land-rover-on-the-moon-idINKCN1TE08O>

ISRO's top milestones in recent years

Deccan Herald, June 12, 2019

The Indian Space Research Organisation announced that Chandrayaan-2, its most complex mission ever, will be launched on July 15, according to Chairman K Sivan. The landing on the moon near the South Pole, an uncharted territory so far, would be on September 6 or 7, Sivan told reporters. ISRO has launched 104 spacecraft missions, including 3 nano-Satellites, 1 micro Satellite. They also have

completed 74 launch missions including Scramjet-TD & RLV-TD.

<https://www.deccanherald.com/national/isros-top-milestones-in-recent-years-739800.html>

DRDO conducts maiden test of hypersonic technology demonstrator

The Hindu, June 12, 2019

The Defence Research and Development Organisation (DRDO) on Wednesday conducted the maiden test of an indigenously developed Hypersonic Technology Demonstrator Vehicle (HSTDV) along with several technologies on Wednesday morning.

“The DRDO launched a technology demonstrator vehicle to prove a number of critical technologies for futuristic missions from Dr Abdul Kalam Island off the coast of Odisha,” the Ministry of Defence (MoD) said without identifying what the technology demonstrator was or if it met the objectives. Defence Minister Rajnath Singh witnessed the launch.

<https://www.thehindu.com/news/national/drdo-conducts-maiden-test-of-hypersonic-technology-demonstrator/article27890922.ece>

Pompeo woos India with ‘secure’ 5G, arms sales & nuke project after recent tensions

Nicholas Kamm, Russian Times, June 13, 2019

As the US warns India against buying Russian anti-air systems, Secretary of State Mike Pompeo is gearing up for a trip to New Delhi, where he will try to sell American 5G tech, LNG gas, and arms to Narendra Modi’s government.

Adamant that India and the US share a common vision “throughout the Indo-Pacific,” Washington wants New Delhi to prove its commitment to US interests by purchasing an entire lineup of US products and services, Mike Pompeo hinted on Wednesday ahead of his trip to the country on June 25.

Pompeo also wants India to end its reliance on Venezuelan and Iranian crude by purchasing Liquefied Natural Gas and constructing six US-made nuclear power plants.

<https://www.rt.com/news/461750-pompeo-india-trip-offers/>

SCO Summit 2019 Live Updates: PM Modi to meet Iran president Hassan Rouhani

Hindustan Times, June 14, 2019

Prime Minister Narendra Modi is all set to meet president of Kazakhstan Kassym-Jomart Tokayev today and hold bilateral meeting with Iranian President Hassan Rouhani. PM Modi yesterday met Chinese president Xi Jinping and said that Pakistan is yet to take “concrete action” on India’s concerns and create an atmosphere free of terrorism, which is necessary to facilitate any possible engagement between the two sides.

PM Modi is scheduled to meet president Alexander Lukashenko of Belarus and president Khaltmaagiin Battulga of Mongolia today.

<https://www.hindustantimes.com/world-news/pm-modi-at-sco-summit-2019-live-updates/story-tMyi4mIvznTtq6bxX0nseL.html>

Defence Minister Rajnath Singh reviews DRDO projects, was present at Balasore launch on 12 June

Firstpost, June 14, 2019

Defence Minister Rajnath Singh on Friday reviewed the ongoing and future projects of the Defence Research and Development Organisation (DRDO).

The defence minister had, on 12 June, witnessed the launch of Technology Demonstrator missile vehicle in Balasore conducted by premier defence research agency. Besides Rajnath, Secretary (Defence Production) Ajay Kumar was also present at the test firing range.

"The missile was launched successfully. Various sensors have been placed on the missile, through which a large number of data has been gathered for various missile subsystems. That data will be analyzed to validate the critical technologies for the purpose the said vehicle was launched," DRDO sources said.

<https://www.firstpost.com/india/defence-minister-rajnath-singh-reviews-drdo-projects-was-present-at-balasore-launch-on-12-june-6813761.html>

B. China

China's national supercomputing center launches AI testbed

Xinhua, June 1, 2019

China's National Supercomputing Center in the south China city of Shenzhen on Friday launched a testbed for artificial intelligence (AI) experiments. The AI testbed, named Tai, provides the basic environment of AI chips and systems for the research, development and application tests of AI inventions.

Tai is capable of dealing with large-scale and complex scenarios. Scientists have built an EB-level intelligent data management and analysis system for high-energy physics, as well as simulation of AI scenarios in real business situations and an AI-powered weather forecast platform.

http://www.xinhuanet.com/english/2019-06/01/c_138108243.htm

China says U.S. actions on Taiwan, South China Sea threaten stability

Reuters, June 1, 2019

The United States' actions on Taiwan and the South China Sea are hardly conducive to maintaining stability in the region, a senior Chinese military official said on Saturday, responding to comments by acting U.S. Defence Secretary Patrick Shanahan.

"He (Shanahan) has been expressing inaccurate views and repeating old tunes about the issues of Taiwan and the South China Sea," Shao Yuanming, a senior official of the People's Liberation Army, told reporters after Shanahan's speech. "This is

harming regional peace and stability."

China translates the Chinese word "tong yi" as "reunification", but it can also be translated as "unification", a term in English preferred by Taiwan independence supporters who say the Communist government has never ruled the island, so it cannot be "reunified".

<https://in.reuters.com/article/asia-security-china/china-says-u-s-actions-on-taiwan-south-china-sea-threaten-stability-idINKCN1T230M>

China rebuts U.S. acting defense secretary's remarks on Taiwan, South China Sea

Xinhua, June 1, 2019

China firmly objected to the U.S. side's remarks on Taiwan and the South China Sea while welcoming the U.S. statement of continuing to develop and stabilize the bilateral military relationship, a senior Chinese military official said here Saturday. Taiwan has been an inseparable part of China since ancient times.

He reiterated that China must and will certainly realize unification. If someone desires to separate Taiwan from China, the Chinese military will steadfastly safeguard the unity of the motherland at all costs. Commenting on Shanahan's remarks of accusing China of sabotaging freedom of navigation and pushing forward the militarization of islands and reefs in the South China Sea, Shao said that China has indisputable sovereignty over the islands and reefs and their neighboring waters in the South China Sea, based on sufficient historical and legal facts.

http://www.xinhuanet.com/english/2019-05/30/c_138103566.htm

China makes 3-point proposal on enhancing defense cooperation in Asia-Pacific

Xinhua, June 2, 2019

China on Saturday made a three-point proposal on enhancing defense cooperation in the Asia-Pacific region at the Shangri-La Dialogue being held here.

Addressing a special session on “New Model of defense cooperation” during the dialogue, Major General Ci Guowei, chief of the Office for International Military Cooperation of China’s Ministry of National Defense, said China is fully aware that its peaceful development is closely linked with the future of the Asia-Pacific. “We advocate active bilateral and multilateral security dialogue and cooperation, and strive to facilitate regional cooperation in both economy and security,” Ci said. “China adopts a holistic approach to security governance that addresses both symptoms and root causes. China’s proposals on the Asia-Pacific security architecture are meant to complete and improve the existing mechanisms rather than overturn them and start all over again,” he said. To this end, China proposes three points in enhancing defense cooperation in the region, he said.

http://www.xinhuanet.com/english/2019-06/02/c_138109132.htm

China reiterates support for Iran’s nuclear deal: Xinhua

Reuters, June 3, 2019

China has reiterated its support for Iran’s 2015 nuclear deal with world powers and said that implementing it is the only way to resolve the Iran nuclear issue, official Xinhua news agency said on Monday, citing a Chinese foreign ministry spokesperson.

In May 2018 President Donald Trump pulled the United States out of the accord between Iran and six powers including Britain, France, Germany, Russia and China, then reimposed tough U.S. sanctions on Iran, saying the deal was flawed.

Under the agreement, reached before Trump took office, Iran reined in its uranium enrichment programme in exchange for a lifting of most international sanctions imposed on the Islamic Republic.

<https://in.reuters.com/article/iran-nuclear-china/china-reiterates-support-for-irans-nuclear-deal-xinhua-idINKCN1T42D5>

Do you believe in UFOs? China hints at test of new missile

Reuters, June 4, 2019

With a cryptic message about UFOs and a picture of a missile launcher, China’s military has hinted that it has carried out a test of a new missile, after images of an object streaking towards the sky circulated on Chinese social media.

The People’s Liberation Army typically does not announce new missile tests, but occasionally drops hints about what it is up to, amid a massive modernisation push championed by President Xi Jinping to ramp up combat capabilities.

On Sunday, footage circulated on China’s Weibo microblogging service of an object travelling up into the sky, leaving a white trail behind it, over the Bohai Sea, partly closed at the time for military drills. That caused some Chinese internet users to wonder if it was a UFO, though most thought it was probably the test of a new underwater launched ballistic missile. “Do you believe in this world there are UFOs?” it wrote in the caption, without offering further explanation.

<https://in.reuters.com/article/china-defence-missiles/do-you-believe-in-ufos-china-hints-at-test-of-new-missile-idINKCN1T50Q3>

Carrier rocket’s sea launch safer, cheaper: experts

Xu Keyue, Global Times, June 5, 2019

Despite a complicated marine environment, China successfully launched a Long March-11 carrier rocket at sea for the first time on Wednesday, which experts hailed as a safer and more economical way of rocket launch.

The rocket blasted off from a platform on a large semi-submersible barge in the Yellow Sea, media reported, noting that it also successfully sent two technology experiment satellites and five commercial satellites into a preset orbit. This launch marks the first time for China to combine aerospace and marine technology,

achieving a breakthrough in the safety, stability and reliability of launching at sea. The rocket was named “CZ-11 WEY” by the China Academy of Launch Vehicle Technology, China Space Foundation and a Chinese automobile producer, the Xinhua News Agency reported.

<http://www.globaltimes.cn/content/1153209.shtml>

China launches rocket from ship at sea for first time

Reuters, June 5, 2019

China successfully launched a rocket from a ship at sea for the first time on Wednesday, state media reported, the latest step forward in its ambitious space program. The Long March 11 rocket blasted off from a platform on a large semi-submersible barge in the Yellow Sea just after midday (0400 GMT), state media said. The small rocket, designed to be deployed quickly and from mobile launch sites such as a ship, carried seven satellites, including one that measures sea-surface winds to forecast typhoons. China has made its space program a top priority in recent years as it races to catch up with the United States and become a major space power by 2030. Beijing plans to begin construction of its own manned space station next year.

<https://in.reuters.com/article/us-china-space/china-launches-rocket-from-ship-at-sea-for-first-time-idINKCN1T60GW>

China's Xi says Iran tensions worrying, calls for restraint

Reuters, June 5, 2019

A rise in tensions in the Middle East owing to U.S. pressure on Iran is worrying and all parties need to exercise restraint, Chinese President Xi Jinping told Russian media ahead of a visit to the country.

Tensions between Iran and the United States have escalated in the past month, a year after the United States pulled out of a deal between Iran and global powers to curb Tehran's nuclear programme in return for lifting sanctions.

Xi told TASS news agency and Rossiyskaya Gazeta newspaper that because of the “extreme pressure” Washington has put on Tehran and the unilateral sanctions, tensions have continued to rise in the Middle East.

<https://in.reuters.com/article/usa-iran-china/chinas-xi-says-iran-tensions-worrying-calls-for-restraint-idINKCN1T603P>

Xi expounds China's position on Syrian conflict, Venezuelan crisis, Iran's nuclear issue

Xinhua, June 5, 2019

Chinese President Xi Jinping expounded China's position on the Syrian conflict, the Venezuelan crisis and Iran's nuclear issue during a joint interview with Russian media. Syria is a country home to one of the most ancient civilizations with a long history, and it is also an important country in the Middle East. In recent years, the situation in Syria continued to be turbulent, with its infrastructure seriously damaged and people suffering deeply, which was very saddening, he said. As the process of finding a political solution to the conflict is forging ahead and the Syrian government and people are starting to rebuild their homeland, China stands ready to participate in Syria's reconstruction within its own ability and do the best to help the Syrian people resume their normal life and production soon, the Chinese president said.

On the Venezuelan crisis, Xi said China holds that relevant issues should be solved by the ruling party and the opposition through inclusive political dialogue and consultation within the framework of Venezuela's constitution. China opposes foreign intervention and unilateral sanctions and is against using force or threats of force, he said. China is willing to make joint efforts with the international community to play a positive and constructive role in the Venezuelan crisis, make more endeavors to promote reconciliation and dialogue, jointly defend international equity and justice, safeguard the tenor and principles of the UN Charter,

and help Venezuela return to the normal track of development soon, he said.

While talking about Iran's nuclear issue, Xi said the Joint Comprehensive Plan of Action (JCPOA) is a fruit of multilateralism which is critical to the international nuclear nonproliferation system as well as peace and stability in the Middle East, and should be respected and implemented fully and effectively. He said China holds a highly consistent view and position with Russia on the Iranian nuclear issue, expecting relevant parties to keep rational and restraint, increase dialogue and consultation and cool down the tensions for the moment.

http://www.xinhuanet.com/english/2019-06/05/c_138116801.htm

BeiDou satellite expo opens in East China

Xinhua, June 5, 2019

A satellite exposition opened Tuesday in Nanjing, capital city of East China's Jiangsu province, displaying the latest navigation technologies and products of BeiDou satellites. The three-day exposition, the second China (Nanjing) BeiDou Satellite Navigation Application Expo, will attract 200 exhibitors and 5,000 visitors, according to its organizer.

http://www.xinhuanet.com/english/2019-06/04/c_138116519.htm

China showcases cluster of 'aircraft carrier killer' missiles

Global Times, June 5, 2019

In a rare move, the People's Liberation Army (PLA) Rocket Force displayed 10 DF-21D anti-ship ballistic missiles in a recent video, as China reaffirmed the weapon's capability of attacking medium- to large-sized vessels. The 10 DF-21D missiles can be seen erected into launch positions in a promotional video of the PLA Rocket Force, Weihutang, a column on the military affiliated with China Central Television. This type of weapon can serve as a trump card in naval asymmetrical combat, as it is capable of attacking medium- to large-sized vessels from land, the report said.

It is rare to see so many DF-21Ds gathered together, and 10 could be enough to do serious damage to a hostile aircraft carrier, military observers said. Together with the DF-21D, China's DF-26 ballistic missile can reach targets even further at sea, according to reports. Analysts said that both events are demonstrations of China's strategic deterrence capability and determination to safeguard territorial integrity amid recent US military provocations in the Taiwan Straits and the South China Sea.

<http://www.globaltimes.cn/content/1153200.shtml>

China completes first offshore rocket launch

Xinhua, June 5, 2019

A Long March-11 solid propellant carrier rocket is launched from a mobile launch platform in the Yellow Sea off east China's Shandong Province, June 5, 2019. China successfully launched a rocket from a mobile launch platform in the Yellow Sea off Shandong Province on Wednesday, sending two technology experiment satellites and five commercial satellites into space. A Long March-11 solid propellant carrier rocket blasted off at 12:06 p.m. from the mobile platform. It is China's first space launch from a sea-based platform and the 306th mission of the Long March carrier rocket series.

http://www.xinhuanet.com/english/2019-06/05/c_138118602_2.htm

PLA Army holds first competition for border and coastal ship-and-boat troops

Liu Xiaohong, Zhang Wei, China Military Online, June 5, 2019

The Army's "Crossing Rivers and Seas 2019" Competition organized by the Chinese PLA Military Transportation Academy kicked off on June 4 in Zhenjiang, east China's Jiangsu Province. More than 100 competitors from the border and coastal defense troops of the PLA Ground Force attended the

competition including more than 20 items within 4 subjects.

http://english.chinamil.com.cn/view/2019-06/05/content_9523964.htm

China to complete BeiDou-3 satellite system by 2020

Xinhua, June 6, 2019

China's BeiDou-3 system, a global geolocation network, is expected to be completed in 2020, with a total of 35 satellites, researchers at a conference on the BeiDou Navigation Satellite System (BDS) said. China has deployed three systems, BDS-1, BDS-2 and BDS-3, to provide accurate positioning and navigation services to the world, said Jin Shuanggen, a researcher at Shanghai Astronomical Observatory, Chinese Academy of Sciences, at the second China (Nanjing) BeiDou Satellite Navigation Application Expo and Beidou Summit Forum.

The BDS system, independently constructed and operated by China, currently has 38 in-orbit satellites including 18 BDS-2 and 20 BDS-3. As a space infrastructure of national significance, the BDS provides all-time, all-weather and high-accuracy positioning, navigation and timing services to global users, according to a white paper on the system.

<http://www.chinadaily.com.cn/a/201906/06/WS5cf8a75ea31017657722fe05.html>

Most cyber attacks from the US: report

Sun Haoran and Zhao Yusha, Global Times, June 6, 2019

A Chinese report warned on Monday that most cyber attacks against Chinese networks in 2018 came from the US, which Chinese experts predicted that the latter is preparing to wage a large-scale "cyber war" but China is prepared to launch a strong counterattack. The information came from an annual report released by China's National Computer Network Emergency Response Technical Team (CNCERT) on Monday. The CNCERT said that in 2018, 14,000 servers in the US infected by a Trojan virus or botnet

controlled 3.34 million host computers in China; and the number of servers increased 90.8 percent year-on-year, the Xinhua News Agency reported.

The Cyberspace Administration of China (CAC) drafted a new regulation in May, which states that if acquisitions of products and services disrupt key information infrastructure, or lead to major losses of personal information and important data, or pose other security risks, they must be reported to the CAC's cybersecurity review office. China has likewise issued cryptosecurity policies, such as banning the use of US-made terminal equipment on certain occasions and places, the expert noted.

<http://www.globaltimes.cn/content/1153777.shtml>

Xi, Putin meet in St. Petersburg

Xinhuanet, June 7, 2019

Chinese President Xi Jinping met with his Russian counterpart, Vladimir Putin, on Thursday here in the latter's hometown. Putin invited Xi to a cruise tour on the Neva River. Welcoming Xi to his hometown again, Putin introduced to the guest local customs as well as the buildings on both sides of the river. The two presidents talked about the history and current situation of the ancient city along the sightseeing tour, pledging to promote cultural and people-to-people exchanges between the Chinese and Russian people so as to enhance mutual understanding and friendship.

http://www.xinhuanet.com/english/2019-06/07/c_138124790.htm

China's 'artificial sun' to challenge 200 million degrees Celsius

Global Times, June 7, 2019

The coil system in China's largest Tokamak, also known as the fusion device, is ready for service, China National Nuclear Corporation (CNNC) announced on Wednesday. As one of the major components, the settled coil system has

paved the way for the wrap-up construction of the next-generation “artificial sun,” known as HL-2M. The new apparatus can reach an electron temperature of over 200 million degrees Celsius and an ion temperature of 150 million Celsius in its core plasma, according to its developer Southwestern Institute of Physics (affiliated to CNNC).

The device is expected to be finished by the end of the year, Duan Xuru, an official at the China National Nuclear Corporation, announced during this year’s Two Sessions. Like most stars, the sun is made up mostly of hydrogen and helium atoms in a plasma state. It generates power from a process called nuclear fusion, which is also the earliest fusion reaction scientists have ever discovered. “Artificial sun” is simply a controllable fusion reactor apparatus designed to generate energy by mimicking the nuclear fusion process of our real sun. The project aims to use magnetic force to combine atoms, which in turn release the tremendous energy in a safe, controllable manner.

<http://www.globaltimes.cn/content/1153395.shtml>

Air-defense missile system fires at targets in desert

China Military Online, June 7, 2019

Artillerymen assigned to an air-defense brigade under the PLA 72nd Group Army rush to their positions after erecting HQ-16 medium-range air defense missiles during a live-fire operation at a depopulated area in northwest China’s Gobi desert



http://english.chinamil.com.cn/view/2019-06/12/content_9528767_3.htm

China’s lunar rover travels over 212 meters on moon’s far side

Xinhua, June 10, 2019

China’s lunar rover Yutu-2 has driven 212.99 meters on the far side of the moon to conduct scientific exploration on the virgin territory. Both the lander and the rover of the Chang’e-4 probe switched to its dormant mode for the lunar night late on Sunday (Beijing time), according to the Lunar Exploration and Space Program Center of the China National Space Administration.

A lunar day equals 14 days on Earth, a lunar night the same length. The Chang’e-4 probe switches to dormant mode during the lunar night due to lack of solar power. During the sixth lunar day of the probe on the moon, the scientific instruments on the lander and rover worked well, and about 1,654 MB of scientific detection data were sent to the core research team for analysis. As a result of the tidal locking effect, the moon’s revolution cycle is the same as its rotation cycle, and the same side always faces Earth. The far side of the moon has unique features, and scientists expect Chang’e-4 could bring breakthrough findings.

http://www.xinhuanet.com/english/2019-06/10/c_138131399.htm

New radar system immune to ‘radar killer’ missiles

Liu Xuanzun, Global Times, June 10, 2019

China’s maritime early warning radar system is immune to “radar killer” missiles and is capable of detecting stealth aircraft, according to its developer in a recent interview with media. The maritime radar system, developed by a team led by Chinese academician Liu Yongtan, can detect naval and aerial hostiles hundreds of kilometers away under any weather condition. It features high frequency electromagnetic waves that have long wavelengths and wide beams, Liu said in an interview with the Naval and Merchant Ships magazine published this month. While electromagnetic waves

emitted by a normal radar travel in straight lines and, since the Earth is round, cannot help see what is beyond the horizon, the high frequency ones used by Liu's radar travel along the sea surface, and he said this makes it possible to detect and monitor vessels and aircraft beyond visual range.

<http://www.globaltimes.cn/content/1153725.shtml>

Private space companies draw inspiration from successful rocket launch at sea

China Daily, June 11, 2019

China's "CZ-11 WEY" rocket was successfully launched at sea for the first time on Wednesday, giving a much needed boost to the country's space industry. Although the rocket was designed and built by the China Academy of Launch Vehicle Technology - part of a state-owned space conglomerate - the country's private rocket companies enthusiastically cheered its successful launch.

After two failed attempts to send satellites into targeted orbits, the Chinese private space sector is waiting for a successful carrier rocket launch. This has resulted in a great deal of attention being paid to iSpace, also known as Beijing Interstellar Glory Space Technology, a pioneer in the domestic private rocket sector, which is expected to launch its first carrier rocket in mid or late June. "We really hope iSpace can succeed this time to help bolster confidence in the entire sector," Shu Chang, CEO of another private rocket maker, OneSpace Technology, told the Global Times in an exclusive interview in late April, after the company failed in its attempt to send a satellite into orbit.

http://www.chinadaily.com.cn/regional/chongqing/liangjiang/2019-06/11/content_37479304.htm

China rolls out rules for commercial space sector

Zhang Hongpei, Global Times, June 11, 2019

China rolled out rules for the first time to regulate commercial rocket manufacturing, test flights and launches, a move to boost

the commercial space sector's sound development, industry representatives told the Global Times on Tuesday. It also encourages private rocket companies to take full advantage of national resources in terms of rich technology research, production equipment and facilities, and launch sites. "The specifics give a clear direction for China's commercial space industry, clarifying the qualifications, operational boundaries and national guarantees, which will be conducive to the sector's healthy and orderly development," Shu Chang, CEO of Beijing-based commercial rocket pioneer OneSpace Technology, told the Global Times on Tuesday. "Meanwhile, we hope regulators can strengthen guidance over us and jointly build a more open, flexible and efficient cooperation mechanism for the sector's sustainable development," said Shu.

<http://www.globaltimes.cn/content/1153918.shtml>

Shanghai plans to build hydrogen fuel cells center

Global Times, June 11, 2019

Shanghai plans to build a world-class "hydrogen energy harbor" in its Jiading district, the center of its automobile industry, to cultivate a sound industrial chain for hydrogen fuel cell vehicles (HFCV), the Xinhua News Agency reported Tuesday. The hydrogen energy harbor will form an industrial cluster with a planned area of 2.15 square kilometers. The district has set a target that its whole HFCV industrial chain will exceed 50 billion yuan (\$7.23 billion) in annual production by 2025, according to Xinhua.

<http://www.globaltimes.cn/content/1153888.shtml>

China strengthens technological cooperation with central Asian countries

Xinhua, June 12, 2019

China's technological cooperation with central Asian countries including Kyrgyzstan and Tajikistan has yielded fruitful results, according to the Chinese

Academy of Sciences (CAS). CAS Research Center for Ecology and Environment of Central Asia has cooperated with local governments in Kyrgyzstan to conduct demonstration projects in improving drinking water safety. They introduced new water purification equipment to tackle excessive heavy metals and microorganisms in drinking water, benefiting local residents.

