

# Nuclear, Missile & Space Digest

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## A. INDIA

- 'Make in India' Initiative in Defence Sector
- India, U.S. nearing industrial security pact for defence tech transfers
- Thorium-Based Nuclear Reactors
- Power Generation Through Nuclear Energy
- Warship under Make in India
- Increase in Defence Budget
- Plan to make use of Nuclear Wastes
- India, China, Pakistan increasing size of their nuclear arsenals: report
- BHEL bags Rs 800 crore orders to set up 200 MW solar power plants
- Indian subcontinent faces N-bomb danger
- Defence ministry invites proposals to construct submarines
- India's NSG membership not on Kazakhstan meeting agenda, says China`
- 'Wuhan spirit' fails to break NSG deadlock as China continues to play hardball over India's entry into elite club
- IAF upgrading Mirage 2000, eyeing 5th Generation LCA
- Nuclear-Capable Prithvi II Missile Successfully Test Fired
- Why nuclear when India has an 'ocean' of energy

## B. CHINA

- China plans pilot nuclear reactor for heating in northeast
- Global AI chip market to grow tenfold in next five years: white paper
- Chinese nuclear power plants open up to public to prove confidence in safety
- There are 'fewer but newer' nuclear arms in the world, says Stockholm peace group
- Chinese netizens say H-bomb a backbone against US
- NUDT joint team wins the 10th International Space Orbit Design Competition
- Xi to pay state visit to DPRK at end of week
- Don't open 'Pandora's Box' in Middle East, China warns
- Armed airborne vehicle debuts at technology fair in Fuzhou
- Shanghai to host 2nd AI global conference in August
- Chinese President Xi Jinping gives North Korean leader Kim Jong-un his full support
- China hosts conference to promote AI ethical standards
- China vows unwavering determination to maintain Iranian nuclear deal: FM
- China plans world-class rare-earth cluster in Xiongan New Area



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- China's FC-31 fighter jet shows major upgrades at Paris Air Show
- China completes outer dome on overseas Hualong One reactor in Pakistan
- Xi begins two-day state visit to DPRK
- South China Sea: Satellite image shows Chinese fighter jets deployed to contested island
- Deployment of fighter jets in South China Sea 'necessary': expert
- Xi Jinping vows to work with North Korea on 'political resolution' to nuclear issue
- China eyes Argentina in global nuclear roll-out
- Chinese astronomers to search for cradles of new suns with FAST
- U.S. bars China supercomputer firms, institute from buying American parts
- Chinese military tests long-range, heavy aerial delivery with unmanned transport aircraft
- China's President Xi to attend G20 summit from June 27-29: Xinhua
- China stays open to international cooperation in space missions
- China launches new BeiDou satellite
- Speculation rife about DF-17 after video shows hypersonic vehicle
- Air-defense training held in Gobi desert
- Major Chinese nuclear power firm taps market of clean energy in S America
- Robots to replace 20 million manufacturing jobs by 2030: Oxford Economics  
China will count 14 million robots
- AIT reassures on US arms sales
- Submarine-launched missile meets national security needs: Defense Ministry
- Like plum blossom, big freeze will not kill China's innovation
- Plasma diagnostic system improved to ensure safe nuclear fusion
- China's Xi, Germany's Merkel agree Iran issue should be resolved peacefully: Xinhua
- Shanghai debuts AI incubator
- China fully committed to Iran nuclear deal: Chinese delegate
- ADASpace set to star in AI satellite constellation sphere

### C. PAKISTAN

- Outer dome installed at Karachi 2
- Installation Of Outer Containment Dome Of Nuclear Reactor In Pakistan To Boost Cooperation Between China, BRI Countries
- Rabbani questions rationale behind National Development Council's formation
- Pakistan ahead of India in terms of number of nuclear warheads: report
- Indian Navy fails to locate Pakistani submarine post Pulwama incident

### D. USA

- Trump says 'Iran did do it,' as U.S. seeks support on Gulf oil tanker attacks
- Trump Adds Troops After Iran Says It Will Breach Nuclear Deal
- Supreme Court allows Virginia to block mining of nation's largest uranium deposit
- Trump Careens Toward a Confrontation With Iran
- Kazatomprom chief warns against US uranium tariffs
- Apollo astronauts celebrate 50 years since first moon landing
- Trump says U.S. is 'very prepared' with regard to Iran
- How Donald Trump created one hell of a mess with Iran
- U.S. imposes sanctions on Russian firm over North Korea violations