Researchers from both China and Tajikistan have jointly conducted remote sensing monitoring of lakes. They also stepped up cooperation in glacier survey, hydrology and water resources utilization, biodiversity and ecosystem change, disaster warning and the application of Unmanned Aerial Vehicle (UAV).

http://www.xinhuanet.com/english/2019-06/12/c_138137275.htm

Korean Peninsula issue still within the framework of political solution: spokesperson

Xinhua, June 12, 2019

China called on related countries to continue making efforts to realize denuclearization and sustained peace on the Korean Peninsula through negotiations, a Foreign Ministry spokesperson. In response, spokesperson Geng Shuang said the meeting between the leaders of DPRK and the United States in Singapore made important progress in the political settlement of the Korean Peninsula issue. It is China's hope that all parties concerned will keep contacts, meet each other half way, and address the legitimate concerns of all parties, to ultimately realize denuclearization and lasting peace on the Korean Peninsula, Geng said. China will continue to work with the international community and play a constructive role in the process, he added.

http://www.xinhuanet.com/english/2019-06/12/c_138137790.htm

International projects set for space station

Zhang Yangfei And Chen Weihua, China Daily, June 12, 2019

The China Space Station is set to welcome

aboard nine international scientific projects from 17 countries covering a wide range of research areas, including space life sciences and biotechnology, microgravity physics and astronomy, the China Manned Space Agency and the United Nations Office for Outer Space Affairs announced on Wednesday in Vienna. It is the first time that a China space mission has invited all members of the United Nations to conduct experiments, and is a milestone in the advancement of China's manned space program from independent development to global cooperation, said Lin Xiqiang, the agency's deputy director.

The space station will provide external platforms for experimental payloads and 16 experiment racks inside the cabin that can support 11 disciplines, such as space medicine, life science, microgravity physics and material science. The selected applicants also are welcome to bring their own experimental facilities or payloads either inside or outside the station, and China will help transport and assemble the facilities in orbit, Lyu said.

<http://europe.chinadaily.com.cn/a/201906/12/WS5d0106d9a310176577230d2c.html>

China's envoy calls for return to JCPOA track

China Military Online, June 12, 2019

H. E. Mr. Wang Qun, Permanent Representative and Ambassador Plenipotentiary and Extraordinary of the Permanent Mission of the People's Republic of China (PRC) to the United Nations (UN) and other International Organizations in Vienna, called on parties related to return to the track of full implementation of the Joint Comprehensive Plan of Action (JCPOA) Amb. Wang said that the Iran nuclear deal is a multilateral agreement approved by the UN Security Council and should be implemented steadily and comprehensively. Regrettably, due to the US extreme pressure and unilateral sanctions, the implementation of the agreement is facing severe challenges, and tensions continue in the Middle East.

The IAEA's latest quarterly report confirmed for the 15th time that Iran has fulfilled its nuclear obligations stipulated in the agreement. The Chinese side highly appreciates the efforts of the IAEA and Iran. Amb. Wang pointed out that under the current situation, China expects Iran to continue to fully fulfill its nuclear obligations, and also expects the IAEA to continue to conduct supervision and verification in an objective, fair and professional manner.

http://english.chinamil.com.cn/view/2019-06/12/content_9528975.htm

US gift to China questions enforcement of N. Korea sanctions

Lolita C. Baldor, AP News, June 12, 2019

The meeting between acting Defense Secretary Patrick Shanahan and his Chinese counterpart began with all the hallmarks of a routine staged and scripted session between two uneasy rivals. Shanahan presented Chinese Defense Minister Wei Fenghe with a gift. But what at first glance looked like a coffee table book was actually 32 pages of photographs and satellite images of North Korean ships getting and delivering shipments of oil. Many of the photos are stamped with dates, times, locations and descriptions, and, according to officials, represent proof that Pyongyang is violating punishing economic sanctions right off China's coast.

"I gave him this beautiful book," Shanahan said a day after his meeting with Wei and his top staff at a national security conference in Singapore. "I said this is an area where you and I can cooperate." The pointed message from the acting Pentagon chief comes as the Trump administration is at odds with China over a wide range of issues, including trade, Chinese theft of American technology, the possible sale of U.S. weapons to Taiwan and how to pressure North Korea into giving up its nuclear weapons program. China agreed to the U.N. sanctions against its ally and neighbor North Korea, but, as the photo book illustrates, appears to be allowing violations to take place.

<https://www.apnews.com/b64e8c8048da4f1f81463c1d08b63b23>

Newly-launched 'Jilin-1' satellite sends back images

China Daily, June 14, 2019

High-resolution satellite "Jilin-1" 03A sent back its first images on June 6, after being launched into space on the Long March 11 rocket over the Yellow Sea at 12:06 on June 5. The satellite, independently developed by Changchun-based Chang Guang Satellite Technology Co Ltd, is part of the "Jilin-1" satellite family, of which 12 others are currently in orbit. It is able to take detailed photographs and provide remote sensing information services for Chinese government and industries, as well as countries involved in the Belt and Road Initiative.



Satellite image of a thermal power plant in Yinchuan, Ningxia Hui autonomous region taken by "Jilin-1" 03A

http://www.chinadaily.com.cn/m/2016jilin/2019-06/14/content_37480838.htm

Heads of Chinese and Foreign Ground Force Academies exchange on military education

China Military Online, June 14, 2019

Under the theme of "Cultivating the Army's Growing Officers in a Changing Era", the 2019 Symposium for Presidents of Army Academies was opened at the PLA Ground Force Engineering University in Nanjing, the provincial capital of China's east Province of Jiangsu. Leaders of 7 foreign military academies, including the Black Needle Military Academy of Brazil, the Military Science and Technology College of Egypt, the National Defense Academy of Japan, the Mexican Army and Air Force University, the Nigerian National Defense Academy, the

South African Military Academy, and the Thai Chulachomkhalao Royal Military Academy, as well as 12 PLA's Ground Force Academies attended the exchange activities.

The President of PLA Ground Force Engineering University, organizer of the forum, said that in the new era featuring ever-emerging new knowledge, new technologies and new theories, the ground force would accelerate its development towards informationization, intellectualization and unmanned operation.

http://english.chinamil.com.cn/view/2019-06/14/content_9530925.htm

Beijing ready to join Tehran for steadfast comprehensive strategic partnership

Xinhua, June 14, 2019

Chinese President Xi Jinping said here Friday that Beijing is ready to join efforts with Tehran in promoting a steady development of bilateral comprehensive strategic partnership. Xi noted that he exchanged in-depth views with Rouhani on the China-Iran relationship, as well as regional and international issues of common concern during the SCO summit in China's eastern port city of Qingdao last year, and they have reached important consensus.

The Chinese president called on the two sides to strengthen strategic communication and support each other on issues concerning their respective core interests, adding that the two countries also need to step up coordination and conduct practical cooperation properly. He also urged the two sides to enhance cooperation in such areas as anti-terrorism and combating cross-border crimes, and jointly clamp down the "three forces" of terrorism, separatism and extremism, including East Turkistan Islamic Movement. China supports maintaining the Iran nuclear deal, said Xi, and is willing to step up coordination with Iran within such multilateral frameworks as the United Nations and the SCO to jointly safeguard basic norms of the international relations and multilateralism and preserve shared interests of developing countries, including China and Iran.

For his part, Rouhani said the Iran-China relationship carries a long-term and strategic significance. Iran is willing to participate in the Belt and Road Initiative and tap potential of cooperation in various fields, he said. Rouhani expressed Iran's resolute opposition to the unilateral withdrawal of the United States from the Iran nuclear deal, calling it "a wrong action." He praised China's active role in the international affairs, and said his country is ready to strengthen communication and coordination with China.

http://www.xinhuanet.com/english/2019-06/14/c_138143632.htm

SCO Bishkek declaration calls for enhanced cooperation to promote peace, development

Xinhua, June 14, 2019

Leaders of the Shanghai Cooperation Organization (SCO) member states issued a declaration here on Friday at an annual summit, calling for enhanced cooperation to promote peace and development. New development centers are emerging in Asia and the global balance of forces is going through a reconfiguration, said the document. The situation in global politics and economy remains tense, and the process of economic globalization is being hindered by the growing unilateralism and protectionism, and other challenges in international trade, it read.

The member states also pledge to strengthen exchange in the scientific, technical, cultural and tourism areas, promote interactions among young people, contribute to the further strengthening of neighborliness, friendship and cooperation.

http://www.xinhuanet.com/english/2019-06/14/c_138144314.htm

'One country, two systems' in Taiwan 'over my dead body:' Han Kuo-yu

Taiwan News, June 16, 2019

"'One country, two systems' can never be

implemented in Taiwan. Taiwanese people can never accept it, unless, unless, unless it's over my dead body," Han told tens of thousands of supporters at a rally in Douliu in Yunlin County, saying "over my dead body" in English. At the rally, Han of the opposition Kuomintang (KMT) led the crowd in chanting "reject 'one country, two systems'" and asked his supporters to have faith in him. "If I am given the opportunity to lead the Republic of China and become the president of the Republic of China, I promise that 'one country, two systems' will never be carried out on the land of Taiwan," Han said.

<https://www.taiwannews.com.tw/en/news/3725072>

Global AI chip market to grow tenfold in next five years: white paper

Xinhua, June 17, 2019

The global market for mobile artificial intelligence (AI) chips is expected to reach \$3.8 billion in 2022, a tenfold growth from the 2017 figure, said a white paper. The market expansion is driven by the fast development of AI industry, as AI chips saw rapid penetration into the terminal sector, said the white paper on mobile AI technologies and application released by the China Academy of Information and Communications Technology (CAICT). AI development will also drive innovation of the mobile chip industry, said the white paper, citing Strategic Analytics data, which showed that the market share of smartphone apps processors with on-device AI in the first quarter of 2018 grew threefold from the same period of previous year.

<http://www.chinadaily.com.cn/a/201906/17/WS5d07064aa3103dbf143289e1.html>

CCTV to dedicate channel to military affairs to promote national defense education

Hu Yuwei, Global Times, June 16, 2019

China Central Television (CCTV) Channel 7 is to refocus its coverage solely on military affairs in a move to expand national defense publicity and education. Currently, the channel specializes in both military and

agricultural reporting. From August 1, the CCTV-7 Military and Agricultural Channel will become the CCTV-7 National Defense and Military Channel. An insider at CCTV told the Global Times that the Chinese national broadcaster is setting up an agricultural and rural channel.

<http://www.globaltimes.cn/content/1154464.shtml>

C. Pakistan

H.E Mr Mohamed Karmoune, Ambassador of Morocco called on General Zubair Mahmood Hayat, Chairman JCS Committee.

ISPR, No PR-114/2019-ISPR, June 1, 2019

H.E Mr Mohamed Karmoune, Ambassador of Morocco called on General Zubair Mahmood Hayat, Chairman JCS Committee. Matters of bilateral security and defence cooperation between both the countries were discussed during the meeting.

<https://www.ispr.gov.pk/press-release-detail.php?id=5324>

US urges Pakistan to improve ties with India

Dawn, June 10, 2019

The United States has urged Pakistan to take "sustained and irreversible steps" to improve ties with India by enhancing its efforts to eradicate militancy from the region.

A White House official made these remarks while talking to Indian journalists in Washington this week, as Pakistan renewed its efforts to engage India in direct talks for reducing tensions with its eastern neighbour.

Since the re-election of Narendra Modi as India's prime minister last month, Prime Minister Imran Khan has sent two letters to New Delhi, underlining Islamabad's desire for better relations between South Asia's two nuclear-armed neighbours.

<https://www.dawn.com/news/1487238>

Musharraf pressured me to read statement on nuclear proliferation, claims Dr Qadeer

Rana Yasif, The Express tribune, June 15, 2019

In a letter written to the Lahore High Court chief justice, the pioneer of Pakistan's nuclear programme Dr Abdul Qadeer Khan claimed that former president General (ret'd) Pervez Musharraf, under the influence of the United States, had pressured on him to read a statement written by him [Musharraf] on the television.

According to Dr Qadeer, Musharraf had promised him that the nuclear scientist would be restored after a few days of the speech but Musharraf did not abide by his promise. Former prime minister Chaudhry Shujaat Hussain and lawyer SM Zafar were also witnesses in this matter, he added.

<https://tribune.com.pk/story/1993014/1-musharraf-pressured-read-statement-nuclear-proliferation-claims-dr-qadeer/>

D. USA

Trump Administration Says It Will Negotiate With Iran With 'No Preconditions'

Edward Wong, The New York Times, June 2, 2019

In a second major softening of American policy toward Iran in recent days, Secretary of State Mike Pompeo said Sunday that the Trump administration was ready to negotiate with the country's clerical leaders with "no preconditions."

The statement followed President Trump's comment last week that he was ready to talk to Iranian leaders and was not seeking regime change, overruling a longtime goal of his national security adviser. Mr. Pompeo's statement also recalibrated his earlier position that the United States would not lift sanctions on Iran unless it complied with a dozen sweeping demands, suggesting that those demands could be part of negotiations instead of preconditions.

<https://www.nytimes.com/2019/06/02/world/middleeast/us-iran-mike-pompeo.html>

US 2018 uranium purchase figures released

World Nuclear News, June 3, 2019

Owners and operators of US civilian nuclear power reactors purchased a total of 40 million pounds U3O8 equivalent (U3O8e) (15,386 tU) of deliveries during 2018, according to the latest uranium marketing report from the US Energy Information Administration (EIA). Nearly 10% of that was US-origin uranium.

Total deliveries were 6% lower than 2017's figure of 43 million pounds U3O8e, the EIA's Uranium Marketing Annual Report found. Canada, at 9.6 million pounds, was the largest single country supplier to the USA in 2018, followed by Kazakhstan at 8.2 million pounds and Australia, at 7.2 million pounds. The remainder came from Russia (5.4 million pounds), Uzbekistan (2.5 million pounds) and Namibia (2.2 million pounds). US-origin purchases were 3.9 million pounds.

<http://world-nuclear-news.org/Articles/US-2018-uranium-purchase-figures-released>

Supposedly executed former North Korean nuclear envoy is alive: CNN

Reuters, June 4, 2019

North Korea's nuclear envoy, who a South Korean newspaper said last week had been executed, is alive but in custody and under investigation for his role in a failed summit with the United States, CNN reported on Tuesday.

There has been a series of conflicting reports over the past five days about shakeups in the North's team that steered negotiations with the United States after a failed summit between North Korean leader Kim Jong Un and U.S. President Donald Trump in Hanoi in February.

<https://www.reuters.com/article/us-northkorea-usa-purge/supposedly-executed-former-north-korean-nuclear-envoy-is-alive-cnn-idUSKCN1T50FL>

U.S. shared nuclear power info with Saudi Arabia after Khashoggi killed

Timothy Gardner, Reuters, June 4, 2019

The Trump administration granted two authorizations to U.S. companies to share sensitive nuclear power information with Saudi Arabia shortly after the killing of journalist Jamal Khashoggi in October, a U.S. senator who saw the approvals said on Tuesday.

The timing of the approvals is likely to heap pressure on the administration of President Donald Trump from lawmakers who have become increasingly critical of U.S. support for Saudi Arabia since Khashoggi was killed in the Saudi consulate in Istanbul in October.

<https://www.reuters.com/article/us-usa-nuclear-saudi/u-s-shared-nuclear-power-info-with-saudi-arabia-after-khashoggi-killed-idUSKCN1T52ER>

Trump prepared to talk to Iran but says always a chance of military action

Reuters, June 5, 2019

U.S. President Donald Trump said he was prepared to talk to Iranian President Hassan Rouhani but that there was always a chance of U.S. military action against the Islamic Republic.

"So Iran is a place that was extremely hostile when I first came into office," Trump told British television station ITV. "They were a terrorist nation number one in the world at that time and probably maybe are today."

When asked if he thought he would need to take military action, he said: "There's always a chance. Do I want to? No. I'd rather not. But there's always a chance."

He said, when asked, that he was prepared to talk to Rouhani: "Yeah of course. I would much rather talk."

<https://in.reuters.com/article/usa-trump-britain-iran/trump-prepared-to-talk-to-iran-but-says-always-a-chance-of-military-action-idINKCN1T60JI>

US intel shows Saudi Arabia escalated its missile program with help from China

Phil Mattingly, Zachary Cohen and Jeremy Herb, CNN, June 5, 2019

The US government has obtained intelligence that Saudi Arabia has significantly escalated its ballistic missile program with the help of China, three sources with direct knowledge of the matter said, a development that threatens decades of US efforts to limit missile proliferation in the Middle East.

The Trump administration did not initially disclose its knowledge of this classified development to key members of Congress, the sources said, infuriating Democrats who discovered it outside of regular US government channels and concluded it had been deliberately left out of a series of briefings where they say it should have been presented.

<https://edition.cnn.com/2019/06/05/politics/us-intelligence-saudi-arabia-ballistic-missile-china/index.html>

Trump 'prepared' to handle responsibility of launching nukes

Russia Times, June 5, 2019

If and when the time comes, Donald Trump is prepared for the "tremendous responsibility" of pressing the nuclear button, the US president has said as Washington locks horns with a growing number of states.

The president made the comments during an interview with Piers Morgan on ITV's Good Morning Britain program on Wednesday.

When asked about the worst-case scenario of potentially using nuclear weapons in a time of war, Trump noted that it is a "tremendous responsibility." However, he is ready for the task.

<https://www.rt.com/usa/461104-trump-prepared-responsibility-nukes/>

Exclusive: U.S. pursues sale of over \$2 billion in weapons to Taiwan, sources say, angering China

Mike Stone, Patricia Zengerle, Reuters, June 6, 2019

The United States is pursuing the sale of more than \$2 billion worth of tanks and weapons to Taiwan, four people familiar with the negotiations said, sparking anger from Beijing which is already involved in an escalating trade war with Washington.

An informal notification of the proposed sale has been sent to the U.S. Congress, the four sources said on condition of anonymity because they were not authorized to speak about the possible deal.

The potential sale included 108 General Dynamics Corp M1A2 Abrams tanks worth around \$2 billion as well as anti-tank and anti-aircraft munitions, three of the sources said. Taiwan has been interested in refreshing its existing U.S.-made battle tank inventory, which includes M60 Patton tanks.

The United States is the main arms supplier to Taiwan, which China deems its own and has never renounced the use of force to bring the self-ruled island under its control.

<https://in.reuters.com/article/usa-taiwan/exclusive-u-s-pursues-sale-of-over-2-billion-in-weapons-to-taiwan-sources-say-angering-china-idINKCN1T62CK>

U.S. sanctions target Iran petrochemicals, analysts see modest effect

Doina Chiacu, Arshad Mohammed, Reuters, June 7, 2019

The United States sanctioned Iran's largest petrochemical holding group on Friday for indirectly supporting the Islamic Revolutionary Guard Corps (IRGC), a step it said aimed to dry up revenues to the Iranian military unit but that analysts called largely symbolic.

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it said aimed to dry up revenues to the Iranian military unit but that analysts called largely symbolic.

<https://www.reuters.com/article/us-usa-iran-sanctions/u-s-sanctions-target-iran-petrochemicals-analysts-see-modest-effect-idUSKCN1T81RU>

US DOE changes waste interpretation

World Nuclear News, June 7, 2019

The US Department of Energy (DOE) has published a new interpretation of high-level radioactive waste (HLW) in which reprocessing waste streams are defined by their radiological characteristics rather than solely on how they were made.

Up to now the DOE has managed nearly all reprocessing waste streams as HLW regardless of radioactivity in a one-size-fits-all approach. This, it says, has led to decades of delay, cost billions of dollars, and left the waste 'trapped' in DOE facilities in Idaho, South Carolina and Washington without a permanent disposal solution.

<https://www.world-nuclear-news.org/Articles/US-DOE-changes-waste-interpretation>

Got \$50 million for a vacation? NASA to open space station to private citizens

Makini Brice, Eric M. Johnson, Reuters, June 8, 2019

NASA will allow private citizens to stay at the International Space Station (ISS) for month-long getaways at a cost of about \$35,000 per night, the U.S. space agency said on Friday.

The shift reverses a long-standing prohibition against tourists and private interests at the orbiting research lab, and reflects a broader push to expand commercial activities at the ISS and in space more generally.

It paves the way for private citizens to travel to the ISS aboard rocket-and-capsule launch systems being developed by Boeing

Co and Elon Musk's SpaceX. The two companies are set to ferry astronauts to the ISS from U.S. soil for the first time in nearly a decade.

<https://in.reuters.com/article/space-exploration-nasa/got-50-million-for-a-vacation-nasa-to-open-space-station-to-private-citizens-idINKCN1T820J>

New U.S. sanctions show offer of talks with Iran not genuine: Foreign Ministry

Reuters, June 8, 2019

Additional sanctions imposed on Iran by the United States show that Washington's offer of talks is not genuine, Iranian Foreign Ministry spokesman Abbas Mousavi said on Saturday.

Tensions have risen between Iran and the United States in recent weeks after Washington sent more military forces to the Middle East, including an aircraft carrier, B-52 bombers and Patriot missiles, in a show of force against what U.S. officials call Iranian threats to U.S. troops and interests in the region.

Iranian Defence Minister Amir Hatami noted the presence of American warships in the region on Saturday and said that the Islamic Republic's enemies are afraid of conflict because of the country's advanced offensive and defensive power, according to the Iranian Students' News Agency (ISNA).

<https://in.reuters.com/article/usa-iran-sanctions/new-u-s-sanctions-show-offer-of-talks-with-iran-not-genuine-foreign-ministry-idINKCN1T909E>

Trump criticizes NASA moon mission after promoting it earlier

Joey Roulette, Reuters, June 8, 2019

U.S. President Donald Trump on Friday criticized NASA for aiming to put astronauts back on the moon by 2024 and urged the space agency to focus instead on "much bigger" initiatives like going to Mars, undercutting his previous support for the lunar initiative.

"For all of the money we are spending, NASA should NOT be talking about going

to the Moon - We did that 50 years ago," the president wrote on Twitter. "They should be focused on the much bigger things we are doing, including Mars (of which the Moon is a part), Defense and Science!"

Trump's statement, tweeted from Air Force One as he returned from Europe, appeared at odds with his administration's recent push to return humans to the lunar surface by 2024 "by any means necessary," five years sooner than the previous goal of 2028.

NASA plans to build a space outpost in lunar orbit that can relay astronauts to the lunar surface by 2024, part of a broader initiative to use the moon as a staging ground for eventual missions to Mars. NASA administrator Jim Bridenstine said Trump was only reaffirming NASA's space plan.

<https://in.reuters.com/article/us-space-exploration-moon-trump/trump-criticizes-nasa-moon-mission-after-promoting-it-earlier-idINKCN1T82L1>

U.S. And Russia Train Together in Arctic, Where They Both Want to Be Top Power

Tom O'Connor, Newsweek, June 11, 2019

Forces from the United States and Russia trained side-by-side in the Arctic, one of the many regions of the world where the pair have been engaged in a competition for influence.

The Russian Federal Security Services' (FSB) patrol ship Sakhalin and the U.S. Coast Guard cutter Alex Haley conducted a joint patrol Tuesday in the icy waters of the Bering Sea that separates the two nations' territorial limits. The FSB's East Arctic directorate said the two enhanced their communication and kept an eye out for illegal maritime activities.

"Radio communications issues were worked out, including with a deck helicopter and a training session was conducted on the use of the International Code of Signals (ICS-65) when

maneuvering together," the directorate's press service said.

<https://www.newsweek.com/us-russia-train-together-arctic-1443438>

U.S. says Iran is in breach of nuclear deal but repeats offer of talks

Reuters, June 11, 2019

The United States said on Tuesday that Iran's work with advanced centrifuges is a breach of the nuclear deal Washington has already pulled out of, expressing its concern while repeating that it is open to holding talks with Tehran.

In a statement to a quarterly meeting of the U.N. nuclear watchdog's 35-nation Board of Governors, the United States also said Tehran's acceleration of uranium enrichment would not lead to Washington backing down in its policy of trying to isolate Iran.

"Attempting to generate negotiating leverage 1 kg of uranium at a time will not bring sanctions relief," U.S. Ambassador Jackie Wolcott said in her statement to the board.

The landmark 2015 deal between Iran and major powers allows Tehran to operate thousands of first-generation IR-1 centrifuges - machines that enrich uranium - but puts much stricter limits on more advanced models.

A quarterly report by the International Atomic Energy Agency, which is policing the deal, last month said Iran had installed up to 33 IR-6 centrifuges, although only 10 had been tested with uranium hexafluoride feedstock so far.

<https://in.reuters.com/article/iran-nuclear-iaea/u-s-says-iran-is-in-breach-of-nuclear-deal-but-repeats-offer-of-talks-idINKCN1TC289>

Third U.S.-North Korea summit possible, up to Kim - Bolton

Reuters, June 11, 2019

A third summit between President Donald Trump and North Korean leader Kim Jong Un is possible but the ball is in Pyongyang's

court, White House national security adviser John Bolton said on Tuesday.

While North Korea had kept pledges not to conduct nuclear or intercontinental range ballistic missile tests, Bolton said the United States was continuing its "maximum pressure campaign" because Kim still appeared not to have made "a strategic decision to give up the pursuit of deliverable nuclear weapons."

Bolton, speaking at a conference hosted by the Wall Street Journal, said it was "entirely possible" there could be a third Trump-Kim summit following their earlier meetings in Singapore and Vietnam. "Kim Jong Un holds the key," he said. "We are ready when they are, so it's - any time that they want to schedule it," Bolton said.

<https://in.reuters.com/article/northkorea-usa-bolton/third-u-s-north-korea-summit-possible-up-to-kim-bolton-idINKCN1TC1PK>

Factbox: The ups and downs since Trump first met North Korea's Kim

Hyonhee Shin, Reuters, June 12, 2019

U.S. President Donald Trump met North Korean leader Kim Jong Un for the first time at a historic summit in Singapore on June 12 last year and there have been ups and downs in the North's foreign relations since then. Progress has been made, such as the return of some remains of American soldiers killed during the 1950-53 Korean War. But even that has stalled since the second summit between Trump and Kim broke down in Vietnam in February.

The two sides now appear as far apart as they were going into the Singapore summit.

North Korea has conducted short-range missile tests and complained of U.S. pressure, while the United States has doubled down on its enforcement of sanctions on North Korea.

Here are some of the major events since Kim and Trump shook hands a year ago.

<https://in.reuters.com/article/northkorea-usa-factbox/factbox-the-ups-and-downs-since-trump-first-met-north-koreas-kim-idINKCN1TD034>

Rocket firm Relativity signs lease with NASA for new robotic 3D printing factory

Joey Roulette, Reuters, June 12, 2019

Relativity Space, a venture-backed rocket maker, said on Tuesday it will lease space from NASA in Mississippi, where its gigantic 3D printers will produce low-cost rockets to be used to launch small-payload satellites into orbit.

The lease, for 220,000 square feet (20,000 square meters) at NASA's Stennis Space Center rocket-testing facility, is the latest step for the Los Angeles-based company in its ultimate mission to 3D print rockets on Mars, a goal Relativity's chief executive, Tim Ellis, says is a prerequisite for space colonization.

First the company must perfect a system where machine-learning robots can manufacture and assemble its flagship Terran 1 rocket in space without help from humans, a target that Relativity hopes will be reached with cash generated from launching small satellites on its rockets built at the Stennis facility.

<https://in.reuters.com/article/us-space-exploration-relativity/rocket-firm-relativity-signs-lease-with-nasa-for-new-robotic-3d-printing-factory-idINKCN1TC2IS>

U.S. sanctions Iraq-based company, says it backs Iran's IRGC

Reuters, June 12, 2019

The United States on Wednesday sanctioned an Iraqi company and two of its associates, which it said had helped Iran's Islamic Revolutionary Guard Corps-Quds force evade sanctions by smuggling hundreds of millions of dollars worth of weapons.

"The Iraqi financial sector and the broader international financial system must harden their defenses against the continued deceptive tactics emanating from Tehran in order to avoid complicity in the IRGC's ongoing sanctions evasion schemes and other malign activities," Mnuchin added.

<https://in.reuters.com/article/usa-iran-sanctions/u-s-sanctions-iraq-based-company-says-it-backs-irans-irgc-idINKCN1TD1SW>

Trump says he is 'in no rush' to make a nuclear deal with North Korea

Reuters, June 13, 2019

U.S. President Donald Trump said on Wednesday he was "in no rush" to make a deal with North Korea to get it to dismantle its nuclear weapons program, and touted what he called his positive relationship with North Korean leader Kim Jong Un.

"I think we're going to do very well with North Korea over a period of time. I'm in no rush. The sanctions are on," Trump said during a news conference with Polish President Andrzej Duda.

<https://www.reuters.com/article/us-northkorea-usa-trump/trump-says-he-is-in-no-rush-to-make-a-nuclear-deal-with-north-korea-idUSKCN1TD2H8>

U.S. military intelligence steps up accusation against Russia over nuclear testing

Paul Sonne, Washington Post, June 13, 2019

The U.S. military intelligence agency stepped up its accusations against Russia over low-yield nuclear testing on Thursday, saying that the country has conducted nuclear weapons tests that resulted in nuclear yield. The new statement from the Defense Intelligence Agency amounted to a more direct accusation against Russia, compared to hedged comments about Russian nuclear testing that DIA Director Lt. Gen. Robert P. Ashley Jr. made in a speech in Washington in late May.

"The U.S. Government, including the Intelligence Community, has assessed that Russia has conducted nuclear weapons tests that have created nuclear yield," the DIA statement released Thursday said. The agency didn't give any details about the alleged tests or release any evidence backing the accusation.

https://www.washingtonpost.com/world/national-security/us-military-intelligence-steps-up-accusation-against-russia-over-nuclear-testing/2019/06/13/2dadf2e2-8e26-11e9-b162-8f6f41ec3c04_story.html?utm_term=.561fcf259537

Trump says neither Iran nor U.S. ready to make a deal

Reuters, June 14, 2019

U.S. President Donald Trump said on Thursday that he appreciated the recent visit by Japanese Prime Minister Shinzo Abe to Iran to meet leaders, but that he believed it is “too soon to even think about” the United States making a deal with Tehran. “They are not ready, and neither are we!” Trump said in a tweet.

<https://in.reuters.com/article/usa-iran-trump/trump-says-neither-iran-nor-u-s-ready-to-make-a-deal-idINKCN1TE2UY>

Trump says ‘Iran did do it,’ as U.S. seeks support on Gulf oil tanker attacks

Parisa Hafezi, Makini Brice, Reuters, June 14, 2019

The United States on Friday blamed Iran for attacks on two oil tankers at the entrance to the Gulf and said it was seeking international consensus about the threat to shipping, despite Tehran denying involvement in the explosions at sea.

Thursday’s attacks raised fears of a confrontation in the vital oil shipping route at a time of increased tension between Iran and the United States over U.S. sanctions and military moves in the Middle East, Tehran’s proxy groups in the region and its nuclear programme.

“Iran did do it and you know they did it because you saw the boat,” U.S. President Donald Trump told Fox News. He was referring to a video released on Thursday by the U.S. military which said it showed Iran’s Revolutionary Guards were behind the blasts that struck the Norwegian-owned Front Altair and the Japanese-owned Kokuka Courageous in the Gulf of Oman, at the mouth of the Gulf.

<https://in.reuters.com/article/mideast-attacks/trump-says-iran-did-do-it-as-u-s-seeks-support-on-gulf-oil-tanker-attacks-idINKCN1TF0DP>

Trump says ready to hold talks with Iran despite tanker attacks

Reuters, June 14, 2019

U.S. President Donald Trump said on Friday he was ready to launch talks with Iran whenever it was ready, even as he blamed Tehran for attacks on two oil tankers in the Gulf of Oman.

“We want to get them back to the table,” Trump told Fox News in an interview. “I’m ready when they are,” adding that he was in “no rush.” Asked how to he planned to address Tehran and stop any further incidents, Trump said: “We’ll see what happens.”

<https://in.reuters.com/article/mideast-tanker-trump/trump-says-ready-to-hold-talks-with-iran-despite-tanker-attacks-idINKCN1TF1JX>

U.S. allows Iraq to import Iranian energy for three more months

Reuters, June 15, 2019

The United States has allowed Iraq to import Iranian gas for its power grid for another three months by extending a waiver to sanctions - but insists that Baghdad seek alternative sources. Iraq has had several extensions to the waiver first granted last year after Washington reimposed sanctions on Tehran’s oil sector forbidding countries from purchasing Iranian energy.

“An additional 120-day waiver was granted to allow Iraq to continue to pay for electricity imports from Iran,” the U.S. State Department said in an emailed statement. An Iraqi government source said the extension was given during a phone call between Prime Minister Adel Abdul Mahdi and U.S. Secretary of State Mike Pompeo. The State Department said the United States continued to insist on “diversifying energy imports away from Iran,” however.

President Donald Trump’s administration has said oil-rich Iraq must become more self-reliant for its electricity, including by

harnessing gas energy and reducing flaring at oil production sites.

<https://in.reuters.com/article/usa-iran-iraq/u-s-allows-iraq-to-import-iranian-energy-for-three-more-months-idINKCN1TG09Q>

U.S. Escalates Online Attacks on Russia's Power Grid

David E. Sanger and Nicole Perlroth, New York Times, June 15, 2019

The United States is stepping up digital incursions into Russia's electric power grid in a warning to President Vladimir V. Putin and a demonstration of how the Trump administration is using new authorities to deploy cyber tools more aggressively, current and former government officials said.

In interviews over the past three months, the officials described the previously unreported deployment of American computer code inside Russia's grid and other targets as a classified companion to more publicly discussed action directed at Moscow's disinformation and hacking units around the 2018 midterm elections.

<https://www.nytimes.com/2019/06/15/us/politics/trump-cyber-russia-grid.html>

Trump's consistent criticism of Iran pushes U.S. to point of potential conflict

Anne Gearan and Carol Morello, Washington Post, June 15, 2019

One constant in President Trump's malleable foreign policy has been his fierce criticism of Iran and what he described as a weak and dangerous nuclear compact the United States and other countries negotiated with Tehran. Threats and sanctions, and lots of them, have been his go-to response, lately leavened with vague offers of future negotiations.

Trump's reaction to attacks on two commercial tankers near the Strait of Hormuz on Thursday fits the pattern, but it may also reveal the limits of his administration's strategy of squeezing Iran's

oil-dependent economy even if it means punishing U.S. allies in the process.

https://www.washingtonpost.com/politics/trumps-consistent-criticism-of-iran-pushes-us-to-point-of-potential-conflict/2019/06/15/be997678-8ecb-11e9-b08e-cfd89bd36d4e_story.html?utm_term=.1c78845d61e5

E. Europe

French weapons sales to Saudi jumped 50 percent last year

John Irish, Reuters, June 5, 2019

France's weapons sales to Saudi Arabia rose 50 pct in 2018 despite the government calling for an end to the "dirty war" in Yemen, figures released on Tuesday showed. An annual government report showed that total arms sales rose 30 percent to 9.1 billion euros in 2018, driven by a sharp increase in sales to European allies.

France sold about 1 billion euros worth of arms to Saudi Arabia, with the main item being patrol boats. A partial naval blockade of ports controlled by the Houthi movement is one of the tactics used by a Saudi-led coalition in Yemen that has been criticised by campaigners for worsening a humanitarian crisis.

<https://in.reuters.com/article/france-defence-arms/french-weapons-sales-to-saudi-jumped-50-percent-last-year-idINKCN1T51EZ>

German FM traveling to Iran to salvage nuclear accord

AP News, June 6, 2019

Germany's foreign minister is traveling to Iran next week to discuss the faltering nuclear accord between Tehran and leading world powers, his office said Thursday. Heiko Maas' visit to Iran will be part of a broader trip to the Middle East starting Friday, with stops in Jordan and the United Arab Emirates, Foreign Ministry spokeswoman Maria Adebahr said. Maas plans to meet his Iranian counterpart Mohammed Javad Zarif on

Monday to discuss Tehran's role in the restive region and the 2015 nuclear accord.

<https://www.apnews.com/3065dbce90ed416eb4468ab1d2472a5d>

German minister lands in Iran in bid to save nuclear pact

Sabine Siebold, Reuters, June 9, 2019

Germany's foreign minister has arrived in Tehran to hold talks with President Hassan Rouhani on Monday, as part of a concerted European effort to preserve Iran's nuclear pact with world powers and defuse rising U.S.-Iranian tensions.

West European signatories, including Germany, want to try to keep the nuclear accord alive although they share the Trump administration's disquiet about Iran's ballistic missile programme and its role in conflicts around in the Middle East.

Germany, France and Britain maintain that the nuclear pact remains the best way to limit Iran's enrichment of uranium, a potential pathway to the development of nuclear weapons.

A German diplomatic source confirmed that Foreign Minister Heiko Maas would meet his counterpart Mohammad Javad Zarif and Rouhani on Monday.

<https://in.reuters.com/article/usa-iran-germany/german-minister-lands-in-iran-in-bid-to-save-nuclear-pact-idINKCN1TA0JY>

Non-nuclear states discuss weapons proliferation in Sweden

DW, June 11, 2019

Diplomats from 16 countries have convened in Stockholm to focus on the Nuclear Non-Proliferation Treaty (NPT). Their aim is to prevent the spread of atomic weapons, calling it "a danger to world peace." Russian military test of a Burevestnik nuclear cruise missile (picture-alliance/dpa) Foreign ministers from 16 non-nuclear countries gathered in Stockholm, Sweden, Tuesday to discuss the state of the Nuclear Non-Proliferation Treaty (NPT), urging nuclear powers "to shoulder their responsibilities for disarmament."

As German Foreign Minister Heiko Maas added, "at the same time we need to prevent further countries from obtaining nuclear weapons." Maas called the spread of nuclear weapons: "a danger to world peace. We must counteract this negative development." Maas also said Germany was willing to hold a follow-up meeting in Berlin next year.

<https://www.dw.com/en/non-nuclear-states-discuss-weapons-proliferation-in-sweden/a-49138715>

European officials frustrated over faltering Iran nuke pact

David Keyton, AP News, June 11, 2019

The foreign ministers of Germany and Sweden expressed frustration Tuesday over the possible demise of the Iran nuclear deal, warning Tehran that withdrawing would bring "international isolation" and criticizing the United States for jeopardizing a decade of diplomatic efforts. Speaking at a nuclear disarmament meeting in Stockholm, Swedish Foreign Minister Margot Wallstrom said Washington's abandonment of the 2015 accord had been "very counterproductive" — threatening not just the Iran deal but the credibility of world powers in negotiating with North Korea.

The European Union and some countries in Europe have been working to salvage the agreement intended to curb Iran's ability to develop nuclear weapons since U.S. President Donald Trump withdrew from it last year and reinstated sanctions against Iran. Tehran has threatened to also walk away from the deal on July 7 and resume enriching uranium closer to weapons-grade level unless the remaining signatories — China, Russia, France, Germany and Britain — find a way to neutralize the effect of U.S. sanctions. "Maas said. "If Iran were to withdraw from this agreement, it would go into international isolation; it would be back where it was before the agreement, including all the sanctions," he added. "That cannot be in Iran's interest."

<https://www.apnews.com/a78f567097ef4a7aaaa9501df811ce7c>

Bulgaria ready to protect North Macedonia's airspace with F-16 jets

Reuters, June 13, 2019

NATO member Bulgaria could help protect its southwestern neighbour North Macedonia's airspace if it completes a deal for the purchase of eight F-16 aircraft from the United States, Prime Minister Boyko Borissov said on Wednesday.

Bulgaria, which is also a member of the European Union, is looking to replace its ageing Soviet-made MiG-29s and improve compliance with NATO standards.

A Pentagon agency said on Monday that the U.S. State Department had approved the possible sale of eight F-16 aircraft and related equipment to Bulgaria at an estimated cost of \$1.67 billion.

However, Bulgaria expects the United States to offer to sell the jets for its air force at a discounted price of \$1.2 billion. "We spoke with (my) colleague (North Macedonian Prime Minister Zoran) Zaev last week... to guard North Macedonia's airspace when we acquire the new jets," Borissov told reporters.

<https://in.reuters.com/article/bulgaria-macedonia-defence-jets/bulgaria-ready-to-protect-north-macedonias-airspace-with-f-16-jets-idINKCN1TD1O3>

British opposition leader questions Iran accusations

Reuters, June 15, 2019

The leader of Britain's main opposition party has questioned whether the government had evidence to back up its accusations that Iran was behind attacks on oil tankers in the entrance to the Gulf, and warned against escalating tensions.

Britain on Friday joined the United States in blaming Iran for attacks on two tankers, raising fears of a broader military confrontation in a vital passageway for the world's oil industry.

Iran has denied any involvement. "Without credible evidence about the tanker attacks, the government's rhetoric will only increase the threat of war," Labour leader Jeremy Corbyn wrote on Twitter late on Friday.

"Britain should act to ease tensions in the Gulf, not fuel a military escalation that began with US withdrawal from the Iran nuclear agreement," he added," he said, referring to Washington's withdrawal from a 2015 pact to curb Tehran's nuclear plans.

<https://in.reuters.com/article/mideast-attacks-britain-corbbyn/british-opposition-leader-questions-iran-accusations-idINKCN1TG069>

EU warns against blaming Iran for oil tanker attacks

DW, June 16, 2019

European foreign ministers have urged restraint in directing blame over an alleged attack on oil tankers in the Gulf of Oman. The US has pointed the finger at Iran, but European diplomats say they need more evidence.

Top EU diplomats meeting in Luxembourg on Monday said they were still seeking information about who may have launched attacks against two oil tankers in the Strait of Hormuz. The gathering comes amid escalating tensions between the US and Iran. It also follows Tehran's announcement that it plans to breach a 2015 nuclear deal struck with international powers.

EU foreign policy chief Federica Mogherini urged diplomats ahead of the monthly meeting not to jump to conclusions: "The maximum restraint and wisdom should be applied," she said. German Foreign Minister Heiko Maas said his country hasn't yet made up its mind yet about who was behind the alleged attacks in the Gulf. "With a decision of this kind the utmost care is required and we'll take our time for this." He said US and British intelligence needed to be compared to material from allies, adding that Germany was still in the process of collecting information and the evidence provided so far "comes from one side in particular."

<https://www.dw.com/en/eu-warns-against-blaming-iran-for-oil-tanker-attacks/a-49237206>

F. Russia

Russia & Argentina Expand Nuclear Energy Cooperation

Vusala Abbasova, Caspian News, June 1, 2019

High ranking officials from Russia and Argentina met in Buenos Aires from May 27-28 to reaffirm interest in joint nuclear power projects in the South American country. "The working group is tasked with specifying all matters pertaining to this project," RIA Novosti quoted Sergey Dankvert, head of the Russian agricultural watchdog Rosselkhoz nadzor and chairman of the Russian-Argentine inter-governmental commission, as saying on Tuesday after the commission's session. "We think that we may see a very serious breakthrough in this sphere."

In 2018, Rosatom CEO Alexey Likhachev and Argentine Energy Minister Javier Iguacel signed a strategic document on the sidelines of the G20 summit in Buenos Aires that paved the way for Russian construction of a nuclear power plant in Argentina. The document envisages the joint development of various execution strategies to be applied to nuclear power projects.

<https://caspiannews.com/news-detail/russia-argentina-expand-nuclear-energy-cooperation-2019-5-31-50/>

Three Russian nuclear-powered subs surface through Arctic ice in drills

TASS News Agency, June 3, 2019

The Project 885 lead multirole nuclear-powered submarine and two Project 667BDRM strategic subs practiced surfacing in open water patches amid Arctic ice during drills in May, the press office of Russia's Northern Fleet reported on Monday.

"The underwater nuclear-powered missile cruisers Tula, Novomoskovsk and Severodvinsk were involved in performing missions under the Arctic Ocean's ice. The submariners practiced a whole range of under-ice sailing tasks, including the search for an open water patch in the designated area and surfacing through ice," the press

office said in a statement.

<https://tass.com/defense/1061451>

Russia's Mideast Nuclear Projects Help Build Trust With Allies - Energy Corp.

Sputnik News, June 3, 2019

Sharing Russia's long-running expertise in harnessing nuclear power for peaceful purposes with allies in the Middle East and North Africa is important for building trust with regional countries, the state atomic energy corporation Rosatom told Sputnik.

"We continue to closely cooperate with our regional partners. Nuclear power plant construction projects have entered the active phase in four countries in the region, three of them are run by Rosatom. It is a show of trust in us and of dynamic intergovernmental ties [in the sphere of] peaceful use of nuclear energy. That is why delivering on our commitments on nuclear power projects is our absolute priority," Alexei Likhachev, director general of the state atomic energy corporation Rosatom said.

<https://sputniknews.com/world/201906031075578578-russia-mideast-nuclear-project/>

Russia Tests New Missile Defense System, Military Says

The Moscow Times, June 4, 2019

Russia has tested a new unidentified missile at a launch site where the country had previously test-launched missiles designed to protect Moscow's airspace, the Russian military said.

The Russian Defense Ministry test-launched its anti-ballistic missile at the Sary-Shagan missile testing site in Kazakhstan at least twice in 2018. Those tested missiles had been deployed to protect Moscow – whose missile defense capability consists of the A-135 system armed with nuclear-tipped short-range interceptors – from potential air attacks.

<https://www.themoscowtimes.com/2019/06/04/russia-tests-new-missile-defense-system-military-says-a65860>

Putin's Media Struggle to Deal With HBO's Chernobyl

Ilya Shepelin, The Moscow Times, June 4, 2019

It seems every major Russian media outlet had to chime in about the "Chernobyl" TV series by HBO. Although the foreign program airs only online to paying viewers, the show has become something of a national sensation in Russia where the pro-Kremlin media have launched a mini-crusade against it.

Komsomolskaya Pravda (KP), Russia's most popular newspaper, raised suspicions that competitors of state-atomic center Rosatom were using the series to tarnish this country's image as a nuclear power.

<https://www.themoscowtimes.com/2019/06/04/putins-media-struggle-to-deal-with-hbos-chernobyl-a65866>

China and Russia sign general contract for two Xudabao units

World Nuclear News, June 6, 2019

The general contract for Russian-designed VVER-1200 reactors for units 3 & 4 of the Xudabao nuclear power plant in China's Liaoning province was signed yesterday in Moscow in the presence of the countries' heads of state.

The contract was signed by representatives of Rosatom's engineering subsidiary ASE and China National Nuclear Corporation (CNNC).

Alexey Likhachov, general director of the Russian state nuclear corporation, said: "Today, we have moved a Russian-designed NPP construction project on a new site to the practical stage of its implementation. Taking into account the previously signed contract for the Tianwan NPP, together with our Chinese partners we will build four of the latest Generation 3+ power units by 2028."

<https://www.world-nuclear-news.org/Articles/China-and-Russian-sign-general-contract-for-two-Xu>

Russia Keeps Asking U.S. To Agree to No Nuclear Weapons Use, But It's Not Getting Any Answer

Tom O'Connor, Newsweek, June 6, 2019

Moscow's top diplomat has again petitioned Washington to join an agreement to mutually forego the use of nuclear weapons, an effort that has so far produced no response.

Russian Foreign Minister Sergey Lavrov made the latest call Tuesday at the international Primakov Readings summit in Moscow, urging that Russian President Vladimir Putin and President Donald Trump come together to reassure the international community that nuclear warfare was not an option as historic non-proliferation measures between them fell victim to geopolitical tensions. Should such weapons of mass destruction ever be used, Lavrov warned everyone would lose.

<https://www.newsweek.com/russia-ask-us-no-nuclear-weapons-1443464>

NPT signatories must return nuclear weapons to their land – Russian, Chinese leaders

TASS News Agency, June 6, 2019

Russia and China have called on all member states of the Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons (NPT) to return all nuclear weapons kept abroad to their territory, reads a joint statement by Russian President Vladimir Putin and Chinese President Xi Jinping on the outcomes of their talks in Moscow.

"The sides find the irresponsible approach of some states to fulfilling their obligations under the NPT unacceptable," the statement says. "These states must abandon the practice of 'joint nuclear missions' and return all nuclear weapons placed outside the borders of nuclear states back to their national territory."

<https://tass.com/politics/1061929>

Russia and China reiterate Iran SUPPORT as Tehran works on nuclear weapons

Kumail Jaffer, The Express, June 6, 2019

The two superpowers were meeting at the Kremlin as both sought to agree a coherent geopolitical strategy. As Vladimir Putin and Xi Jinping showered praise on one another, talks over North Korea, Venezuela and Iran were held. And while the Trump administration is ramping up pressure on Tehran, both China and Russia have restated their support for the under-pressure state.

A joint statement read: "The parties emphasise the need to protect their mutually beneficial commercial and economic cooperation with Iran and firmly oppose the imposition of unilateral sanctions by any states under the pretence of their own national legislation."

<https://www.express.co.uk/news/world/1137137/world-war-3-russia-china-iran-nuclear-weapons-us-washington-tehran-spt>

Putin says Russia has most advanced weapons for its security, even if New START is nixed

TASS News Agency, June 6, 2019

In case that the New START Treaty is terminated in 2021, "there will generally be no instruments limiting the arms race," Putin said. Russia's most advanced hypersonic weapons will be capable of defending the country, even if the Treaty on Measures for the Further Reduction and Limitation of Strategic Offensive Arms (the New START Treaty) is terminated, Russian President Vladimir Putin said at a meeting with the heads of international news agencies on Thursday.

<https://tass.com/politics/1062243>

Russia's Putin warns nuclear arms control system risks breaking down

Reuters, June 7, 2019

Russian President Vladimir Putin warned on Thursday there was a significant risk that the international system for nuclear arms

control could break down, saying talks with Washington on extending the New START nuclear arms treaty had yet to begin. Speaking in televised comments from St Petersburg, Putin said his most recent phone conversation with U.S. Donald Trump had, however, give him some cause for optimism.

<https://in.reuters.com/article/russia-usa-nuclear-putin/russias-putin-warns-nuclear-arms-control-system-risks-breaking-down-idINKCN1T71FA>

Putin: Moscow, Beijing agree on building several more Russia-designed nuclear power units

TASS News Agency, June 7, 2019

Moscow and Beijing have agreed on building four more Russia-designed nuclear power units in China, Russian President Vladimir Putin said at the St. Petersburg International Economic Forum (SPIEF-2019) on Friday.

"Four units of the Tianwan NPP have been built in China with Russia's participation," Putin said at a meeting with the participants of the Russian-Chinese energy forum within the SPIEF.

"Agreements have been reached on building several more Russia-designed nuclear power units," the Russian leader said.

<https://tass.com/economy/1062602>

Rosatom opens a branch in Saudi Arabia

Saudi Gazette, June 11, 2019

During the 6th session of the Russian-Saudi Arabian intergovernmental commission on trade, economic, scientific and technological cooperation, Russian Energy Minister Alexander Novak confirmed Russia's plans to develop active partnership with Saudi Arabia in the peaceful use of nuclear technologies and announced the opening of a Rusatom Overseas branch in Riyadh.

JSC Rusatom Overseas is a company of Rosatom State Corporation responsible for

promotion of the integrated offer for large and small capacity NPPs and Centers of Nuclear Science and Technologies (CNST) construction projects in the international market.

“The opening of the Russian company’s branch in Riyadh is a significant step in Russian-Saudi relations in the field of nuclear energy. Rosatom’s presence in the Kingdom will ensure efficient interaction with Saudi state bodies and private-owned companies within the competitive dialogue for Saudi Arabia’s first nuclear power plant project”, said Alexander Novak.

<http://saudigazette.com.sa/article/568660>

Russia plans to deliver missiles to Turkey in July; U.S. takes dim view

Daren Butler, Maria Tsvetkova, Reuters, June 11, 2019

Russia said on Tuesday it plans to deliver its S-400 missile defence systems to Turkey in July, setting the clock ticking on a U.S. threat to hit Ankara with sanctions if it goes ahead with a deal that has strained ties between the NATO allies.

Turkey and the United States have sparred publicly for months over Ankara’s order for the S-400s, which are not compatible with the transatlantic alliance’s systems.

Washington has threatened to remove Turkey from its F-35 fighter jet programme unless it drops the deal, and has set its own deadline of July 31. If Ankara accepts delivery of the S-400s, that would trigger U.S. sanctions that could prolong Turkey’s economic recession and prompt a re-evaluation of its 67-year membership of NATO.

<https://in.reuters.com/article/usa-turkey-security/russia-plans-to-deliver-missiles-to-turkey-in-july-u-s-takes-dim-view-idINKCN1TC1TR>

Lavrov urges Russia, US to adopt joint declaration on avoiding nuclear war

TASS News Agency, June 11, 2019

Moscow submitted proposals on the entire range of strategic stability issues, but has not

so far received the response, says Russia’s top diplomat

The presidents of Russia and the United States should jointly declare that the use of nuclear weapons is unacceptable, Russian Foreign Minister Sergey Lavrov told an international forum, the Primakov Readings, on Tuesday. “From a political perspective, it’s of principal importance that Russia and the US calm the rest of the world and pass a joint statement at a high level that there can be no victory in a nuclear war and therefore it is unacceptable and inadmissible,” Lavrov said.

<https://tass.com/politics/1063269>

US provokes Iran’s radical steps on nuclear deal - Russian diplomat

TASS News Agency, June 12, 2019

Washington is inciting Tehran to take radical steps on the Iranian nuclear deal, Russia’s Permanent Representative to International Organizations in Vienna Mikhail Ulyanov said in a statement, published on the Russian Foreign Ministry’s website.

The diplomat noted that the US has not just pulled out from the Joint Comprehensive Plan of Action on the Iranian nuclear program, but it seeks to undermine it by blocking the implementation of this agreement’s economic part.

<https://tass.com/politics/1063473>

Russia says US troop build-up in Poland ‘undermines stability in Europe’

Henry Foy, Demetri Sevastopulo and James Shotter, Financial Times, June 13, 2019

Russia has accused the US of striking a “severe blow” to European stability after Donald Trump announced he would send 1,000 troops to Poland, raising fears of a new arms race between the two military superpowers.

Mr Trump’s decision to boost the US military in Poland, which has long sought

a bigger Nato presence to deter any threat from Russia, comes just months after his administration pulled out of a landmark Cold War nuclear missile treaty drawn up to protect Europe from attack.

<https://www.ft.com/content/e20908a8-8dcc-11e9-a1c1-51bf8f989972>

Russia's VVER-TOI reactor certified by European utilities

World Nuclear News, June 14, 2019

The Russian-designed VVER-TOI nuclear power reactor design - developed from the VVER-1200 - has been formally certified as compliant by the European Utility Requirements (EUR) organisation.

Atomenergoproekt, a subsidiary of Russian state nuclear corporation Rosatom, announced the VVER-TOI (typical optimised, with enhanced information) design in 2010, developed using technical results from the VVER-1200 project. This design has an upgraded pressure vessel, increased power to 3300 MWt and 1255-1300 MWe gross (nominally 1300 MWe), improved core design to increase cooling reliability, further development of passive safety with 72-hour grace period requiring no operator intervention after shutdown, lower construction and operating costs, and 40-month construction time. It will use a low-speed turbine-generator.

<https://www.world-nuclear-news.org/Articles/Russia-s-VVER-TOI-reactor-certified-by-European-ut>

No unanimity among US intelligence community over claims of nuclear test in Russia – expert

TASS News Agency, June 15, 2019

The US intelligence community apparently has no single opinion on Pentagon's claims that Russia carried out nuclear tests in recent years, in breach of its international commitments and domestic moratorium, a senior international non-proliferation expert told TASS on Friday.

"The DIA director received some push-back against his original statement, so this second statement appears intended to strengthen

his claim by saying it's supported by the Intelligence Community," said Hans Kristensen, the Director of the Nuclear Information Project at the Federation of American Scientists (FAS) and an Associate Senior Fellow with the Stockholm-based SIPRI Disarmament, Arms Control and Non-proliferation Programme.

<https://tass.com/defense/1063930>

WEST ASIA

G. Iran

Iranian envoy: S. Arabia, Israel, Egypt, and UAE have been developing missiles with long ranges

Tehran Times, June 1, 2019

Hamid Baeidinejad, Tehran's ambassador to London, has said Iran's missile program is not the only one in the region, IRNA reported on Friday. In a post on his Instagram page, the ambassador said information from missile programs by certain regional countries indicates that despite the propaganda campaigns launched against Iran's missile program, Saudi Arabia, Israel, Egypt, and even the UAE have devised large-scale missile programs in collaboration with other countries for decades and produced missiles with long ranges.

He said since the Iraqi war against Iran in the 1980s, Saudi Arabia has been developing four or five missile submarines under the management of the strategic missile forces by purchasing technology of Chinese rocket, Dong Feng. In addition to short-range missiles of up to 1,000 kilometers, Saudi Arabia also has a variety of mid-range ballistic missiles, the ambassador explained. He added that Israel has designed and implemented a large-scale missile program to support its nuclear weapons program and conventional weapons program. The diplomat also said the concerns expressed about Iran by the U.S., Israel and their allies are because Iran's high deterrence power.

<https://www.tehrantimes.com/news/436539/Iranian-envoy-S-Arabia-Israel-Egypt-and-UAE-have-been-developing>

IAEA report proves Iran's support for multilateralism: envoy

Tehran Times, June 1, 2019

Iran's ambassador and permanent representative to the Vienna-based international organizations said on Friday night that the International Atomic Energy Agency's latest report shows Tehran's goodwill in preserving multilateralism in international relations. The remarks by Kazem Gharibabadi came immediately after the IAEA issued its quarterly report confirming that Iran has stayed within the main restrictions of the JCPOA and was abiding by the main terms of the accord, including the most sensitive issues of its stockpile of enriched uranium and level of enrichment.

Gharibabadi said the IAEA's fifteenth consecutive report which confirmed Iran's compliance with the 2015 nuclear agreement (JCPOA) signifies that the Islamic Republic has honored its international commitments, Tasnim reported. He stated that the report has explicitly mentioned the order by Iran's Supreme National Security Council (SNSC) to stop implementing certain JCPOA commitments under the clauses 26 and 36 of the accord, and has also cited the resumption of heavy water production at Iran's Arak nuclear facility after a two-month hiatus for preventive maintenance. The envoy added that Iran's cooperation with the IAEA is in a "constructive course" despite the developments surrounding the JCPOA.

<https://www.tehrantimes.com/news/436560/IAEA-report-proves-Iran-s-support-for-multilateralism-envoy>

Iran's Rouhani says U.S. 'should return to normal state' for talks': official website

Reuters, June 2, 2019

Reacting to a U.S. offer to talk with Iran without pre-conditions, Iranian President Hassan Rouhani said on Sunday it was Washington that had left the negotiating

table, and it "should return to normal state".

U.S. Secretary of State Mike Pompeo said on Sunday the United States is prepared to engage with Iran without pre-conditions about its nuclear program, but needs to see the country behaving like "a normal nation".

Rouhani was quoted by the government's official website as saying: "The other side that left the negotiating table and breached a treaty should return to normal state. Until then, we do not have a choice but resistance."

<https://in.reuters.com/article/usa-iran-rouhani/irans-rouhani-says-u-s-should-return-to-normal-state-for-talks-official-website-idINKCN1T30QD>

Iran's defense power absolutely non-negotiable, admiral says

June 2, 2019

"We declare explicitly that Iran's defense and missile power is absolutely non-negotiable," Sayyari told Tasnim news agency. He said nobody would ever bargain over Tehran's defense capabilities. On Europe's willingness to hold new rounds of talks with Iran with the aim of completing the 2015 nuclear deal, the admiral said, "Europeans may have many wishes and dreams, but we won't let them achieve the dream of missile talks with Iran." He pointed to the recent remarks by the Leader of the Islamic Revolution Ayatollah Ali Khamenei about the impossibility of talks on Iran's defense and missile capabilities, saying the Leader's remarks were crystal clear and described negotiations with the U.S. as a lethal poison.

In comments last month, Ayatollah Khamenei categorically dismissed the notion of talks with the U.S., saying, "Negotiation is poison. As long as the U.S. continues to be what it is now - as Imam once said, 'as long as he does not act like a decent human being': this is how he worded it - our negotiation with the U.S.

is poison, even more so with the current administration." Ayatollah Khamenei has reiterated on various occasions that Iran's defense capabilities and power are not subject to negotiations.

<https://www.tehrantimes.com/news/436606/Iran-s-defense-power-absolutely-non-negotiable-admiral-says>

Iran calls U.S. sanctions 'economic war', says no talks until they are lifted

Reuters, June 3, 2019

Iran called U.S. sanctions "economic war" on Monday, and said there could be no talks with the United States until sanctions are lifted, a day after Washington suggested it could hold talks without pre-conditions if Iran changed its behaviour.

"#EconomicTerrorism against Iran targets innocent civilians. Like this little boy, whose heartbroken mother can't get him prosthetic legs as he grows. They're sanctioned," Foreign Minister Mohammad Javad Zarif tweeted on Monday, with a video clip of a woman saying the prosthetic leg her son needs is sanctioned. "This is @realDonaldTrump's 'economic war'. And war and talks - with or without preconditions - don't go together," Zarif added in the tweet.

U.S. Secretary of State Mike Pompeo said on Sunday that the United States was prepared to engage with Iran without pre-conditions about its nuclear programme but needs to see the country behaving like "a normal nation" first.

<https://in.reuters.com/article/usa-iran/iran-calls-u-s-sanctions-economic-war-says-no-talks-until-they-are-lifted-idINKCN1T42GG>

Iran's Khamenei: Tehran will not abandon its missile programme

Reuters, June 5, 2019

Iran's Supreme Leader Ayatollah Ali Khamenei said on Tuesday that Tehran would not be "deceived" by U.S. President Donald Trump's offer of negotiations and

would not give up its missile programme.

Iran and the United States have been drawn into starker confrontation in the past month, a year after Washington pulled out of a deal between Iran and global powers to curb Tehran's nuclear programme in return for lifting international sanctions.

Trump said last week that Iran "has a chance to be a great country, with the same leadership. We're not looking for regime change. I just want to make that clear. We're looking for no nuclear weapons."

<https://in.reuters.com/article/usa-iran-khamenei/irans-khamenei-tehran-will-not-abandon-its-missile-programme-idINKCN1T523F>

Iran rejects French call for wider talks beyond nuclear deal: state TV

Parisa Hafezi, Reuters, June 7, 2019

Iran rejected French calls for wider international talks over its nuclear and military ambitions, saying on Friday it would only discuss its existing 2015 atomic pact with world powers, state TV reported.

French President Emmanuel Macron had said a day earlier that Paris and Washington both wanted to stop Tehran getting nuclear arms and new talks should focus on curbing its ballistic missiles programme and on other issues.

But Iran's foreign ministry said it would not hold any discussions beyond the 2015 pact which U.S. President Donald Trump abandoned last year as he pressed for tougher restrictions.

"Under this circumstances, talking about issues beyond the deal ... will lead to further mistrust among the remaining signatories of the deal," foreign ministry spokesman Abbas Mousavi said in a statement.

<https://in.reuters.com/article/iran-nuclear-france/iran-rejects-french-call-for-wider-talks-beyond-nuclear-deal-state-tv-idINKCN1T80YIz>

Heinonen: Iran's nuclear scientists are 'the best of the best'

Tehran Times, June 7, 2019

Iran's nuclear scientists are exceedingly savvy and they are talented engineers, said Heinonen, who played a key role at the IAEA almost two decades ago. "They have enormous resources. They went to the best universities in the world. And when you look at the technicians who work in those facilities, they are very different from those I have seen who work in other manufacturing industries, producing tanks or cars. They are the best of the best," explained Heinonen who served as the IAEA deputy director-general for safeguards. Elsewhere in his remarks, he said that there are "strong indications" that Iran is in breach of its obligations under the Joint Comprehensive Plan of Action (JCPOA), the official name for the nuclear 2015 deal.

<https://www.tehrantimes.com/news/436675/Heinonen-Iran-s-nuclear-scientists-are-the-best-of-the-best>

'U.S., Israel won't allow the likes of Saudis to acquire atomic bomb'

Tehran Times, June 8, 2019

"I am certain that neither the U.S. nor the Zionist regime would ever allow any other country to reach nuclear weapons," Seyyed Hadi Seyyed Afghahi said in an interview with the Tehran Times. "The Zionist regime wants to be the only superpower and nuclear power in the region. Hence, I highly doubt that the U.S. and the Zionist regime would allow Saudi Arabia or any other Arab country to acquire nuclear weapons." He cited Washington's constant pressure on North Korea over its nuclear weapons as an example that the U.S. would never allow other countries, "let alone Arab ones", to build atomic bombs.

Seyyed Afghahi also referred to Israel's bombardment of Iraq's nuclear facilities as yet another example. "The reason Israel would not attack Iran is that firstly it is afraid of doing so, and secondly we have brought our nuclear activities under the law," he reasoned. He was asked about media speculations about disagreements between

Tehran and Moscow on Syria, Seyyed Afghahi said, "These are merely rumors and psychological warfare." "I'm not saying that our relations with the Russians are ideal. At the strategic level, the two countries' goals are identical, and the two countries share similar views. But at the tactical level, sometimes there are disagreements between Iran, Russia and Syria," he remarked.

<https://www.tehrantimes.com/news/436721/U-S-Israel-won-t-allow-the-likes-of-Saudis-to-acquire-atomic>

Zarif lambasts 'conceited interpretation' of Resolution 2231

Tehran Times, June 8, 2019

"Our missiles are not 'designed' for nukes, which we're not developing," Iran's chief diplomat said in a tweet he posted on Friday. Zarif stated that the U.S. and its allies are in no position to criticize the Islamic Republic's missile program and lashed out at the West for making arms deals with the countries that are killing the Yemeni people. Zarif emphasized that the UN Security Council resolution does not enforces any prohibition on Iran's conventional missiles. French President Emmanuel Macron also on Thursday accused Tehran of making efforts to achieve nuclear arms, saying France and the U.S. both wanted to stop Tehran getting nuclear arms and new talks should focus on curbing its ballistic missiles program and on other issues. Macron listed four common priorities of the U.S. and France in addressing "Iranian behavior": preventing Iran from getting a nuclear weapon, reducing Iran's

<https://www.tehrantimes.com/news/436697/Zarif-lambasts-conceited-interpretation-of-Resolution-2231>

Iran's Zarif says nuclear deal talks with Germany were frank, serious

Reuters, June 10, 2019

Iran and Germany held "frank and serious" talks on saving the 2015 nuclear deal with world powers, Foreign Minister Mohammad Javad Zarif said.

"We had frank and serious talks with (visiting German Foreign Minister Heiko) Maas ... Tehran will cooperate with EU signatories of the deal to save it," Zarif told a joint news conference in Tehran.

U.S. President Donald Trump withdrew from the pact last year and reimposed sanctions on Iran.

<https://in.reuters.com/article/iran-nuclear-zarif/irans-zarif-says-nuclear-deal-talks-with-germany-were-frank-serious-idINKCN1TB0Y7>

Iran has accelerated production of enriched uranium, IAEA says

Reuters, June 10, 2019

Iran has followed through on its threat to accelerate its production of enriched uranium, the U.N. nuclear watchdog's chief Yukiya Amano said on Monday.

Iran's nuclear deal with major powers caps the amount of low-enriched uranium Iran can produce. Given fluctuations in production, it was not clear when Iran might reach that limit, Amano told a news conference, declining to elaborate further on the production rate.

<https://in.reuters.com/article/iran-nuclear-iaea-enrichment/iran-has-accelerated-production-of-enriched-uranium-iaea-says-idINKCN1TB1LN>

IAEA chief worried about rising tension over Iran nuclear issue

Reuters, June 10, 2019

The U.N. atomic watchdog's chief said on Monday he was worried about rising tensions over Iran's nuclear programme and called for de-escalation through dialogue, departing from his usual guarded language on the country.

"I am worried about increasing tensions over the Iranian nuclear issue," International Atomic Energy Agency chief Yukiya Amano said in a speech to a meeting of the IAEA's 35-nation Board of Governors, one of its main decision-making bodies.

<https://in.reuters.com/article/iran-nuclear-iaea/iaea-chief-worried-about-rising-tension-over-iran-nuclear-issue-idINKCN1TB0YH>

Iran to unveil phase II of stable isotopes on June 22

Tehran Times, June 10, 2019

Iran is the 12th country that possesses this technology which has various medical and agricultural applications, he explained. Stable isotopes are non-radioactive forms of atoms. Although they do not emit radiation, their unique properties enable them to be used in a broad variety of applications, including water and soil management, environmental studies, nutrition assessment studies, and forensics.

<https://www.tehrantimes.com/news/436816/Iran-to-unveil-phase-II-of-stable-isotopes-on-June-22>

Tehran says placed no order for Russian S400

Tehran Times, June 10, 2019

Foreign Ministry spokesman Abbas Mousavi said in his weekly press conference on Monday that Iran does not need S-400 anti-missile defense system. "Iranian experts have devised one system that is nothing short of the S-400 missile system," Mousavi explained.

<https://www.tehrantimes.com/news/436819/Tehran-says-placed-no-order-for-Russian-S400>

Zarif: Anyone who starts war on Iran will not be the one who ends it

Tehran Times, June 10, 2019

During a joint press conference with German Foreign Minister Heiko Maas in Tehran, Zarif insisted on Tehran's long-held position that Iran has not initiated and will not initiate a war with a country. He noted that no one can take a military action against the Iranian people without receiving a "firm response". "The only way to reduce tension is stopping the economic war. One cannot expect that those who have launched economic war and those who support it can be safe when there is an economic war against the Iranian ordinary people," the chief diplomat remarked.

Zarif added, "This war is very dangerous for the region and the world. The United States' actions after quitting the JCPOA [the 2015 nuclear deal] have targeted the Iranian people who were supposed to enjoy the benefits of this deal more than anyone else." He noted that Iran has remained committed to its obligations under the Joint Comprehensive Plan of Action and this has been confirmed by the International Atomic Energy Agency for 15 times.

<https://www.tehrantimes.com/news/436799/Zarif-Anyone-who-starts-war-on-Iran-will-not-be-the-one-who>

UN atomic watchdog chief worried about tensions over Iran's nuclear issue

Tehran Times, June 10, 2019

"I am worried about increasing tensions over the Iranian nuclear issue. As I have constantly emphasized, the nuclear-related commitments entered into by Iran under the JCPOA [the 2015 nuclear deal, known as the Joint Comprehensive Plan of Action] represent a significant gain for nuclear verification. I therefore hope that ways can be found to reduce current tensions through dialogue. It is essential that Iran fully implements its nuclear-related commitments under the JCPOA," he said on Monday in an introductory statement to the board of governors of the International Atomic Energy Agency.

He said, "On May 8th, Iran's Supreme National Security Council announced that it had 'issued an order to stop some of Iran's measures under the JCPOA from today'." "The Agency continues to verify the non-diversion of nuclear material declared by Iran under its Safeguards Agreement. Evaluations regarding the absence of undeclared nuclear material and activities in Iran continue," he noted. On May 31, Amano reaffirmed Iran's complying with the JCPOA.

<https://www.tehrantimes.com/news/436817/UN-atomic-watchdog-chief-worried-about-tensions-over-Iran-s-nuclear>

UN watchdog confirms Iran's promised uranium enrichment hike

Tehran Times, June 11, 2019

The assessment comes at a time of sharply increased U.S.-Iranian confrontation, a year after Washington abandoned an international agreement that imposed curbs on Tehran's nuclear program in exchange for the lifting of financial sanctions. Washington tightened sanctions on Iran from the start of May, ordering all countries and companies to halt any imports of Iranian oil or be banished from the global financial system. It also dispatched extra troops to the region to counter unspecified threats from Iran.

Iran responded with a threat to increase its enrichment of uranium, saying it was up to European countries who still support the nuclear deal to save it by finding ways to ensure Tehran receives the economic benefits it was promised.

"Yes, production rate is increasing," he told a news conference on Monday when asked if enriched uranium production had accelerated since the agency's last quarterly report, which found Iran compliant with the nuclear deal as of May 20. He declined to quantify the increase. Iran said last month it was still abiding by the deal but would quadruple its production of enriched uranium - a move that could take it out of compliance if stockpiles rise too far.

<https://www.tehrantimes.com/news/436856/UN-watchdog-confirms-Iran-s-promised-uranium-enrichment-hike>

All nuclear deal parties must 'equally' honor their commitments: Iran

Tehran Times June 12, 2019

"All sides to the JCPOA must fulfil their commitments equally. If they cannot do so, they should understand that we can review the JCPOA and our obligations by using the mechanisms that the JCPOA has provided us," Foreign Ministry spokesman

Abbas Mousavi said. His comments came as German Foreign Minister Heiko Maas said in a meeting with Swedish Foreign Minister Margot Wallstrom that if Iran quits the JCPOA, it will be isolated. Maas warned that Iran's withdrawal from the JCPOA will be harmful to both Europe and Iran.

<https://www.tehrantimes.com/news/436890/All-nuclear-deal-parties-must-equally-honor-their-commitments>

Rouhani: Sanctions and pressure are starting to lose their effectiveness

Tehran Times, June 12, 2019

"The Iranian people should know that the U.S. pressure against our country has reached its climax and actually it is losing its effect," Rouhani told a cabinet session. The Trump administration has used its excessive force to squeeze Iran economically. It has threatened to punish any country or company that buys oil from Iran. It has also slapped sanctions on Iran's petrochemical and steel industries. Analysts say the only thing that the United States has not started against Iran so far is military war, although Iranian Foreign Minister Mohammad Javad Zarif has said there is no difference between "economic war" and "military war".

Rouhani said, "Undoubtedly, what the U.S. has done against the Iranian people is a clear example of economic terrorism. This will be recorded in history as what the 'executioners' do against the Iranian people. However, the Iranian people have resisted despite all the pressures." Referring to remarks made by German Foreign Minister Heiko Maas, Rouhani said other countries have acknowledged the Iranian people's "greatness" and know that the U.S. is on the "wrong path".

<https://www.tehrantimes.com/news/436891/Rouhani-Sanctions-and-pressure-are-starting-to-lose-their-effectiveness>

IAEA should see all aspect and be unbiased: Iranian diplomat

Tehran Times, June 12, 2019

"In the current situation, the Agency [the IAEA] is duty bound to see all the aspects

and prepare reports unbiasedly," he said during a meeting with Yukiya Amano, head of the UN nuclear watchdog. Dehghani also said Iran attaches great importance to practical actions by the remaining signatories to the 2015 nuclear deal to preserve the pact, officially known as the Joint Comprehensive Plan of Action (JCPOA).

Amano said that the JCPOA is a great achievement for verification. In an introductory statement to the IAEA board of governors on Monday, Amano said he is worried about increasing tensions over the Iranian nuclear issue.

<https://www.tehrantimes.com/news/436889/IAEA-should-see-all-aspect-and-be-unbiased-Iranian-diplomat>

New Chinese envoy submits credentials to Zarif

Tehran Times, June 12, 2019

During the meeting, the two weighed plans to implement the agreements signed recently between Iran and China among other things, Tasnim reported. The two sides also discussed developments in Iran-China ties and their cooperation on various issues, including the 2015 nuclear pact, transportation, energy industry and terror fight. In May last year, Zarif hailed the "serious and friendly" negotiations with Chinese officials during a short trip to Beijing, saying the two countries enjoy strategic relations that are not influenced by outsiders. He also described China as Iran's major trade partner and a party to the Joint Comprehensive Plan of Action (JCPOA) that could play a major role in strengthening the international consensus on saving the accord.

<https://www.tehrantimes.com/news/436904/New-Chinese-envoy-submits-credentials-to-Zarif>

Iran's Rouhani says security in the Gulf is highly important to Iran

Reuters, June 13, 2019

Security in the Gulf is of high importance to Iran, President Hassan Rouhani said on

Thursday, hours after two tankers in the Gulf of Oman were evacuated following suspected attacks.

"Security is of high importance to Iran in the sensitive region of the Persian Gulf, in the Middle East, in Asia and in the whole world. We have always tried to secure peace and stability in the region," Rouhani said in a speech broadcast live on state television.

<https://in.reuters.com/article/mideast-tanker-iran-rouhani/irans-rouhani-says-security-in-the-gulf-is-highly-important-to-iran-idINKCN1TE1XG>

Iran calls for regional cooperation to protect strategic waterways - Fars

Reuters, June 13, 2019

Iran's government spokesman voiced concern on Thursday over suspected attacks on tankers in the Gulf of Oman and said Tehran was ready for regional security cooperation to protect strategic waterways.

"All countries in the region should be careful not to fall in the trap of those who benefit from regional insecurity," Ali Rabei was quoted as saying by the Fars news agency.

<https://in.reuters.com/article/mideast-tanker-iran-rabei/iran-calls-for-regional-cooperation-to-protect-strategic-waterways-fars-idINKCN1TE1D2>

Rouhani says Iran, China's resistance against U.S. unilateralism benefits world

Tehran Times, June 14, 2019

During a meeting with Chinese President Xi Jinping on the sidelines of the Shanghai Cooperation Organization summit in Bishkek, Kyrgyzstan, Rouhani said, "The Iranian people have shown that they become more united and strong against the external pressure and they do not become weak." He noted that the U.S. administration's pressure against Iran and China aimed at dominating the world.

Elsewhere, Rouhani said that Iran's relations with China are "strategic". The two countries have many capacities to expand ties, he added. He said, "Iran is interested in continuing cooperation with China in

spheres of energy, development of infrastructures for sustainable, strategic relations with China in providing China with energy." Rouhani also said Iran welcomes "China's investment" in projects in "southern regions and ports".

<https://www.tehrantimes.com/news/436956/Rouhani-says-Iran-China-s-resistance-against-U-S-unilateralism>

U.S. bullying has brought Iran, China, Russia closer together: Rouhani aide

Tehran Times, June 14, 2019

"America's maximum pressure [policy] has changed the strategic analyses of China and Russia about the near future," Ashna said on his Twitter account on Friday. Ashna, who was accompanying Rouhani to the Shanghai Cooperation Organization summit in Bishkek on Thursday Friday where leaders of China and Russia were present, described U.S. sanctions and pressures as a "paper tiger" which will not withstand against "common resistance" of the three countries.

"If anyone had intended to strengthen this axis, they should be regarded as close to their success," the advisor added. Russian President Vladimir Putin said in an interview published on Thursday that the current U.S. administration had imposed dozens of sanctions on Russia, and contrasted Moscow's troubled relationship with Washington with what he described as its blossoming ties with China.

<https://www.tehrantimes.com/news/436954/U-S-bullying-has-brought-Iran-China-Russia-closer-together>

Iran months from hitting enriched uranium cap despite acceleration

Reuters, June 14, 2019

Iran has multiplied the speed at which it enriches uranium but it is still far from the maximum rate possible under its nuclear deal with major powers, meaning it would be months before production ceilings are hit, diplomats who follow it say.

Since it withdrew from the deal, Washington has reinstated its sanctions against Tehran and added new ones in a bid to isolate the Islamic Republic - an effort Iran calls "economic terrorism". Iran's response has included accelerating uranium enrichment, which is allowed under the deal but shortens the time in which it will reach the deal's cap on its stock of enriched uranium.

Inspectors from the U.N. atomic watchdog, which is policing the deal's nuclear restrictions, told member states last week that Iran has accelerated its uranium enrichment to around 12 kg a month, roughly three times the previous rate, diplomats who attended the quarterly technical briefing said.

<https://in.reuters.com/article/iran-nuclear-enrichment/iran-months-from-hitting-enriched-uranium-cap-despite-acceleration-idINKCN1TF2DK>

Iran fast-boats preventing towing of damaged Altair tanker: source

Reuters, June 14, 2019

Iranian military fast-boats in the Gulf of Oman are preventing two privately owned tug boats from towing away an oil tanker damaged in attacks on Thursday, a U.S. official said on Friday, speaking on condition of anonymity.

The U.S. official did not say how the United States knew of the reported standoff between the Iranian fast-boats and the tug boats, which were trying to tie up and tow away the Norwegian-owned Front Altair. The United States blames Iran for Thursday's attacks against the Altair and the Japanese-owned Kokuka Courageous. Tehran denies the accusations.

<https://in.reuters.com/article/mideast-attacks-usa-tugboats/iran-fast-boats-preventing-towing-of-damaged-altair-tanker-source-idINKCN1TF2AX>

Iran renews nuclear pact ultimatum amid tensions with U.S

Reuters, June 15, 2019

Iran will continue scaling back compliance with a nuclear deal unless other signatories

to the pact show "positive signals", the Iranian president said on Saturday as tensions with the United States escalated over tanker attacks in the Gulf region. Iran stopped complying in May with some commitments in the 2015 nuclear deal that was agreed with global powers, after the United States unilaterally withdrew from the accord in 2018 and ratcheted up sanctions on Tehran.

"Obviously, Iran cannot stick to this agreement unilaterally," President Hassan Rouhani told Russian, Chinese and other Asian leaders at a conference in Tajikistan. "Obviously, Iran cannot stick to this agreement unilaterally," President Hassan Rouhani told Russian, Chinese and other Asian leaders at a conference in Tajikistan. His comments follow rising tensions with Washington, which has accused Tehran of carrying out Thursday's attacks on two oil tankers in a vital oil shipping route at the mouth of the Gulf. Tehran has denied having any role.

<https://in.reuters.com/article/iran-nuclear/iran-renews-nuclear-pact-ultimatum-amid-tensions-with-u-s-idINKCN1TG04Q>

Everyone is concerned about fate of nuclear deal, Putin says

Tehran Times, June 15, 2019

Addressing the Conference on Interaction and Confidence-Building Measures in Asia (CICA) in Dushanbe, Tajikistan, Putin said, "The United States' withdrawal from the agreement has significantly impeded its implementation, and has had a negative effect on the overall situation in nuclear non-proliferation." "We believe that the only reasonable solution is for all signatories to continue honoring their commitments under the Plan, and this is what Russia is set to do," he said. Putin and Chinese President Xi Jinping issued a statement on June 7 denouncing the unilateral sanctions imposed by the U.S. against Iran.

<https://www.tehrantimes.com/news/437017/Everyone-is-concerned-about-fate-of-nuclear-deal-Putin-says>

INSTEX remains non-operational, Larijani says

Tehran Times, June 15, 2019

"Despite various talks, the French president's promise to the Iranian president for preserving Barjam (nuclear deal) has not been met and it should be actually said that the INSTEX mechanism has remained on the paper," Larijani said, according to the Mehr news agency. European countries established INSTEX in January to help shield trade with Iran from U.S. sanctions imposed after President Donald Trump withdrew from the multinational nuclear deal in May 2018. On March 20, Iran's central bank governor Abdolnaser Hemmati announced that a mechanism similar to INSTEX has been registered in Iran, officially called the Special Trade and Finance Institute (STFI).

<https://www.tehrantimes.com/news/437007/INSTEX-remains-non-operational-Larijani-says>

Iran cannot stick to nuclear deal unilaterally: Rouhani

Tehran Times, June 15, 2019

"It is obvious that Iran cannot unilaterally remain committed to the JCPOA, and it is necessary that the other countries contribute to the survival of this important agreement," he said during a speech at the Conference on Interaction and Confidence-Building Measures in Asia (CICA) in Dushanbe, Tajikistan. Rouhani also said that Iran has acted as a powerful barrier against Takfiri terrorism.

He emphasized that, in today's world, a country cannot cope with the challenges and take advantage of opportunities alone, and achieving an acceptable level of peace, stability and development requires the development of regional cooperation and dialogue aimed at strengthening understanding. The foreign policy of the Islamic Republic of Iran is based on cooperation, and finding ways to achieve common interests, mutual benefit and, in a word, win-win policy. In this context, we consider cooperation with the countries of the region and the use of the mechanism of multilateral dialogue in the form of CICA

summits extremely useful, necessary and effective.

<https://www.tehrantimes.com/news/437013/Iran-cannot-stick-to-nuclear-deal-unilaterally-Rouhani>

Iran urges U.S., allies to stop 'false flag operations' in region

Tehran Times, June 15, 2019

"The inflammatory remarks by the U.S. representative against Iran at the UN Security Council on 13 June 2019 was another Iranophobic campaign. Iran categorically rejects the U.S.' unfounded claim with regard to 13 June oil tanker incidents and condemns it in the strongest possible terms," the mission said in a statement on Thursday.

"Neither fabrications and disinformation campaigns nor shamelessly blaming others can change the realities. The U.S. and its regional allies must stop warmongering and put an end to mischievous plots as well as false flag operations in the region. Warning, once again, about all of the U.S. coercion, intimidation, and malign behavior, Iran expresses concern over suspicious incidents for the oil tankers that occurred today," the statement added.

<https://www.tehrantimes.com/news/436981/Iran-urges-U-S-allies-to-stop-false-flag-operations-in-region>

H. Israel

Netanyahu tells Japan's Abe to pressure Iran as he prepares for Tehran visit

The Times of Israel, June 8, 2019

Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu spoke Friday with Japanese Prime Minister Shinzo Abe ahead of the latter's upcoming visit to Iran.

Netanyahu said he told Abe that it was necessary to maintain pressure on Tehran to counter Iranian expansion in the Middle East.

<https://www.timesofisrael.com/netanyahu-tells-japans-abe-to-pressure-iran-as-he-prepares-for-tehran-visit/>

Netanyahu: Zarif Is Lying; We Won't Allow Iran To Develop Nuclear Weapons

The Jerusalem Post, June 11, 2019

Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu slammed Iranian Minister of Foreign Affairs Mohammad Javad Zarif in a video released on Monday, calling him a serial liar. Netanyahu said that it is "Iran who is openly threatening to destroy [Israel]."

<https://www.jpost.com/Israel-News/Netanyahu-Zarif-is-lying-we-wont-allow-Iran-to-develop-Nuclear-weapons-592060>

Radioactive material leaked from Israel's nuclear reactor several times

Middle East Monitor, June 12, 2019

A Israeli court heard yesterday that radioactive material has leaked from the Dimona nuclear reactor several times since it was built, *Arab48* reported.

This was revealed during a case against the reactor filed by a former worker who is battling cancer.

According to the Israeli general radio, the reactor recognised the leaks after workers complained; no further details were given.

<https://www.middleeastmonitor.com/20190612-radioactive-material-leaked-from-israels-nuclear-reactor-several-times/>

I. Saudi Arabia

Saudi Arabia, UAE, Norway tell UN Security Council tanker attacker 'most likely a state actor'

Arab News, June 7, 2019

The United Arab Emirates told United Nations Security Council members on Thursday that attacks on four tankers off its coast on May 12 bore the hallmarks of a "sophisticated and coordinated operation," most likely by a state actor. In a document on the briefing to Security Council members, the UAE, joined by Norway and Saudi Arabia, did not say who it believed was

behind the attacks and did not mention Iran, which has been accused by the United States of being directly responsible. The attacks required expert navigation of fast boats and trained divers who likely placed limpet mines with a high degree of precision on the vessels under the waterline to incapacitate but not sink them, according to the preliminary findings of the countries' joint investigation.

The May 12 attacks targeted two Saudi tankers, an Emirati vessel and a Norwegian tanker, causing no casualties but fueling tensions between the United States and Iran during weeks of escalating rhetoric. US national security adviser John Bolton said on May 29 that the attacks were the work of "naval mines almost certainly from Iran." Tehran denied the accusations.

<http://www.arabnews.com/node/1507351/middle-east>

Nuclear power the best solution for Saudi Arabia

Ellen R. Wald, Arab News, June 10, 2019

Serious power outages in Saudi Arabia last weekend once again highlighted the importance of power generation in the modernized, urbanized Kingdom. In the heat of June and at the end of Ramadan, cities in Saudi Arabia simply cannot go without electricity. This is why it is imperative for the Kingdom to build nuclear power plants. However, the world gets nervous whenever a new country enters the nuclear power community. To alleviate this global anxiety, there are steps Saudi Arabia can and should take. It would be easy to reassure the naysayers and set an example for peaceful nuclear stewardship.

Saudi Arabia is the only G-20 country that burns large amounts of oil for electricity generation. In 2016, 40 percent of its electricity still came from oil. Almost all of the rest of its electricity comes from natural gas. Nuclear power plants can be bought from South Korea, Russia, the US and others. South Korean and Russian companies already presented ideas to the

Kingdom in 2018, and a French firm participated in sight plans. Once plants are built, the management can be handled by Saudis, with specific contracts to foreign firms. There is no need for Saudi Arabia to try to develop the project itself or to mine or enrich its own uranium. The best thing to do is tell the world this and show the world this is not about weapons. Saudi Arabia should go above and beyond what the world asks, sign any agreement and welcome any nuclear inspectors. Show the world that this is not about war but about averting any potential domestic economic and humanitarian crisis.

<http://www.arabnews.com/node/1508851>

Saudi air defence intercepts two Houthi drones - SPA

Reuters, June 11, 2019

Saudi Arabia's air defence forces intercepted two drones launched by Yemen's Houthis and targeting the city of Khamis Mushait, a Saudi led coalition spokesman said in statement released by Saudi Press Agency early on Tuesday.

The Statement gave no further details.

Houthi-run Masirah TV reported earlier on Monday that the Iran-aligned movement had carried out attacks on King Khalid airbase near Khamis Mushait in southwestern Saudi Arabia.

<https://in.reuters.com/article/yemen-security-saudi-attacks/saudi-air-defence-intercepts-two-houthi-drones-spa-idINKCN1TB2PJ>

Stop Iran from expanding nuclear program: Saudi Arabia

Saudi Gazette, June 12, 2019

Saudi Arabia urged the international community and inspectors of International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA) to increase pressure on Iran to halt expanding its nuclear program by publicizing further information related to Iran's nuclear activities.

Shraheli called for intensifying inspection within Iran to identify any sites likely to be

used by the outlawed country to carry out undeclared nuclear activities, that may target the security of the states in the region, and to take the necessary measures to ensure that Iran is not able to develop techniques that may be used for military purposes. "The peoples of the region do not need nuclear weapons to achieve security, stability, peace and development. Instead of this, they need enhancing of cooperation and building of confidence and good-neighborliness as well as to use their resources for the well-being and development of their peoples."

Shraheli stressed that the international community cannot ignore the true nature of Iran's intentions, which is evident by its aggressive behavior towards the countries in the region, in view of its hostile policy and tendency towards expansion and hegemony, with testing of ballistic missiles and developing other military devices.

<http://saudigazette.com.sa/article/568786/SAUDI-ARABIA/Stop-Iran-from-expanding-nuclear-program-Saudi-Arabia>

Riyadh meeting reviews enhancing Saudi-French nuclear cooperation

Saudi Gazette, June 13, 2019

The fourth joint meeting of the Saudi-French Nuclear Committee reviewed the existing cooperation in the field of peaceful uses of atomic energy between the Kingdom and France and ways to further enhancing it in a way supportive to the Saudi National Atomic Energy Project.

Dr. Khalid Al-Sultan, president of the King Abdullah City for Atomic and Renewable Energy (KACARE) and the French Ambassador to the Kingdom François Gouyette co-chaired the meeting held at the headquarters of KACARE in Riyadh. During the meeting, the two sides discussed joint activities to develop human capacities in the field of atomic energy.

The meeting reviewed the National Energy Policy and the Nuclear Energy Industry of France and their main partners. The two

sides also discussed the developments made by joint working groups regarding cooperation in research fields of atomic energy, as well as development of human capacities and competencies in the fields of nuclear energy and radioactive waste management. The discussions also figured cooperation in the field of nuclear legislative control (safety and security) in coordination with the Saudi Arabian Atomic Regulatory Authority.

<http://saudigazette.com.sa/article/568845/SAUDI-ARABIA/Riyadh-meeting-reviews-enhancing-Saudi-French-nuclear-cooperation>

Royal Saudi and US air forces carry out exercise over Arabian Gulf

Arab News, June 16, 2019

Royal Saudi Air Force aircraft and F-15C Eagle fighter jets belonging to the US Air Force flew in formation over the Arabian Gulf Sunday, supported by both Saudi and US air-to-air refueling aircraft. The aim of the exercise was to continue to strengthen military relations between the two countries.

US officials have recently said that there has been a surge in intelligence pointing to Iranian preparations for attacks against US forces and interests in the Gulf region. In response to those intelligence warnings, the US on May 5 announced it was accelerating the deployment of the USS Abraham Lincoln aircraft carrier battle group to the Gulf region. It also sent four nuclear-capable B-52 bombers to Qatar and has beefed up its defenses in the region by deploying more Patriot air defense systems.

<http://www.arabnews.com/node/1511556/saudi-arabia>

Crown Prince calls for decisive international position against Iran

Saudi Gazette, June 16, 2019

Crown Prince Mohammed Bin Salman, Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of Defense, said that Saudi Arabia does not want a war in the region, but stressed that it “will not hesitate in dealing with any threat against our people, sovereignty and

vital interests.” In an interview with Asharq Al-Awsat, the Crown Prince said that the Kingdom “supported the re-imposition of US sanctions on Iran out of our belief that the international community needed to take a decisive stance against Iran.”

He hoped that the Iranian regime “would opt to become a normal state and cease its hostile policy.” The Crown Prince told Asharq Al-Awsat that attacks on oil tankers in the Gulf, oil facilities in the Kingdom and Abha airport “underscore the importance of our demand before the international community to take a decisive stance against an expansionist regime that has supported terrorism and spread death and destruction over the past decades not only in the region, but the whole world.” He criticized Iran for using the nuclear deal’s economic benefits “to support its hostile acts in the region.”

<http://saudigazette.com.sa/article/568996/SAUDI-ARABIA/Crown-Prince-calls-for-decisive-international-position-against-Iran>

J. Qatar

Qatar seeks thaw in US-Iran row

TRT World, June 9, 2019

Qatari FM Sheikh Mohammed bin Abdulrahman al Thani urges both sides to find a compromise and begin negotiations, warns against imposing US-led “deal of the century” on the Palestinians.

Qatar has been talking to both Iran and the United States about de-escalation, Qatari Foreign Minister Sheikh Mohammed bin Abdulrahman al Thani told reporters in London on Sunday, urging both sides to meet and find a compromise.

Tensions have risen between Iran and the United States in recent weeks after Washington reimposed economic sanctions on Iran after unilaterally withdrawing out of a big-power nuclear deal, and sending forces to the Middle East in a show of force to counter what US

officials called Iranian threats to US troops and regional interests.

<https://www.trtworld.com/middle-east/qatar-seeks-thaw-in-us-iran-row-27351>

Qatar urges de-escalation in U.S.-Iran row

Reuters, June 9, 2019

Qatar and other countries have been talking to both Iran and the United States about de-escalation, Qatari Foreign Minister Sheikh Mohammed bin Abdulrahman al-Thani said on Sunday, urging both sides to meet and find a compromise.

“We believe that at one point there should be an engagement – it cannot last forever like this,” he told reporters in London on Sunday. “Since they are not willing to engage in further escalation, they should come up with ideas that open the doors.”

Sheikh Mohammed said several countries including Qatar, Oman, Iraq and Japan had been urging de-escalation with the two sides.

“All these countries are concerned what escalation could lead to,” he said. “There were attempts by Qatar and by other countries in the region to de-escalate the situation: we have been speaking to the U.S. and we have been talking to the Iranians as well.”

“What we are trying to do is really to bridge the gap and create a conversation between the two parties as escalation is not going to benefit anyone in the region,” he said.

<https://in.reuters.com/article/usa-iran-qatar/qatar-urges-de-escalation-in-u-s-iran-row-idINKCN1TA000>

K. UAE

Understanding The Saudi, Uae Arms Deals And Iran

Seth J. Frantzman, The Jerusalem Post, June 10, 2019

In May 2017 US President Donald Trump and Saudi Arabia inked a \$110 billion arms

deal. Two years later, news that Riyadh was seeking to extend its missile capabilities has resurrected claims that the Kingdom is involved in an “arms race” with other countries in the region. However, there has always been an arms race in the Middle East between rival powers and it’s not clear that the current expansion is different than past build-ups of military equipment. What might make it different is if Iran actually tried to build a nuclear weapon. CNN reported on June 5 that the US government “has obtained intelligence that Saudi Arabia has significantly escalated its ballistic missile program with the help of China.” This was despite US efforts to prevent missile proliferation in the Middle East, the article noted. “Discovery of the Saudi efforts has heightened concerns among members of Congress over a potential arms race in the Middle East.” A subsequent article noted that “exactly the White House’s decision to bend itself out of shape to suit the Saudi’s current thirst for more and better weapons, in a region already exhausted by conflict, will lead in the years ahead is unclear.” The controversy with Saudi Arabia involves its interest in developing nuclear technology and allegations that the missiles it might be seeking could go against three decades of US policy that seek to prevent the acquisition of weapons that could include payloads of weapons of mass destruction. The logic is that if you add up Riyadh’s nuclear ambitions and its missile ambitions, it points in that direction. Add in the billions of arms sales, and that the Kingdom has become a 21st century military version of 18th century Prussia, so the argument goes. In May Trump approved \$8 billion in weapons sales to Saudi Arabia, the United Arab Emirates and Jordan, maneuvering around Congressional concerns. This came amid rising tensions with Iran. The problem with the arms race narrative is that there is no new arms race in the Middle East.

<https://www.jpost.com/Middle-East/Understanding-the-Saudi-UAE-arms-deals-and-Iran-591895>

Frontline oil tanker struck by torpedo off UAE coast - Tradewinds

Reuters, June 13, 2019

An oil tanker owned by Norway's Frontline has been struck by a torpedo off the coast of Fujairah in the United Arab Emirates, shipping newspaper Tradewinds reported on Thursday, citing unnamed industry sources.

Frontline was not immediately available for comment.

The United Kingdom Maritime Trade Operations, which is part of the Royal Navy, had said on Thursday it was aware of an incident in the Gulf of Oman, near the Iranian coast.

<https://in.reuters.com/article/mideast-tanker-frontline/frontline-oil-tanker-struck-by-torpedo-off-uae-coast-tradewinds-idINKCN1TE0PO>

State sponsor behind May tanker attacks, says UAE minister

Reuters, June 14, 2019

The UAE's foreign minister said on Saturday a "state sponsor" was involved in a May 12 attack on oil tankers in the Gulf, but did not name any particular country.

He did not mention attacks on two other tankers this week in the same area. The United States has said Iran was involved in both the May and the June incidents - accusations dismissed by Tehran.

"Our conclusion is this has only been possible by a state-sponsored attack," Al Nahyan told reporters after meeting his Cypriot counterpart in Nicosia, referring to the May attack. "We haven't named the state, but we hope that we can further work with our friends and partners in preventing such escalations from moving forward," he added.

The May 12 attacks targeted two Saudi tankers, an Emirati vessel and a Norwegian tanker, causing no casualties but fueling tensions between the United States and Iran during weeks of escalating rhetoric.

<https://in.reuters.com/article/mideast-attacks-emirates/state-sponsor-behind-may-tanker-attacks-says-uae-minister-idINKCN1TG07F>

L. Turkey

US gives Turkey July 31 deadline to scrap Russian S-400 missile defence system deal

South China Morning Post, June 8, 2019

The Pentagon has warned Turkey that it will suspend training of its pilots on the advanced F-35 fighter jet at the end of July and terminate Turkey's participation in the fighter jet programme if it buys Russia's S-400 missile defence system.

The Pentagon has warned Turkey that it will suspend training of its pilots on the advanced F-35 fighter jet at the end of July and terminate Turkey's participation in the fighter jet programme if it buys Russia's S-400 missile defence system.

<https://www.scmp.com/news/world/middle-east/article/3013653/us-sets-deadline-july-31-turkey-backtrack-russian-s-400>

Turkish F-35 pilots no longer flying at U.S. base - Pentagon

Phil Stewart, Reuters, June 11, 2019

Training by Turkish pilots on F-35 fighter jets has come to a faster-than-expected halt at a U.S. air base in Arizona, U.S. officials said on Monday, as the United States winds down Ankara's involvement in the program over Turkey's plans to buy a Russian air defence system. The United States says Turkey's acquisition of Russia's S-400 air defences poses a threat to the Lockheed Martin Corp's F-35 stealthy fighters, which Turkey also plans to buy. Washington says Ankara cannot have both.

The move to halt training at Luke Air Force Base, first reported by Reuters, came just days after acting U.S. Defence Secretary Patrick Shanahan told his Turkish counterpart that Turkish pilots already in the United States could remain there until the end of July. That would have allowed time for more training and for Turkey to rethink its plans.

<https://in.reuters.com/article/usa-turkey-f35/turkish-f-35-pilots-no-longer-flying-at-u-s-base-pentagon-idINKCN1TB2LE>

U.S. has not taken up offer to create S-400 working group, Turkey says

Tuwan Gumrukcu, Reuters, June 11, 2019

The United States has not yet taken up Turkey's suggestion of creating a joint working group to try to defuse tensions over Ankara's purchase of the Russian S-400 missile defence systems, a senior Turkish defence official said on Monday.

The two NATO allies have sparred publicly for months over Turkey's order for the S-400s, which are not compatible with the transatlantic alliance's systems. Washington says the S-400s pose a threat to the Lockheed Martin Corp F-35 fighters and has warned of potential U.S. sanctions if Ankara presses on with the deal.

Turkey, one of the core partners in the F-35 programme and a prospective buyer, has said the S-400s will not impact the jets and has proposed to Washington forming a joint working group to assess U.S. concerns.

<https://in.reuters.com/article/turkey-usa-defense/u-s-has-not-taken-up-offer-to-create-s-400-working-group-turkey-says-idINKCN1TB1XA>

Frontline oil tanker struck by torpedo off UAE coast - Tradewinds

Reuters, June 13, 2019

An oil tanker owned by Norway's Frontline has been struck by a torpedo off the coast of Fujairah in the United Arab Emirates, shipping newspaper Tradewinds reported on Thursday, citing unnamed industry sources.

Frontline was not immediately available for comment.

The United Kingdom Maritime Trade Operations, which is part of the Royal Navy, had said on Thursday it was aware of an incident in the Gulf of Oman, near the Iranian coast.

<https://in.reuters.com/article/mideast-tanker-frontline/frontline-oil-tanker-struck-by-torpedo-off-uae-coast-tradewinds-idINKCN1TE0PO>

Erdogan spokesman Kalin says discussed F-35 letter with Bolton on phone

Reuters, June 13, 2019

Turkey's presidential spokesman Ibrahim Kalin said on Thursday he spoke on the phone with President Donald Trump's national security advisor John Bolton to discuss a letter sent by the Pentagon about Ankara's removal from the F-35 jets program.

Washington has warned Turkey against buying and installing Russian S-400 missile defence systems. Speaking at a press conference in Ankara following a cabinet meeting, Kalin said he hoped the Pentagon would abandon its current attitude towards Turkey, which he said could permanently damage ties between the two NATO allies.

U.S. Acting Secretary of Defence Patrick Shanahan last week sent his Turkish counterpart a letter warning that Ankara would be pulled out of the F-35 jet programme unless it changes course from its plans to install the S-400 defences. Kalin also said Erdogan was set to meet with Russian President Vladimir Putin at the end of June during the G20 meeting in Japan.

Turkey says would retaliate against U.S. sanctions over Russian S-400s

Reuters, June 15, 2019

Turkey will "take reciprocal steps" if the United States imposes sanctions over its purchase of Russian S-400 defences, the Turkish foreign minister said on Friday, marking the latest step toward a standoff between the NATO allies.

"If the United States takes any negative actions towards us, we will also take reciprocal steps," Mevlut Cavusoglu, the minister, said when asked about possible U.S. sanctions in an interview broadcast on Turkish TV.

Ankara and Washington have sparred publicly for months over Turkey's

purchase of the S-400 missile systems, expected to be delivered as early as next month. Washington has said that would trigger U.S. sanctions and sent a letter warning that Ankara would be pulled out of the F-35 jet programme.

The Turkish lira weakened to as far as 5.93 against U.S. dollar after the comment, to its weakest level in two weeks.

<https://in.reuters.com/article/turkey-usa-sanctions/turkey-says-would-retaliate-against-u-s-sanctions-over-russian-s-400s-idINKCN1TF0QR>

EAST ASIA

M. Japan

Pro-nuclear incumbent Shingo Mimura wins fifth term in Aomori gubernatorial election

Japan Times, June 3, 2019

Shingo Mimura, a pro-nuclear incumbent, won his fifth term in the Aomori gubernatorial election on Sunday, stressing his past achievements and focusing away from the area's involvement in the country's nuclear fuel recycling policy during campaigning. The incumbent garnered 329,048 votes, against 105,466 votes collected by Sahara. Voter turnout stood at 40.08 percent.

The prefecture hosts a cluster of nuclear facilities, including an incomplete plant in Rokkasho where spent uranium fuel will be reprocessed for recycling. During the 17-day official campaigning, Mimura touted his role in having expanded agricultural exports and promoted administrative reforms, while mostly avoiding discussion of the controversial nuclear policy. Aomori Prefecture received about ¥20 billion in nuclear fuel tax income from nuclear facility operators in fiscal 2017, accounting for about 11 percent of the prefecture's annual tax revenue. A person involved in Mimura's campaign said there were many residents in Aomori Prefecture who did not want the nuclear issue to be the focus of the election as they financially benefit from having the fuel recycling facilities there. Sahara, who opposes nuclear power generation,

criticized Mimura for promoting the central government's nuclear power policy, but was unable to gain broad support from voters.

<https://www.japantimes.co.jp/news/2019/06/03/national/politics-diplomacy/pro-nuclear-incumbent-shingo-mimura-wins-fifth-term-aomori-gubernatorial-election/#.XQifdNQza00>

Japan plans carbon emission cuts, more nuclear energy

Mari Yamaguchi, AP News, June 7, 2019

Japan is calling for further efforts to cut its carbon emissions by promoting renewable energy while also pushing nuclear power despite its 2011 Fukushima nuclear plant disaster. An energy policy paper, adopted by the Cabinet on Friday, said Japan faces the urgent task of reducing carbon emissions by utilities that rely heavily on fossil fuel plants to make up for shortages of cleaner nuclear energy. The call comes as nuclear reactors around Japan are slowly being restarted – despite lingering anti-nuclear sentiment since the Fukushima crisis – after being shut down to meet tougher safety standards.

Japan wants renewable energy's share in 2030 to grow to 22-24% of the country's power supply from 16%, while pushing nuclear energy to 20-22% from just 3% in 2017. The report said the cost of renewables also needs to be reduced.

<https://www.apnews.com/3d2a01a254f940d79f8101ea0809f1a7>

Abe pushing idea that Fukushima nuclear disaster is 'under control'

The Asahi Shimbun, June 11, 2019

Without special protection against radiation, Prime Minister Shinzo Abe stood on elevated ground about 100 meters from the three melted-down reactors at the Fukushima No. 1 nuclear power plant. "I was finally able to see the view just wearing a normal suit without having to wear protective clothing and a mask (for radiation)," he said on April 14 after hearing explanations from Tokyo Electric

Power Co. officials. "The decommissioning work has been making progress in earnest."

An act of bravado, perhaps. But it was more likely one of the ways Abe and his government want to show that the Fukushima disaster is, as he famously said, "under control." Progress has been made, albeit slowly, for the monumental task of decommissioning TEPCO's crippled nuclear plant. But radiation levels in certain areas of the plant are still lethal with extended exposure. The problem of storing water contaminated in the reactors continues.

<http://www.asahi.com/ajw/articles/AJ201906110001.html>

Japan premier hopes to ease US-Iran tensions in Tehran visit

Jon Gambrell And Mari Yamaguchi, AP News, June 11, 2019

Japanese Prime Minister Shinzo Abe's trip to Tehran represents the highest-level effort yet to de-escalate tensions between the U.S. and Iran as the country appears poised to break the 2015 nuclear deal it struck with world powers that America earlier abandoned. But while Abe's trip to Iran marks the first visit of a sitting Japanese premier in the 40 years since the Islamic Revolution, it remains unclear if he'll end up going home with any success. Iran is threatening to resume enriching uranium closer to weapons-grade level on July 7 if European allies fail to offer it new terms. While President Donald Trump says he wants to talk to Tehran, the U.S. has piled on sanctions that have seen Iran's rial currency plummet along with its crucial oil exports.

"Just going to Iran doesn't resolve any problem," said Kazuo Takahashi, an Open University of Japan professor of international politics and expert on the Middle East. "He would have to help open a path of dialogue between the U.S. and Iran, and that could be a major risk."

<https://apnews.com/101028de68644291ac7a368c9f1e736e>

Japan premier warns US, Iran 'accidental conflict' possible

Amir Vahdat, Aya Batrawy And Jon Gambrell, AP News, June 12, 2019

Japanese Prime Minister Shinzo Abe traveled to Tehran on Wednesday to warn that an "accidental conflict" could be sparked amid heightened tensions between Iran and the U.S., a message that came hours after Yemen's Iranian-backed Houthi rebels attacked a Saudi airport, wounding 26 people. Abe's trip is the highest-level effort yet to de-escalate the crisis as Tehran appears poised to break the 2015 nuclear deal it struck with world powers, an accord that the Trump administration pulled out of last year. It's also the first visit of a sitting Japanese premier in the 40 years since the Islamic Revolution.

But success may prove difficult for Abe, as the Houthi rebel attack on Saudi Arabia's Abha regional airport underscored. The attack is just the latest in a wave of rebel drone and missile attacks targeting the kingdom, which has been mired in a yearslong war in Yemen that has killed an estimated 60,000 people and pushed the Arab world's poorest nation to the brink of famine.

<https://apnews.com/3b7344d750fa48a7a104adf73bc59456>

Tighter rules for drones spark fears about the right to know

Shinichi Fujiwara, The Asahi Shimbun, June 13, 2019

Tighter but somewhat vague regulations on operating drones took effect June 13, igniting concerns that limits on where the devices can fly could infringe on the public's right to know. Under the revised drone regulation law, the unmanned aircraft cannot operate over U.S. military or Japanese Self-Defense Forces facilities unless prior permission is granted. The ban includes surrounding areas extending to 300 meters. The government says the restrictions are necessary to thwart terrorist attacks.

While standards on consent remain unclear, it appears likely that wide areas will be declared off-limits to drones. This has sparked fears that the public's right to know could be infringed, for example, in the event of an aircraft crash at a military base or trying to gauge the impact of environmental pollution in a construction project.

<http://www.asahi.com/ajw/articles/AJ201906130043.html>

Abe to Khamenei: Trump does not want to escalate tensions

The Asahi Shimbun, June 13, 2019

Prime Minister Shinzo Abe on June 13 told Iran's supreme leader, Ayatollah Ali Khamenei, that the United States has no intention of escalating tensions with Tehran. "When I met with U.S. President Donald Trump, he said that he did not want to see an escalation in tensions (with Iran)," Abe told reporters after his meeting with Khamenei, the first by a Japanese leader. "I gave Ayatollah Khamenei my frank view of what I felt to be the intentions held by the U.S. president. By meeting directly with Ayatollah Khamenei, I was able to hear about his beliefs on peace. I am of the opinion that major progress has been made toward securing peace and stability in this region,"

"Ayatollah Khamenei also said that Iran has no intention of manufacturing, possessing or using nuclear weapons," Abe told reporters. "While the path toward easing tensions will be a very difficult one, I want to make further efforts for the sake of peace in this region as well as for peace and stability in the world."

<http://www.asahi.com/ajw/articles/AJ201906130061.html>

Sendai reactor to stop due to delay in anti-terror upgrade work

Yasuyuki Onaya, The Asahi Shimbun, June 14, 2019

Kyushu Electric Power Co. will halt operations of the No. 1 reactor at its Sendai nuclear power plant in Kagoshima

Prefecture next March due to a delay in upgrades to protect it from terror attacks, sources said June 13. The Nuclear Regulation Authority (NRA) decided at a meeting on June 12 that it would order electric power companies to suspend operations of their reactors unless such anti-terror facilities are completed about a week before the set deadlines. As the deadline for the No. 1 reactor work is March 17, 2020, and the completion is expected to be delayed by about one year, operations will cease the following day.

The company is already working 24 hours a day on the project, and some have said that it would be difficult to take further measures to increase the speed of construction from a worker safety standpoint. Under such circumstances, there has been a growing view that it would be impossible to meet the deadline, and thus the firm judged that it cannot help but suspend the reactor's operation.

<http://www.asahi.com/ajw/articles/AJ201906140067.html>

NRA safety license for Sendai reactors legal, Fukuoka court finds, dismissing volcano risk lawsuit

Japan Times, June 17, 2019

A district court said on Monday it found nothing illegal with a safety clearance granted to two reactors in Kyushu that were restarted after the 2011 Fukushima nuclear crisis, dismissing a demand for a retraction filed by plaintiffs who said it ignored the risk of volcanic eruptions. The lawsuit was filed by 33 plaintiffs against a license authorizing design changes at reactors 1 and 2 at the Sendai nuclear power plant in Kagoshima Prefecture under tougher post-Fukushima safety regulations.

They were the first commercial reactors in the nation to be restarted after the crisis. The plaintiffs argued the Nuclear Regulation Authority gave the green light without sufficiently assessing the potential risk of eruptions at nearby Mount Aso in

Kumamoto Prefecture and four other volcanoes. In the first ruling of its kind, the Fukuoka District Court concluded the license issued was not illegal.

<https://www.japantimes.co.jp/news/2019/06/17/national/nra-safety-license-sendai-reactors-legal-fukuoka-court-finds-dismissing-volcano-risk-lawsuit/#.XQifH9Qza00>

N. South Korea

President Moon pushes for summits with Xi, Abe Posted

Lee Min-hyung, Korea Times, June 9, 2019

President Moon Jae-in is pushing for his summits with Chinese President Xi Jinping and Japanese Prime Minister Shinzo Abe during the upcoming G20 meeting in Osaka, Japan, later this month, a high-ranking government official said. The summits, on the sidelines of the state leaders' participation in the Osaka meeting from June 28 to 29, are expected to break a current impasse in talks aimed at dismantling North Korea's nuclear program, according to the official who requested anonymity.

"We are arranging the schedules for Moon's possible summits with Xi and Abe during the G20 meeting," the official said Sunday. President Moon is being urged to play a more active role in addressing diplomatic issues with the neighboring countries, he added. In a possible summit with Xi, Moon would ask for the Chinese government not to apply any retaliatory and discriminatory measures against South Korean manufacturers in China including Samsung and LG Group because of the ongoing trade dispute between Washington and Beijing.

http://www.koreatimes.co.kr/www/nation/2019/06/113_270315.html

US state department aims for one-time solution to denuclearize North Korea

Park Han-na, Korea Herald, June 14, 2019

The United States pursues a one-time solution to get North Korea to eliminate its nuclear arsenal, Christopher Ashley Ford, assistant secretary of state for international

security and non-proliferation, said Tuesday, in a stark contrast to the incremental approach that Pyongyang has been pushing for. "It may be that a one-time solution set can sometimes be generated within the nonproliferation enterprise itself. This is, after all, exactly what the United States aims to achieve with North Korea through the agreed elimination of its illicit weapons programs," Ford said in a speech at an event hosted by the American Academy for Strategic Education, a Washington-based nonprofit organization.

http://www.koreaherald.com/view.php?ud=20190614000504&ACE_SEARCH=1

Moon suggests trust-based denuclearization, peace

Yonhap, Korea Herald, June 14, 2019

Triving to jump-start the slow-going Korea peace process, South Korean President Moon Jae-in called overtly for North Korea's substantive denuclearization on Friday. Addressing the Parliament House in the Swedish capital, he pressed Pyongyang to continue dialogue, either bilateral or multilateral, until it wins the trust of the international community. South Korean President Moon Jae-in delivers a speech on the Korean Peninsula peace process at the Swedish Parliament House in Stockholm on Friday. (Yonhap)

"Peace can be realized only through peaceful means, which is dialogue. It is dialogue, not nuclear arms, that will keep North Korea secure," Moon said. He stressed that, "North Korea must substantially show to the international community its commitment to completely dismantling its nuclear weapons and to establishing a peace regime." The remarks constituted one of Moon's most significant calls in recent months for the communist neighbor to take denuclearization steps. He met North Korean leader Kim Jong-un three times last year alone. Kim stated Pyongyang's commitment to full denuclearization.

http://www.koreaherald.com/view.php?ud=20190614000673&ACE_SEARCH=1

Moon back in Korea after Northern Europe trip

Yonhap, Korea Herald, June 16, 2019

Following an eight-day tour of Finland, Norway and Sweden, President Moon Jae-in returned to South Korea on Sunday, where a pile of tough tasks remains unresolved. The keywords of his discussions during the state visits were peace, innovation and inclusive growth. Moon secured firmer support for the Korea peace process from the Nordic nations and paved the way for stronger partnerships during the fourth industrial revolution and discovery of the next economic growth engines, according to his office, Cheong Wa Dae.

He delivered two key speeches in Oslo and Stockholm on his peace vision based on the goal of completely denuclearizing the Korean Peninsula. He called on North Korea to restart dialogue, either bilateral or multilateral, and abandon its nuclear program, emphasizing that it's the only way to win security assurances and move toward prosperity.

http://www.koreaherald.com/view.php?ud=20190616000143&ACE_SEARCH=1

O. North Korea

North Korea's Kim visits factories linked to missile launches

Josh Smith, Reuters, June 2, 2019

The factories have innocuous names, but analysts say several ostensibly civilian facilities visited by North Korean leader Kim Jong Un recently are also used to build ballistic missile launchers and other weapons.

On Saturday North Korean state news agency KCNA released reports of Kim providing "field guidance" at a number of factories and cities, without saying when the visits happened.

The reports only mentioned economic elements, but the sites help form the core of North Korea's arms industry, and have played a major role in developing its intercontinental ballistic missile (ICBM)

technology, say analysts at the James Martin Center for Nonproliferation Studies (CNS) in California.

"This is the heart of North Korea's defence industry," CNS researcher Jeffrey Lewis told Reuters. "These are the kind of visits we saw in 2016 and 2017 as North Korea moved toward ICBM testing."

Among the sites Kim visited was the February 8 General Machine Factory, which has been used to build ballistic missile launchers. The machine factory was the site of the July 28, 2017, launch of a Hwasong-14 ICBM that Kim observed.

"North Korea has usually tried to hide this facility by not naming it," Lewis told Reuters. "Sometimes it is unnamed; in other cases only the name of the plant manager was given."

<https://in.reuters.com/article/northkorea-missiles-factories/north-koreas-kim-visits-factories-linked-to-missile-launches-idINKCN1T22TC>

North Korea's former top nuclear envoy seen with Kim Jong Un - KCNA

Joyce Lee, Reuters, June 3, 2019

North Korea's former top nuclear envoy, Kim Yong Chol, accompanied leader Kim Jong Un to an art performance, state news agency KCNA said on Monday, signalling that the former spymaster is alive and remains a force in the power structure.

Sunday's appearance followed conflicting reports of shakeups in the team that led engagement with the United States last year, only for nuclear talks to collapse after Kim Jong Un and President Donald Trump failed to strike a pact at a February summit.

KCNA named Kim Yong Chol as the 10th person among a group of 12 "leading officials" who accompanied Kim Jong Un and his wife, Ri Sol Ju, to an amateur art performance by wives of officers in the North Korean Army on Sunday.

On Friday, South Korean newspaper Chosun Ilbo had said Kim Yong Chol, the leader's righthand man and a counterpart

of U.S. Secretary of State Mike Pompeo before the failed summit, had been sent to a labour and re-education camp, citing an unidentified North Korean source.

<https://in.reuters.com/article/northkorea-usa/north-koreas-former-top-nuclear-envoy-seen-with-kim-jong-un-kcna-idINKCN1T40DV>

Exclusive: U.N. bid to curb North Korean missile tests, revive air traffic, delayed amid U.S. concerns - sources

Allison Lampert, Hyonhee Shin, Michelle Nichols, Reuters, June 3, 2019

A U.N. agency's bid to curb North Korea's missile programme with an airspace safety audit and at the same time revive its air traffic has been delayed amid U.S. concerns that it may breach U.N. sanctions, sources familiar with the matter told Reuters.

Airlines currently take indirect routes to avoid North Korea due to the threat of surprise missile tests, which have been witnessed by some passengers on commercial flights.

The U.N. International Civil Aviation Organization (ICAO) met North Korean officials last year to discuss Pyongyang's hopes for a new route that would pass through South Korean airspace following a dramatic detente between the two sides.

ICAO had planned to conduct its first aviation safety audit in North Korea in more than a decade this year, but it has been delayed until 2020 amid U.S. concerns that it could include sharing technology that could also be used to advance North Korea's weapons programmes, the sources said. All of the sources spoke on condition of anonymity to discuss the sensitive issue.

"They're concerned because it involves technology that could possibly be diverted for military purposes, unlike humanitarian aid that would be exempted from sanctions more easily," one of the sources told Reuters.

<https://in.reuters.com/article/airlines-iata-northkorea/exclusive-u-n-bid-to-curb-north-korean-missile-tests-revive-air-traffic-delayed-amid-u-s-concerns-sources-idINKCN1T40YG>

US urged to change its approach towards DPRK

The Pyongyang Times, June 5, 2019

"If the United States abandons its duty and keeps resorting to anti-DPRK hostile policy, the June 12 DPRK-US Joint Statement will face an uncertain fate," said a spokesman for the DPRK Ministry of Foreign Affairs in a statement on June 4. The statement was published to coincide with the first anniversary of the first DPRK-US summit meeting and talks in Singapore held in June last year. In the past one year the DPRK directed constant efforts to establishing new relations with the US, building a lasting and durable peace regime in the Korean peninsula and achieving the denuclearization of the Korean peninsula, as stipulated in the June 12 DPRK-US Joint Statement, and made every possible endeavour such as the proactive practical measures that required a strategic decision, it said.

The June 12 DPRK-US Joint Statement is a commitment the two countries made before the world and humankind and a task for which both sides are jointly accountable, it said, adding the DPRK remains unchanged in its stand and will to value and continue to faithfully implement the joint statement. Whether the DPRK-US Joint Statement will remain effective or be reduced to a sheet of paper will depend on how the US would respond to the DPRK's fair and aboveboard stand, it said. "The US would be well-advised to change its current way of calculation and respond to our call as soon as possible."

<http://www.pyongyangtimes.com.kp/?bbs=30248>

P. Central, South and South East Asia

Kazakhstan's chairmanship of the nuclear suppliers group in 2019-2020

Tariq Rauf, The Astana Times, June 12, 2019

In June 2019, Kazakhstan takes over the Chairmanship of the 48-member Nuclear Suppliers Group (NSG) from the current chair Latvia. In June 2019, Kazakhstan

takes over the Chairmanship of the 48-member Nuclear Suppliers Group (NSG) from the current chair Latvia.

The 48 “Participating Governments” (PGs) in the NSG are: Argentina, Australia, Austria, Belarus, Belgium, Brazil, Bulgaria, Canada, China, Croatia, Cyprus, Czech Republic, Denmark, Estonia, Finland, France, Germany, Greece, Hungary, Iceland, Ireland, Italy, Japan, Kazakhstan, Republic of Korea, Latvia, Lithuania, Luxembourg, Malta, Mexico, Netherlands, New Zealand, Norway, Poland, Portugal, Romania, Russian Federation, Serbia, Slovakia, Slovenia, South Africa, Spain, Sweden, Switzerland, Turkey, Ukraine, United Kingdom, and United States.

<https://astanatimes.com/2019/06/kazakhstans-chairmanship-of-the-nuclear-suppliers-group-2019-2020/>

Q. World/Mics

We Can Tell You All of the Ways to Kill a Hypersonic Missile

Samran Ali, The National Interest blog, June 2, 2019

At a time when existing missile defenses can't guarantee success against the ballistic missiles, a whole new challenge has been posed by hypersonic vehicles. Many people believe that after a certain time period the effectiveness of ballistic missile defenses will grow. In that situation, hypersonic weapons' deployment is important. However, as of now, the Hypersonic Glide Vehicles (HGVs) and Hypersonic Cruise Missiles (HCMs) are solutions looking for a problem.

What's New in Hypersonic Weapons

Speed, maneuverability, and low-altitude travel are major traits of hypersonic weapons which are not comparable to the existing ballistic or cruise missiles. Cruise missiles lack speed while the ballistic missiles can't maneuver. Hypersonic weapons travel normally at speeds greater than Mach 5 at lower altitudes with maneuverability making them harder to detect and kill than the legacy ballistic and cruise missiles.

<https://nationalinterest.org/blog/buzz/we-can-tell-you-all-ways-kill-hypersonic-missile-60472>

Slovenské elektrárne signs Russian fuel supply deal

World Nuclear News, June 5, 2019

TVEL and Slovak utility Slovenské elektrárne have signed contract documents on the supply of nuclear fuel to nuclear power plants in Slovakia for 2022-2026 with the possibility of extension to 2030. TVEL, the nuclear fuel manufacturer subsidiary of Russia's Rosatom, said today that the agreements, which followed a public tender for the work, had been signed in Moscow in the presence of the Russian and Slovak Prime Ministers Dmitry Medvedev and Peter Pellegrini.

Russian nuclear fuel will be supplied to the four operational power units with VVER-440 reactors at Bohunice NPP and Mochovce NPP, as well as two new VVER-440 Mochovce units, which are at the final construction stage. TVEL President Natalia Nikipelova said that, together with Slovak specialists, the company will optimise the fuel cycle strategy of the Slovak NPPs in order to improve their economic efficiency.

<https://www.world-nuclear-news.org/Articles/Slovenske-elektrarne-signs-Russian-fuel-supply-dea>

5 Submarines That Could Kill Billions of People in Minutes

National Interest Blog, June 8, 2019

Built at the same time as the mighty Typhoon-class, the Delta IV is the current backbone of the Russian ballistic missile submarine fleet. The older 18,200-ton Delta IV design is nonetheless a capable platform and its armed with 16 R-29RMU Sineva liquid-fuel ballistic missiles, each of which can carry between four and eight warheads. Unlike previous versions of the Project 667 design, the Delta IV is able to fire missiles in any direction from a constant course in a circular sector. It is also able to fire its ballistic missiles from a depth of 55 meters while cruising at a speed of six to seven knots.

While they have thankfully never been used during a shooting war, nuclear-

powered submarines carrying nuclear-tipped missiles are the most deadly weapons mankind has ever devised. In some cases – as in the case of the Ohio-class submarine during the height of the Cold War – even a single vessel could reduce as many as 288 city-sized targets into radioactive ash in less than 30 minutes. Indeed, these vessels and their payloads could end human civilization in less time than it takes to order a pizza if a third world war were to break out.

<https://nationalinterest.org/blog/buzz/5-submarines-could-kill-billions-people-minutes-61577>

Research funding awarded for fast reactor support

World Nuclear News, June 11, 2019

Six university projects will develop instrumentation and tools for the USA's forthcoming Versatile Test Reactor (VTR) using USD1.7 million in funding just allocated by Idaho National Laboratory (INL).

The projects are at Virginia Commonwealth University, University of Michigan, Massachusetts Institute of Technology, Oregon State University, and Purdue University has two. The awards are between USD150,000 and USD375,000 each.

<https://world-nuclear-news.org/Articles/Research-funding-awarded-for-fast-reactor-support>

IAEA focus on verification and development

World Nuclear News, June 12, 2019

"I am worried about increasing tensions over the Iranian nuclear issue," said Yukiya Amano, the Director General of the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA). In a statement to the agency's board of governors on 10 June he called on Iran to fully implement its commitments.

Since January 2016, the IAEA has been verifying and monitoring Iran's implementation of its nuclear-related commitments under the Joint Comprehensive Plan of Action (JCPOA) agreed in 2015 between Iran and the P5+1 (China, France, Germany, Russia, the UK and the USA). The USA has since withdrawn from the

agreement and increasing tensions have seen Iran's Supreme National Security Council issue an order on 8 May to stop some of Iran's measures.

<https://www.world-nuclear-news.org/Articles/IAEA-focus-on-verification-and-development>

R. Op-Ed

INDIA

A blueprint for national security for Modi 2.0 govt

G.D.Bakshi, Livemint, June 4, 2019

The 2019 election was unique. It was fought on the plank of national security and India's response to Pakistan's unabated proxy war over the past 30 years. This, surprisingly, made caste arithmetic irrelevant. The tipping point had come with the brutal killing of 40 Central Reserve Police Force troopers at Pulwama. For the first time, India called Pakistan's nuclear bluff and reacted across the border with a massive air strike at the Balakot terror camp. This was the first time in the last 50 years that Indian war planes had crossed into Pakistan. The response of the people was one of euphoric catharsis and got the National Democratic Alliance (NDA) a landslide victory in the elections.

The opposition completely misjudged the popular mood. They could have aligned themselves with the popular angst by demanding a far more energetic response after the Pakistani retaliation on 27 February. Instead, they chose to downplay the national security agenda altogether and strike a pacific stance that would devalue and even question the Indian strikes.

<https://www.livemint.com/opinion/columns/opinion-a-blueprint-for-national-security-for-modi-2-0-govt-1559671297685.html>

The New India Versus The Nuclear Revolution: The Future Of Crises Among Nuclear Powers

T. Negeen Pegahi, War on the Rocks, June 12, 2019

What is going on with relations among nuclear-armed states these days? Last

February, the United States was threatening a “bloody nose” attack against North Korea. This February, India actually conducted airstrikes against Pakistan. Next February, well, that’s anyone’s guess but odds are it won’t be anything good. Does no one read *The Meaning of the Nuclear Revolution* anymore??

Robert Jervis’ seminal book and other classics of nuclear strategy argue that survivable nuclear weapons fundamentally change the nature of statecraft, with a number of implications for the behavior and outcomes we should expect between nuclear powers. Jervis writes: If nuclear weapons have had the influence that the nuclear-revolution theory indicates they should have, then there will be peace between the superpowers [the pair of nuclear-armed adversaries on which he was focused], crises will be rare, neither side will be eager to press bargaining advantages to the limit, the status quo will be relatively easy to maintain, and political outcomes will not be closely related to either the nuclear or the conventional balance.

<https://warontherocks.com/2019/06/the-new-india-versus-the-nuclear-revolution-the-future-of-crises-among-nuclear-powers/>

Imran needs a change in strategy and new pair of spectacles to read Modi’s India

Shishir Gupta, Hindustan Times, June 14, 2019

For Pakistan rulers, Kashmir is the preferred antidote to domestic troubles since independence. When Prime Minister Imran Khan says that he wants to resolve the main sticking point in bilateral relations, namely Kashmir, with Prime Minister Narendra Modi before walking into the SCO Summit at Bishkek, it sounds like a stuck record playing a bad rendition of Yesterday Once More.

In an interview to Russian state-run media agency Sputnik, PM Khan says that Kashmir can be resolved if the two governments decide to tackle it together. Euphemistically, from Pakistan’s perspective, all it requires is some minor cartographic changes so that

15,948 square kilometres of the Kashmir Valley is handed over to Pakistan since it has a Muslim majority. And as if on auto-mode, the two globally designated terrorists Lashkar-e-Tayebba (LeT) Chief Hafiz Saeed and Jaish-e-Mohammed (JeM) Chief Masood Azhar – among many more – can then go back to their traditional occupations along with their jihadist cadre.

<https://www.hindustantimes.com/analysis/imran-s-pakistan-needs-to-move-beyond-kashmir-and-terror-to-engage-modi-s-india/story-blVZXaTdk7cGN9mDd6975K.html>

PAKISTAN

The evolving relationship between Pakistan and Iran

Muhammad Asif Noor, Daily Times, June 2, 2019

As the countries of the Muslim world are about to have largest gathering of their unique forum of Organization of Islamic Conference in Riyadh this week, Pakistan and Iran have developed a thaw in relations to build the synergies for evolution of their deep-rooted relations. In the wake of ongoing stress and strains between Tehran and Washington, Javad Zarif, Foreign Minister of Iran was on his recent urgent spree to different capitals of the regional countries including China, Japan, India and Turkmenistan before his presence in Islamabad to meet at the higher levels of civilian and military commands. Amid the tension in the region and keeping in view Pakistan’s formidable role in the geopolitics of the Persian Gulf where the South Asian nuclear armed Islamic country is finding a tough balance between Riyadh and Tehran. Presence of Iranian Foreign Minister before these important meetings of the regional stakeholders in a tense situation, is meant to convince Pakistan to play a constructive role in pushing or influencing Riyadh to soften its regional stance towards Iran. Lest not forget Pakistan’s relations Saudi Arabia and their both being strong allies of USA. The visit was also important to keep the backdoor diplomatic channels to be utilized to remove the tension and seek

assistance from allies.

<https://dailytimes.com.pk/405190/the-evolving-relationship-between-pakistan-and-iran/>

Pakistan & Sino-US cold war

Munir Akram, Dawn, June 9, 2019

After the secretive Bilderberg meetings in Switzerland last week, Martin Wolf, the respected *Financial Times* economic columnist, wrote an op-ed entitled: 'The 100 year fight facing the US and China'. Wolf's conclusions are significant:

"...[R]ivalry with China is becoming an organising principle of US economic, foreign and security policies"; "The aim is US domination. This means control over China, or separation from China". This effort is bound to fail. "This is the most important geopolitical development of our era. ...[I]t will increasingly force everybody else to take sides or fight hard for neutrality"; "Anybody who believes that a rules-based multilateral order, our globalised economy, or even harmonious international relations, are likely to survive this conflict is deluded".

Pakistan is near if not in the eye of the brewing Sino-US storm. Neutrality is not an option for Pakistan. The US has already chosen India as its strategic partner to counter China across the 'Indo-Pacific' and South Asia. The announced US South Asia policy is based on Indian domination of the subcontinent. Notwithstanding India's trade squabbles with Donald Trump, the US establishment is committed to building up India militarily to counter China.

<https://www.dawn.com/news/1487040>

Eyes on the prize

Misbah Arif, Daily Times, June 11, 2019

The Nuclear Suppliers Group is a multilateral export control regime and a group of nuclear supplier countries that seek to prevent nuclear proliferation by controlling the export of materials, equipment and technology that can be used to manufacture nuclear weapons. It was founded in response to the Indian nuclear test in 1974. In May 2016, Pakistan formally

applied for NSG membership. Pakistan wants to access nuclear technology through the membership of the NSG to meet the rising demand of electricity through nuclear energy. Pakistan has the credentials that entitle it to becoming a member of all multi-lateral strategic export control regimes, including the NSG. Moreover, Pakistan has the expertise, manpower and infrastructure, as well as the ability to supply NSG controlled items, goods and services for a range of nuclear applications for peaceful uses.

Pakistan has all the credentials that make it eligible to be an NSG member state. Pakistan is party to several international nonproliferation and disarmament related arrangements. It has a robust and comprehensive export control regime and has an independent and autonomous regulatory body. Pakistan cooperates internationally with the International Atomic Energy Agency, the CERN and the SESAME to explore the peaceful application of nuclear technology. Pakistan is one of the few states in the world to operate a complete nuclear fuel cycle. It is benefiting from several applications of nuclear technology, which include agriculture, medicine, environment protection, power production. Pakistan is in a position to provide nuclear fuel cycle services under the IAEA safeguards.

<https://dailytimes.com.pk/410140/eyes-on-the-prize/>

USA

Could Trump Trash The Nuclear Test Ban Treaty?

Michael Krepon, Forbes, June 3, 2019

Think of what the world would be like if Russia, the United States, China, India and Pakistan were testing nuclear weapons. They are not because of the Comprehensive Test Ban Treaty (CTBT) which is responsible for shutting down nuclear testing by major and regional powers for more than two decades. Walking away from the CTBT would be extraordinarily dumb and

dangerous, but the Trump administration has taken a step in this direction.

The CTBT was negotiated in 1996, but it isn't solidly in place. While Russia has signed and ratified it, Senate Republicans rejected it in 1999. China, like the United States, has signed but not ratified. There are other holdouts, including India and Pakistan. And yet none of these states has tested nuclear weapons since 1998. When a treaty is negotiated, it's common diplomatic practice not to undercut its objectives while awaiting its entry into force. Hence the two-decades-long moratorium on testing by every nuclear-armed state except North Korea.

<https://www.forbes.com/sites/michaelkrepon/2019/06/03/could-trump-trash-the-nuclear-test-ban-treaty/#623514572514>

Will Arms Control Foes Take Aim at Another Treaty?

Carol Giacomo, The New York Times, June 4, 2019

With the United States, Russia and China pouring billions of dollars into modernizing their military arsenals, the risk of a new arms race grows while the arms control system that has held off the threat of nuclear annihilation grows weaker.

Russia has violated the Intermediate-Range Nuclear Forces Treaty, which eliminated American and Russian missiles in Europe, since at least 2014, when the Obama administration accused it of deploying a cruise missile of illegal range. Because of that, President Trump said early this year that he would abandon the pact.

<https://www.nytimes.com/2019/06/04/opinion/nuclear-test-ban.html>

In Face-Off With Iran, Escalation May Depend on Who Prevails Inside Washington and Tehran

David E. Sanger and David D. Kirkpatrick, New York Times, June 15, 2019

As Iran and the United States face off in the Gulf of Oman, the risk may not be just at sea, but in Tehran and Washington, where

both Iranian and American hard-liners are seizing on the moment for political advantage.

The attacks this week on two tankers in the gulf, instantly attributed to Iran by Secretary of State Mike Pompeo and then President Trump, emboldens the hard-liners in both countries, each able to argue their longtime adversary is itching for war.

<https://www.nytimes.com/2019/06/15/world/middleeast/trump-iran-hard-liners.html?login=smartlock&auth=login-smartlock>

RUSSIA

Russia vs. Israel: The War That Could Become a Nuclear Disaster

Michael Peck, National Interest Blog, June 10, 2019

There are deconfliction mechanisms in place, including a hotline between the Israeli and Russian militaries. "We are very strict about informing the Russians about our activities and that their operational picture is up to date," said the IDF official. Yet those procedures were not sufficient to avoid a downing of a Russian plane.

Israel remains determined to continue pounding Iranian forces in Syria in a bid to keep Tehran's forces away from Israel's northern border. At the same time, Russia has thousands of troops in Syria that could be caught in the crossfire — or even become belligerents if Moscow tires of its Syrian ally being pummeled.

<https://nationalinterest.org/blog/buzz/russia-vs-israel-war-could-become-nuclear-disaster-61892>

WEST ASIA

Iran's isolation on the international stage is growing

Osama Al-sharif, Arab News, June 04, 2019

The Al Marzoqah was one of four tankers attacked near the Port of Fujairah. (Reuters)

There were a number of important messages coming out of Makkah last week after Saudi Arabia successfully hosted three important summits: Gulf Cooperation Council (GCC), Arab League, and Organization of Islamic Cooperation. The first message was the almost unanimous condemnation of Iran's continuous meddling in regional affairs and its growing threat to the stability of the region as a whole. Only Iraq objected to the Arab League's final communique, while Qatar expressed reservations over the Arab League and GCC statements two days after the meetings had concluded.

<http://www.arabnews.com/node/1506386>

Iran rejects French call for wider talks beyond nuclear deal

Arab News, June 7, 2019

Iran rejected French calls for wider international talks over its nuclear and military ambitions, saying on Friday it would only discuss its existing 2015 atomic pact with world powers, state TV reported. French President Emmanuel Macron had said a day earlier that Paris and Washington both wanted to stop Tehran getting nuclear arms and new talks should focus on curbing its ballistic missiles program and on other issues. But Iran's foreign ministry said it would not hold any discussions beyond the 2015 pact which US President Donald Trump abandoned last year as he pressed for tougher restrictions.

<http://www.arabnews.com/node/1507481/middle-east>

Qatar admits having different 'assessment' to US on Iran threat

Arab News, June 10, 2019

Qatar has its "own assessment" different to the US on policy towards Iran, the country's foreign minister said Sunday. The comments are expected to alarm members of the Trump administration, which has beefed up America's military presence in the region after an increased Iranian threat. Qatar hosts the biggest US military base in the Middle East but has become increasingly close to Iran despite Washington viewing Tehran as the world's largest state sponsor of terror

Since withdrawing from the 2015 agreement to curb Iran's nuclear program, President Donald Trump has ramped up sanctions and vowed to curb Tehran's destabilizing activities in the region. Speaking in London, Qatari Foreign Minister Sheikh Mohammed bin Abdulrahman Al-Thani said Qatar respected US policy on Iran, but added: "We have our own assessment."

<http://www.arabnews.com/node/1508516/middle-east>

Germany must respond to its approach

Hanif Ghaffari, Tehran Times, June 11, 2019

Germany cannot play the role of an independent actor in the world of diplomacy! Unfortunately, Germany, along with Britain and France, held talks with the Trump government in 2017 on a nuclear deal with Iran. Berlin has agreed to change the nuclear deal with Iran! The point is that German Chancellor Angela Merkel, like Donald Trump, is an unreliable politician. German Foreign Minister Heiko Maas is now trying to play a mediating role for Iran and the United States! This is while Berlin must only respond to the non-compliant behavior of itself and of Europe in relation to a nuclear deal with Iran.

Over the last year, the European troika has not only done anything to revive the nuclear deal or bring any kind of benefit to the Iranian nation, but they have actually backed up U.S. by developing new plans to undermine Iran's "missile work", and diminish its "power in the region" as well as its "nuclear technology".

<https://www.tehrantimes.com/news/436823/Germany-must-respond-to-its-approach>

Post-JCPOA talks and the Deal of Century: Two sides of the same coin

Mohammad Mehdi Tehranchi, Tehran Times June 11, 2019

Amid all these pressures from U.S., Europe could not, or did not want to, find a way

to deal with U.S. who had chosen to violate its nuclear deal with Iran and Iran was left alone with a useless deal. Following Iran's strategies that were based on waiting and not taking any immediate action, on the anniversary of America's withdrawal from the deal, U.S. revealed the second part of its scenario: offering Iran to negotiate for signing a new agreement and suggesting the Deal of the Century that would guarantee the safety of the Zionist regime.

We still remember that Condoleezza Rice, U.S. Secretary of State during the administration of George W. Bush, called for redrawing the Middle East map by "the Greater Middle East Project". The idea of removing borders in Middle East was put forward again during Obama's presidency; this time by offering a Islamic State for Iraq and Sham (ISIS). This project, eventually, led to the creation of ISIS, in a bid to protect the Zionist Regime. It seems that both democrat and republican governments have been adopting the same foreign policy and it proves that the main policy of these both American parties are the same.

<https://www.tehrantimes.com/news/436822/Post-JCPOA-talks-and-the-Deal-of-Century-Two-sides-of-the-same>

Nuclear Iran: Europe should get behind Trump

Saudi Gazette, June 12, 2019

Now that the IAEA has finally flagged up an increase in the Iranian nuclear program it is time for the other signatories to the Geneva Accord to review their position. China and Russia of course are entirely content with the Iran's destabilizing behavior and are not about to pressure Tehran to sticking to its commitments. But it is an entirely different matter for the Europeans. Brussels has been seeking to frustrate Trump's re-imposition of economic sanctions on Iran and has deplored his tearing up of Obama's useless deal. The European attitude was clearly driven by commercial rather than geopolitical considerations. It is now time for Europe to get behind Washington and give up its opposition to Trump's hard line. Tehran is intent on bringing yet more bloody chaos to

its Arab neighbors. The longer European capitals try to fudge this issue, the greater the danger not simply to the region but to international peace.

<http://saudigazette.com.sa/article/568683/Opinion/Editorial/Nuclear-Iran-Europe-should-get-behind-Trump>

Is It Too Late To Stop Iran's Permanent Presence In Syria?

Eric R Mandel, The Jerusalem Post, June 11, 2019

The national security advisers of Russia, the United States, and Israel are scheduled to meet in Jerusalem later this month for what former US ambassador to Israel Daniel Shapiro called a potential "game changer on pushing Iran's military out of Syria." Russia has, with Iranian assistance, gained everything it set out to accomplish in Syria. It expanded its naval and air bases and elevated its international status, while diminishing and marginalizing America.

However, Russia, Israel and the United States may now share some common interest in keeping the Iranian regime from getting what it wants - a permanent presence in Syria. Moving forward, Iran may be more a headache than an asset for Russian interests. This month Russia expelled Iranian allied militia from the Russian naval base in Tartus on the Mediterranean coast of Syria.

<https://www.jpost.com/Opinion/Is-it-too-late-to-stop-Irans-permanent-presence-in-Syria-592188>

Stop Iran!

Jerusalem Post, June 11, 2019

Yukiya Amano, director-general of the International Atomic Energy Agency, said on Monday that Iran is increasing its production of enriched uranium as part of its quest to build nuclear weapons.

Amano's statement is important because it marks the first time since the signing of the 2015 Iran nuclear deal that the UN's nuclear watchdog has indicated that Iran

is violating its nuclear-related commitments.

Talking to reporters in the IAEA's Vienna headquarters, Amano said that the Iran deal – known officially as the JCPOA – was “under tension,” adding that Tehran’s “production rate [of uranium] is increasing” – although he could not say by how much.

<https://www.jpost.com/Opinion/Stop-Iran-592186>

Hezbollah's Most Devastating Threat to Israel? Not Its Missiles

David Daoud, Haaretz, June 12, 2019

Israel's ground troops are physically and operationally capable of defeating Hezbollah, but the Iranian-backed militia has waged a psychological war of such effectiveness that the IDF soldiers feel deterred from believing in their capacities against them. Indeed, fear is Hezbollah's most potent weapon. For 37 years, the group has used fear to deter Israel from ever fully attempting to uproot the group.

<https://www.haaretz.com/israel-news/premium-hezbollah-s-propaganda-war-threatens-israel-far-more-than-its-missiles-1.7345897>

Washington Watch: Is Trump Helping The Saudis Go Nuclear?

Douglas Bloomfield, The Jerusalem Post, June 13, 2019

US President Donald Trump recently took another step toward bringing Saudi Arabia into the nuclear club. While Israeli-Saudi ties have warmed in recent years, helping the desert kingdom go nuclear – with its ongoing support for the most extreme Islamic radicals in the world – can hardly be good for the Jewish state.

Secret negotiations with the US Energy Department over many months have led Washington to “transfer highly sensitive US nuclear technology, a potential violation of federal law,” to Saudi Arabia, according to House Oversight Committee sources cited by The Washington Post.

<https://www.jpost.com/Opinion/Washington-Watch-Is-Trump-helping-the-Saudis-go-nuclear-592310>

Syrian WMD Proliferation Could Set the Middle East on Fire

Peter Brookes, The National Interest Blog, June 8, 2019

It's hard to conceive that the situation in Syria could get any worse – but it might. Besides the tremendous bloodshed during the eight-year-old civil war – that included the rise and fall of the Islamic State – the world witnessed the Syrian regime's almost unbridled use of chemical weapons to savagely work to break its opponents' will.

Besides the tremendous bloodshed during the eight-year-old civil war – that included the rise and fall of the Islamic State – the world witnessed the Syrian regime's almost unbridled use of chemical weapons to savagely work to break its opponents' will.

<https://nationalinterest.org/feature/syrian-wmd-proliferation-could-set-middle-east-fire-61377>

Introducing Nuclear Weapons to the Middle East

Walter L. Hixson, Washington Report, June 2019

If The National Interest Mandates that the United States go to war to stop the spread of nuclear weapons in the Middle East then we should have begun bombing Israel in the 1960s.

Frequently lost in the discussion over the Iran nuclear program is the irony that it was of course Israel that first introduced nuclear weapons to the region and did so after repeatedly and blatantly deceiving its “special ally,” the United States, in the process. As discussed below, today's hostility toward Iran may not primarily be about nuclear weapons, but the Trump administration will maximize the “Iran nuclear threat” as a propaganda theme in the buildup toward a possible U.S.-Israel war targeting Iran and Hezbollah.

Israel of course maintains a stony silence about its own nuclear arsenal. On this, as with almost any other matter, the United States complies with Israel's wishes.

History shows the reverse clearly has not been the case.

<https://www.wrmea.org/2019-june-july/introducing-nuclear-weapons-to-the-middle-east.html>

EAST ASIA

Abe needs to convince Trump to ease tensions with Iran

The Asahi Shimbun, June 14, 2019

Prime Minister Shinzo Abe's trip to Iran to help ease the confrontation between Washington and Tehran has been an unusual diplomatic attempt at peace mediation by the leader of Japan, a pacifist nation in the Far East. Abe should continue acting as a fair and effective peace mediator to set a precedent for Japan's broad international contribution in the future. Abe visited Tehran, whose relationship with Washington is fraught with rising tensions, and met with President Hassan Rouhani and Supreme Leader Ali Khamenei. It was the first visit to Iran by a sitting Japanese prime minister in 41 years.

Khamenei, the most powerful personality in Iran, seldom holds talks with a Western leader. Abe's meeting with him is significant if only as a rare direct communication with the powerful ayatollah. As a country with friendly relations with both the United States and Iran, Japan has a reasonable role to play in efforts to ease the tensions between the two nations.

<http://www.asahi.com/ajw/articles/AJ201906140031.html>

SOUTH KOREA

From nukes toward democracy

Eugene Lee, Korea Times, June 7, 2019

Central Asia today is undergoing a dramatic change. President Moon's recent visit to the region is yet another confirmation of its importance to South Korea. The support for Moon's "New Northern Policy" from Turkmenistan, Uzbekistan and Kazakhstan along with the pledge to further their partnerships is becoming a priority, while

continuing efforts to expand cooperation on multiple fronts. Between the three visited states, Kazakhstan stands out, as on June 9 it will hold its presidential election, an important event in several ways. Here I will lay out a few details and the stakes for North East Asia.

Why is it important for South Korea? Kazakhstan has been actively participating in global affairs, including, most recently, the resolution of the Syrian conflict. It has the potential for North Korean engagement and can be an example of normalization. From an economic perspective, vigorously improving Kazakhstan's investment climate, making the country an important investment destination in Asia in the face of rising U.S.-China trade tensions, puts the country in a new light for South Korea's businesses to overarch China and build a springboard for cooperation with Central Asia and even further into Europe. South Korea must seize the opportunity to develop closer ties with Kazakhstan and the region and utilize the diplomatic and economic potential for the improvement of North Eastern regional security and the economic climate. I have every reason to see it in the light of cooperation for peace and prosperity.

http://www.koreatimes.co.kr/www/opinion/2019/06/137_270076.html

NORTH KOREA

Third NK-US summit is possible despite lack of progress on denuclearization: analysts

Yonhap, Korea Herald, June 9, 2019

North Korean leader Kim Jong-un and US President Donald Trump could meet for a third summit later this year even without much progress toward dismantling the regime's nuclear weapons program, analysts here said. At their earlier summits, the first of which took place a year ago on June 12 in Singapore, Kim and Trump sought to strike a deal that would lead to the dismantlement of North Korea's weapons of mass destruction programs in

exchange for the lifting of crippling sanctions on the regime.

Experts asked by Yonhap News Agency were divided on how far the two sides have come since the Singapore summit, with some saying the tensions of 2017 have eased and others arguing the prospects for North Korea's denuclearization have only worsened. But most agreed that the two charismatic leaders will seek a third summit within the year. "A third Trump-Kim summit is a near certainty for 2019 – you can take that prediction to the bank," said Harry Kazianis, senior director of Korean studies at the Center for the National Interest. "Both sides came too close to a deal in Hanoi to give up now."

http://www.koreaherald.com/view.php?ud=20190609000018&ACE_SEARCH=1

'North Korea unlikely to change position on denuclearization'

Lee Min-hyung, Korea Times, June 10, 2019

The Osaka meeting will be attended by key regional leaders including Chinese President Xi Jinping and U.S. President Donald Trump, all of whom have sizable stakes in the denuclearization process. At the summit, President Moon Jae-in is widely expected to pitch his ambitious idea of partial sanctions easing on North Korea and encourage the United States, Japan, China and Russia to stand behind this for an early resumption of the denuclearization talks. Trump, North Korean leader Kim Jong-un and President Moon all deserve credit for helping create a moment of "real diplomatic promise," but political observers in Seoul note that the moment of promise has curdled "quite unexpectedly" into possibly a tragic missed chance.

They believe that the summit is unlikely to serve as a venue to significantly change the ongoing deadlock in talks on denuclearization of the Korean Peninsula, nor open a path to mutual trust between Washington and Pyongyang. "North Korea remains very firm in its determination not to change its position," Shin Beom-chul, a

researcher at the Asan Institute for Policy Studies, said. "North Korea is showing no signs of shifting its position now, and under the circumstance, Moon's peace efforts will unlikely generate the desired outcome."

http://www.koreatimes.co.kr/www/nation/2019/06/113_270367.html

S. Think Tanks

Nuclear Newcomers: Getting Organized for Success

Elisabeth Dyck, International Atomic Energy Agency, June 4, 2019

Coordination among stakeholders is key for any complex undertaking. Introducing nuclear power is no different. The IAEA has recently issued a publication that can help nuclear newcomer countries set up and maintain an effective coordination mechanism, referred to as a nuclear energy programme implementing organization (NEPIO). A NEPIO is an important element of the IAEA Milestones Approach, an internationally accepted, comprehensive framework for nuclear power programme development.

Responsibilities and Functions of a Nuclear Energy Programme Implementing Organization, published in the IAEA Nuclear Energy Series (No. NG-T-3.6 (Rev. 1)), describes a set of practical and detailed responsibilities, functions and activities that national authorities can use as guidance. This publication, which represents a significant revision of a document first issued in 2009, takes into account nearly 10 years of experience and good practices of countries that are introducing or have recently introduced nuclear power, as well as lessons learned during Integrated Nuclear Infrastructure Review (INIR) missions and IAEA technical assistance activities to newcomer countries.

<https://www.iaea.org/newscenter/news/nuclear-newcomers-getting-organized-for-success>

Important for Iran to Implement its JCPOA Commitments, IAEA Director General Says

Aabha Dixit, International Atomic Energy Agency, June 10, 2019

It is essential that Iran fully implements its nuclear-related commitments under the Joint Comprehensive Plan of Action (JCPOA), IAEA Director General Yukiya Amano told the Agency's Board of Governors today.

Mr Amano noted the announcement by Iran's Supreme National Security Council on 8 May that it had "issued an order to stop some of Iran's measures" under the JCPOA.

"I am worried about increasing tensions over the Iranian nuclear issue," he said. "As I have constantly emphasised, the nuclear-related commitments entered into by Iran under the JCPOA represent a significant gain for nuclear verification. I therefore hope that ways can be found to reduce current tensions through dialogue. It is essential that Iran fully implements its nuclear-related commitments under the JCPOA."

<https://www.iaea.org/newscenter/news/important-for-iran-to-implement-its-jcpoa-commitments-iaea-director-general-says>

Wider Implementation of IAEA Code of Conduct to Enhance Safety and Security: Review Meeting Concludes

Nathalie Mikhailova, International Atomic Energy Agency, June 11, 2019

By intensifying the implementation of the IAEA Code of Conduct on the Safety and Security of Radioactive Sources and its supplementary Guidance documents, countries are strengthening radiation safety and nuclear security not only domestically, but also internationally. This was the conclusion of a meeting, which reviewed implementation of the Code of Conduct and its Guidance documents, held in Vienna from 27 to 31 May. Over 190 technical and legal experts from 103 countries and three non-governmental organizations attended the meeting.

The Code of Conduct describes how countries can ensure the safety and security of radioactive sources, from the stage of initial production to their final disposal. To date, 137 countries have made a political commitment to implement the Code of Conduct, which is not legally binding. The Code of Conduct is supplemented by Guidance documents on the Import and Export of Radioactive Sources and on the Management of Disused Radioactive Sources.

<https://www.iaea.org/newscenter/news/wider-implementation-of-iaea-code-of-conduct-to-enhance-safety-and-security-review-meeting-concludes>

Decision to keep nuclear weapons data classified hurts US national security

Heather Wuest, Bulletin of Atomic Scientist, June 11, 2019

The Trump administration's decision to classify the total number of nuclear weapons that the United States possesses and the number of nuclear warheads dismantled in 2018 marks an abrupt change from the recent norm. Every year since 2010, the United States has chosen to declassify its nuclear stockpile and disarmament figures as part of an effort to encourage nuclear diplomacy and openness. But this year when the Federation of American Scientists asked the Pentagon for the figures to check its work in the Nuclear Notebook (a collection of world nuclear stockpile and disarmament information), the administration chose not to declassify.

<https://thebulletin.org/2019/06/hans-kristensen-on-how-the-tump-administrations-decision-to-keep-nuclear-weapons-data-classified-hurts-us-national-security/>

Senior Operators, Regulators and Managers Discuss Best Practices at Beijing Meeting

Jing Zhang, International Atomic Energy Agency, June 12, 2019

The global fleet of nuclear reactors is

slowly ageing – today, more than two-thirds of the world’s 450 operational nuclear power reactors are more than 30 years old. Many IAEA Member States are considering extending the operation of nuclear power plants (NPPs) beyond their licensed operating lifespans, mainly for energy security, economic and environmental reasons. To support their consideration of new plant life management strategies, and to ensure that the long-term operation (LTO) of nuclear power plants remains safe and sustainable, the IAEA organized an interregional visit to nuclear power facilities in Beijing and Fuqing, China, from 22 to 26 April.

<https://www.iaea.org/newscenter/news/strengthening-plant-life-management>

Trump Arms Control Plans Draw Criticism

Kingston Reif and Sheroin Taheran, Arms Control Association, June 2019

Amid growing concern about the future of U.S.-Russian nuclear arms control efforts, the Trump administration is still evaluating a potential extension of the 2010 New Strategic Arms Reduction Treaty (New START) and appears to lack a clear plan to achieve a newly announced goal of negotiating more comprehensive agreements with Russia and China.

A decision on whether to extend New START is one that President Donald Trump “will make at some point next year,” said Tim Morrison, senior director for weapons of mass destruction and biodefense at the National Security Council, in May 29 remarks at the Hudson Institute in Washington.

<https://www.armscontrol.org/act/2019-06/news/trump-arms-control-plans-draw-criticism>

Despite Threat to Breach Limits, Iran Remains Below the Nuclear Deal’s Caps

Arms Control Association, June, 2019

The International Atomic Energy Agency’s (IAEA) most recent report on Iran’s implementation of the 2015 multilateral

nuclear deal indicates that Tehran continues to adhere to the accord’s limits – a positive development after President Hassan Rouhani announced that Iran would reduce compliance with the agreement.

Specifically, the Supreme National Security Council stated May 8 that Iran would no longer be bound by the stockpile limits on heavy water and low-enriched uranium (LEU) put in place by the nuclear deal, known as the Joint Comprehensive Plan of Action (JCPOA). According to the May 31 IAEA report, Iran remains below those caps – for now (see below for details).

<https://www.armscontrol.org/blog/2019-06-05/despite-threats-breach-limits-iran-remains-below-nuclear-deals-caps>

T. Statements

DIA Statement on Lt. Gen. Ashley’s Remarks at Hudson Institute

Defence Intelligence Agency, USA, June 13, 2019

The following Defense Intelligence Agency statement responds to questions we have received about remarks DIA Director Lt. Gen. Robert P. Ashley, Jr., made at a Hudson Institute event May 29, 2019:

“The U.S. government, including the Intelligence Community, has assessed that Russia has conducted nuclear weapons tests that have created nuclear yield. Regarding China, the information raised at the Hudson Institute, coupled with China’s lack of transparency on their nuclear testing activities, naturally raise questions about those activities in relation to the “zero yield” nuclear weapons testing moratorium adhered to by the United States, the United Kingdom, and France. These are actions that the U.S. government characterizes as inconsistent with the commitments undertaken by the United States, the United Kingdom, and France.”

<https://www.dia.mil/News/Speeches-and-Testimonies/Article-View/Article/1875351/dia-statement-on-lt-gen-ashleys-remarks-at-hudson-institute/>

U.S. military intelligence steps up accusation against Russia over nuclear testing

Paul Sonne, Washington Post, June 13, 2019

The U.S. military intelligence agency stepped up its accusations against Russia over low-yield nuclear testing on Thursday, saying that the country has conducted nuclear weapons tests that resulted in nuclear yield.

The new statement from the Defense Intelligence Agency amounted to a more direct accusation against Russia, compared to hedged comments about Russian nuclear testing that DIA Director Lt. Gen. Robert P. Ashley Jr. made in a speech in Washington in late May.

“The U.S. Government, including the Intelligence Community, has assessed that Russia has conducted nuclear weapons tests that have created nuclear yield,” the DIA statement released Thursday said. The agency didn’t give any details about the alleged tests or release any evidence backing the accusation.

https://www.washingtonpost.com/world/national-security/us-military-intelligence-steps-up-accusation-against-russia-over-nuclear-testing/2019/06/13/2dadf2e2-8e26-11e9-b162-8f641ec3c04_story.html?hpid=hp_hp-top-table-main-russia%3Aaccusations%3Ahomepage%2Ft%3Ausa&utm_term=.af2cf7b15069

U. Interviews/Reports

The drama and the facts about Chernobyl

World Nuclear News, June 5, 2019

Craig Mazin - creator of the mini-series Chernobyl for television network HBO about the 1986 accident in Ukraine - has warned against “reactionary garbage” about the show, stressing that he is a supporter of nuclear energy.

In an interview with Slate published on 3 June, Mazin said there had been “really dumb” expectations the mini-series would show “three-headed babies, and spread lies, and tell people that nuclear power is horrendous, and no, it’s not”.

“For a million reasons, this was not an anti-nuclear polemic. It’s anti--Soviet

government, and it is anti-lie, and it is pro-human being. But anyone who thinks the point of this is that nuclear power is bad, is just, they’ve just missed it.”

A few months before the Chernobyl accident, the Challenger space shuttle had exploded and was another example of “a failure of a lot of people and institutions over a long period of time”, Mazin said. “When these things happen, we cannot immediately ask this simple question, ‘Well, who is to blame?’ We should presume that there’s a lot to blame, and the real question is ‘What do we do so this doesn’t happen again?’ That’s the question worth asking.”

MEDIA

Henry Fountain, a science writer on the Climate desk of *The New York Times*, toured the Chernobyl plant and the exclusion zone around it in 2014. In an article for the newspaper on 2 June, he wrote that the first thing to understand about the show is “a lot of it is made up”.

The producers of the mini-series “don’t sanitise the disaster”, Fountain wrote, but in some cases have gone too far, such as with the images of injuries caused by radiation exposure. Instead, they “simplify” it to meet the “demands of Hollywood and of production budgets”.

“But if you didn’t know much about Chernobyl you could be forgiven if, after watching, you thought the entire response and clean-up was run by two people, Valery Legasov and Boris Shcherbina, aided valiantly by a third, Ulana Khomyuk.”

Legasov, a member of the Academy of Sciences of the USSR, led the commission investigating the accident. Shcherbina, a vice-chairman of the Council of Ministers, supervised crisis management following the accident. Khomyuk is a fictitious character whose actions, Fountain wrote, were not realistic.

Among the factual inventions to aid dramatic effect, Fountain included the “blue light from the exposed reactor

shining high into the night sky” in the first episode. “Yes, nuclear reactors can produce a blue hue, from something called Cherenkov radiation, but no, there’s no way Unit 4 would have looked like [that],” he added.

INDUSTRY

World Nuclear Association notes that the show is a dramatisation of historical events and that there has been a large increase in web traffic to its Chernobyl information paper since the show began.

The London-based organisation said: “We hope that viewers are taking the opportunity to learn more about modern nuclear safety practices and just how important nuclear energy is for addressing climate change and meeting sustainable development objectives. Just last week, the executive director of the International Energy Agency, Fatih Birol, noted: ‘Without an important contribution from nuclear power, the global energy transition will be that much harder. Alongside renewables, energy efficiency and other innovative technologies, nuclear can make a significant contribution to achieving sustainable energy goals and enhancing energy security.’”

World Nuclear Association added: “The Chernobyl accident was serious and has resulted in long-term psychological and socio-economic impacts for the people affected. However, serious nuclear accidents are very rare and, even accounting for these, nuclear energy has caused far fewer deaths than any other form of electricity generation.

“It is worth remembering that the accident was more than 30 years ago and a lot has changed since then. It is interesting to note that all of the countries most affected by the accident - Ukraine, Belarus, Russia - are committed to expanding the use of nuclear energy today.”

PERSPECTIVE

In the 70-year history of nuclear power, there have been three major accidents - Three Mile Island in the USA (1979),

Chernobyl in Ukraine (1986) and Fukushima in Japan (2011).

According to the UN Scientific Committee on the Effects of Atomic Radiation, fewer than 100 people are believed to have died from radiation as a result of the Chernobyl accident to date. “This is a small fraction of the deaths which are caused by other major energy sources every single year,” World Nuclear Association said.

Research by James Hansen, an American adjunct professor directing the Program on Climate Science, Awareness and Solutions of the Earth Institute at Columbia University, found that, of the seven million deaths every year from air pollution, four million are from burning fossil fuels and the other three million from burning wood and dung.

The USA’s Nuclear Energy Institute wrote a blog, *A Viewer’s Guide to HBO’s Chernobyl Miniseries*, a few days before the show was first aired. In the blog, NEI explained the difference between the events at Chernobyl and an interpretation of them for a TV drama.

The mini-series correctly shows that there was an unprecedented steam explosion at Chernobyl that completely wrecked a reactor, NEI said.

“Firefighters and plant workers - sometimes through ignorance and sometimes because of altruistic self-sacrifice - exposed themselves to huge doses of radiation to try to limit the damage, NEI said. But other parts clearly are dramatised, it added. For example, one of the characters in the mini-series (Khomyuk) is there to “unravel the mystery” of what happened, but “in the real event there wasn’t much mystery”. The story is about “extreme management problems and a pattern of secrecy that wasn’t compatible with industrial safety”, it said.

<https://www.world-nuclear-news.org/Articles/The-drama-and-the-facts-about-Chernobyl>

Full Text of Pakistan Prime Minister Imran Khan's Interview

Sputnik, June 10, 2019

Before heading to Kyrgyzstan for the SCO summit, Pakistani Prime Minister Imran Khan met Sputnik for an exclusive interview – his first to a Russian media outlet since taking office. He explained what he expects from his meeting with President Putin, and commented on relations with India, US sanctions against Iran and the situation in Afghanistan.

Sputnik: Do you plan to have talks with the Russian leadership in the near future? Do you yourself plan any visits to Russia?

Imran Khan: I would love to visit Russia. I have – a long time ago – only been once. And, yes, I hope to meet the Russian leadership in this conference in Bishkek, the SCO meeting this coming week. So I hope to meet President Putin.

Sputnik: What are your expectations from this meeting?

Imran Khan: I think this will just be an informal meeting on the sides of the SCO conference. I already met him briefly during my visit to China, where there was conference by Chinese President Xi. So I met him, but this time I hope to have an informal chat with him. I already met the prime minister of Russia in China on my first visit.

Sputnik: The Russian military has announced recently that Russian troops will hold military exercises with Pakistani forces later this year. How do you assess military cooperation with Russia? Are there any plans to further strengthen cooperation between our armed forces?

Imran Khan: Yes. We have developed cooperation with Russia between our defence forces. There has always been meeting. I think our defence personnel have already met. And so, yes, we hope to deepen our contacts.

Most of the 50s, 60s, 70s were spent in the Cold War region, where India was close to the Soviet Union, and Pakistan was close to the United States. We were in different camps. Now things have changed. India is

also friendly with the United States, and Pakistan is also friendly with the US. So we no longer have the Cold War situation. It is refreshing that we have developed our contacts with Russia, and they are developing all the time.

Sputnik: Your country has been long importing US-made weapons, even became of the largest arms buyer, but now Russian arms seem to be getting a lot of attention in the region. Is Islamabad planning to purchase Russian weapons as well? Are you considering the purchase of the S-400 air defence systems?

Imran Khan: As I've said, once the Cold War was over. Previously Pakistan was tied to the US, and, as we all know, India was tied to the Soviet Union. And no longer is that situation there. First, we hope that our tension with India decreases, so we do not have to buy arms because we want to spend money on human development. But, yes, we are looking for arms from Russia, and I know our military is already in touch with the Russian military.

Sputnik: Has there been any progress on the Iran-Pakistan pipeline project? Are you planning to completely suspend the project due to the US sanctions?

Imran Khan: You see, at the moment there has not been much progress, and that is because of the sanctions put on Iran by the United States.

Sputnik: How do you assess the prospects for Pakistan's cooperation with Russia within the Shanghai Cooperation Organisation?

Imran Khan: We have exchanges, we develop more contacts, we improve our trade. Russia is an energy-surplus country. Pakistan has shortages in energy, so we hope to talk on those areas. We already are. Apart from defence, we want to also improve our trade in other areas with Russia.

Sputnik: Which areas do you mean?

Imran Khan: Well, this is what we are exploring. We hope our trade delegations

will soon go to Russia. We will invite Russian trade delegations here, get them opportunities to invest in Pakistan. I do believe that there is a Russian steel company, which is looking to invest in our steel mill in Karachi. In fact, it was made by Russia. The steel mill of Pakistan was made by the Russians a long time ago, I think in the 70s. **Before heading to Kyrgyzstan for the SCO summit, Pakistani Prime Minister Imran Khan met Sputnik for an exclusive interview – his first to a Russian media outlet since taking office. He explained what he expects from his meeting with President Putin, and commented on relations with India, US sanctions against Iran and the situation in Afghanistan.**

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Sputnik: Which areas do you mean?

Imran Khan: Well, this is what we are exploring. We hope our trade delegations will soon go to Russia. We will invite Russian trade delegations here, get them opportunities to invest in Pakistan. I do believe that there is a Russian steel company, which is looking to invest in our steel mill in Karachi. In fact, it was made by Russia. The steel mill of Pakistan was made by the Russians a long time ago, I think in the 70s. So the governments have to, the Indian government has to take this initiative. Unfortunately, as I've said, they do not do so before the elections. Now, I think, it is time for them to take the initiative, and so we can get back on the dialogue table. And, I repeat, the only difference, if we resolve that there will be peace in the subcontinent, that's Kashmir. Unfortunately, Kashmir can only be resolved if the people of Kashmir are given the right of self-determination, which was guaranteed to them by the United Nations in 1945. And they would be deprived of the right, and this use of force by the Indian government to subdue has backfired. The more force there has been used, the more the people of Kashmir have turned against the Indian government, the more radicalisation has come in the young people of Kashmir. And it is a future source of destabilisation of the continent. That's why it is very important to resolve the Kashmir issue.

Sputnik: Media have recently reported about the plans to construct a 700-km railroad connecting Uzbekistan, Russia, Afghanistan and Pakistan. Is there any specific timeline for its construction? What do you expect from this project?

Imran Khan: I think this is a tremendous project because connectivity between Pakistan going on through Afghanistan to Uzbekistan, to Russia will open up this whole region. And then, remember, from there it will go from Pakistan right down to Gwadar, which is the shortest route to the ocean. So it will open up the whole area. The difference is that we cannot give a timeline, because it depends on the amount of funds – can we generate enough funds for this railway. Secondly, it depends upon peace in Afghanistan. Although I believe that all, even the Taliban and the Afghan

government, all feel that this railway is important for the future of Afghanistan. So mainly it is the question of having the funds, but this is a great project for the future of the whole area, the whole region.

Sputnik: Pakistan and Afghanistan are set to hold high-level security talks in Islamabad this week. What do you expect from these talks? What items will be on the agenda?

Imran Khan: I can't say what items will be on the agenda because it will be between military personnel of both the countries, so they will best know how they can benefit from these talks, but I am not in the position to know exactly what sort of talks they would be.

Sputnik: Afghan President Ashraf Ghani will visit Pakistan later in June. What topics will be on the agenda of your talks with him?

Imran Khan: I've had a meeting with President Ghani in Saudi Arabia, just a week or so ago. We had a very good conversation, we talked about how Pakistan help Afghanistan in resolving the issue about the civil war that is going on there, how we can get the Taliban to talk to the Afghan government and how there can be peace in Afghanistan. So it is in the interest of Pakistan and Afghanistan for there to be peace in Afghanistan.

Because after Afghanistan the country that is most wanting there to be peace in Afghanistan is Pakistan because war that happens in Afghanistan affects the border line, border areas of Pakistan as well. Hence it is in the interest of both countries that after these long almost 40 years of military action, civil war, foreign invasion we feel that people of Afghanistan deserve peace. So Pakistan will be trying everything and is trying everything to help there to be peace, so that the Taliban start talking.

They are already talking to the Americans, and we hope that the Taliban will then talk to the Afghan government so that there is peace. And this is something we crave in Pakistan because it will not just be that will mean that Afghanistan will have stability, it will mean that it will open

up connectivity between the two countries, trade, the borderline areas, which have been devastated by this war on terror and then before that the civil war, then the US invasion of Afghanistan, before that the Soviets – so the whole area has been devastated. And so the only way is peace and then allow trade and connectivity.

Sputnik: How do you assess the role of Moscow and the Moscow format talks on the Afghan settlement? How can Russia further assist the Afghan settlement?

Imran Khan: Well, Russia has already taken steps. In Moscow, there were these talks held by the Russian government between Taliban and various members of Afghan political parties, so there was this broad-based talks held in Moscow, which is a very positive thing. And I think Moscow has a role to play, Moscow has influence in areas of Afghanistan. In fact, all the neighbours should help to bring about peace and stability in Afghanistan.

Sputnik: What would you like to say to our Russian and international audience?

Imran Khan: Well, to the Russian audience I would say the one thing – that Pakistan and Russia, and before was the Soviet Union, we did not have very good relationship with each other. And then, when [there was] the Afghan jihan, when the Soviets went to Afghanistan, we were in opposing camps. But times have changed now. And I am very happy that we now are moving closer to Russia, we are developing our relationship with them.

And we hope that this relationship will keep improving, and there will be more people-to-people contact – people from Russia will come over to Pakistan. It is one of the most diverse countries in the world. We are opening up Pakistan to tourism. And so we hope people from Russia will come to Pakistan. And, also, I hope to go and visit Russia on an official visit, I look forward to that. I just feel that it is important now that Russia and Pakistan move closer. There was a time when Russia used to look West for a long time, now Russia has started looking towards East and South. The SCO is a due organisation. And Pakistan for a long time used to look to the United States as the only

ally and trading partner, and of course Europe. Pakistan is also now with China becoming an economic giant. Pakistan is also with the CPEC, which is Belt&Road Initiative, one of the main initiatives of BRI is CPEC.

Pakistan has now opened up its vision of rather than being restricted to one or two countries, it's just opened up. And this is a new world coming up, things are changing in the world. The world is changing. The power centres are changing, or there are different power centres growing. And so we hope that in this new world order our relationship with Russia keeps improving.

Sputnik: What will you tell our international audience?

Imran Khan: Well, to the international audience I would say what I've just always believed in – that the world should move towards improving trade, helping the poor people of this world. The world should combine together to end poverty. It should reduce these tensions in the world. All the tensions that are going on in the Middle East, in the Muslim world we have – what should I say – one after another the Muslim world is suffering from some sort of war, some sort of bloodshed. And I'm a pacifist, who believes that military is no way of resolving issues in this world. And Pakistan has suffered a lot in these last 10-15 years after joining the US war on terror. And we've suffered a lot.

Our country lost over 70,000 people dead, and billions of dollars are lost to the economy. So my government believes that we want to be a country, which will bring countries together, which will play a part in reconciling differences between countries. But we would never want to be part of any country, which joins any war coalitions. We want to play a part in bringing countries together, and peace, and trade, so that we can have more harmony in this world. So I am an idealist and that is what I believe.

<https://sputniknews.com/interviews/201906131075835948-pakistan-imran-khan-russia-india-iran-exclusive/>

News and Current Affairs for Everyone

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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