- U.S. targets Russian firm for allegedly helping North Korea evade sanctions
- U.S. imposes sanctions on Russian firm over North Korea violations
- U.S. redoubles sanctions threat over S-400 as Erdogan vows retaliation
- U.S. House Speaker Pelosi says she is glad Trump called off Iran strikes
- Trump says he halted U.S. strike on Iran over possible casualties
- Oyster Creek licence transfer approved
- Trump eyes more Iran sanctions; military action still on table
- Trump says new sanctions on Iran to start Monday, dials back rhetoric
- U.S. sanctions on Iran are biting: Bolton
- Trump's Iran Reversal Raises Allies' Doubts Over His Tactics, and U.S. Power
- One-Third Of U.S. Supports Nuclear War On North Korea, Knowing It Would Kill One Million, Report Shows
- Trump says fresh U.S. sanctions on Iran will target supreme leader
- U.S. prods Iran for talks to ease Gulf tensions; Tehran dismisses sanctions threat
- Bolton says way is open for Iran to enter talks with U.S.
- Trump threatens attacks on Iran in retaliation for strike.
- Trump puts sanctions on Iranian supreme leader, other top officials
- Trump Threatens 'Obliteration' of Iran, as Sanctions Dispute Escalates
- SpaceX lifts 24 satellites into orbit after 'most difficult launch'
- U.S. envoy says Iran sanctions working, warns against nuclear breaches
- US-Iran tensions: All the latest updates
- U.S. Senate defeats measure to restrain Trump on Iran
- U.S., North Korea agree at DMZ to resume stalled nuclear talks: Trump
- U.S. Democratic candidates dump on Trump over North Korea meeting
- After surprise Trump-Kim meeting, U.S. and North Korea to reopen talks
- Trump says officials in 'final stages' of working out meeting with North Korea's Kim
- Trump meets with Kim, crosses border into North Korea

## E. EUROPE

- France, Germany to increase efforts to reduce Iran tensions, avert war: ministers
- France sends top diplomat to Iran for talks to reduce tensions
- British minister held 'constructive' talks with Iran on rising tensions
- Europeans warn Iran against reducing nuclear deal commitments
- NATO calls on Russia to destroy new missile, warns of response
- France warns Iran against violating nuclear commitments: foreign minister
- World's first underground nuclear waste storage moves forward in Finland

## F. RUSSIA

- INF Treaty 101: The Basics of the Ailing US-Russia Nuclear Pact
- Iran's actions on nuclear deal can be reversed - Russian diplomat
- Russian Su-27 fighter jets intercept US nuclear-capable B-52 bombers above Baltic & Black Seas - MoD
- A winnable nuclear war? New Pentagon document shows US military thinks so
- Putin says U.S. attack on Iran would be a catastrophe
- Meet Russia's Kiev-Class Aircraft Carrier (Armed with Nuclear Weapons)
- Hackers target Russia's defense, nuclear power industry secrets
- Russia's Rosatom Sees Foreign Revenues, New Products Fuelling Rapid Growth

- Nato gives Russia final warning over nuclear arms pact
- Putin aide: downed U.S. drone was in Iranian airspace
- Russia extends fuel supply to Armenian plant
- Russian Senate Rules to Leave Nuclear Arms Treaty in Unanimous Vote
- Shipbuilders to deliver heavy nuclear-powered missile cruiser to Russian Navy in 2022
- 'Russia, China, N. Korea eager to find common ground, but US push for superiority ruins everything'
- Russia Plans to Build Four Submarines Armed with Nuclear Drone-Torpedoes
- Russia: JCPOA parties to help Iran export heavy water, enriched uranium
- Russia New Stealth Submarine Is Armed with 72 Nuclear Warheads
- Russia beating U.S. in race for global influence, Pentagon study says

## WEST ASIA

### G. IRAN

- MP says U.S. well aware of Iran's defense power
- Tehran sets to release details on limiting nuclear commitments
- If I were Iran, I would want to pull out of the JCPOA as well: Mogherini's adviser
- Iran to scale back nuclear deal commitments: Tasnim
- Iran says it dismantled a U.S. cyber espionage network
- Iran will leave non-proliferation pact if EU fails to save nuclear deal: lawmaker
- Iran will leave non-proliferation pact if EU fails to save nuclear deal: lawmaker
- Iran will not wage war against any nation: Iranian president
- Top MP advises Europe to take Iran's ultimatum seriously
- Iran says there will be no war with United States: IRNA
- Iran condemns 'airspace violation' by U.S., warns of consequences
- Zarif: Iran to start second phase of limiting nuclear commitments on July 7
- Rouhani: Most intl. problems rooted in U.S. unilateralism
- Trump lauds Iran's decision not to shoot down manned plane
- Iran's Nuclear Standoff Is About to Enter a Perilous New Phase
- 'Europe does not want to pay the least price to save nuclear deal'
- Shamkhani says new steps to reduce commitment to JCPOA coming July 7
- Iran to take second step in limiting nuclear commitments 'more strongly'
- Cyber-attack against Iran: a failed strategy of U.S. presidents from Bush to Trump
- Iran will never pursue a nuclear weapon, says foreign minister
- Iran dismisses new U.S. sanctions, calls White House 'retarded'
- What Iran gains, what U.S. loses by downing U.S. drone
- Rouhani urges Europe to honor JCPOA, advises U.S. to return to the deal
- Leader: U.S. negotiations offer is a deception aimed to strip Iran of its defense power
- Iran will speed up enriching of uranium after deadline to Europe ends on Thursday: IRIB
- 'We only want to sell our oil,' Iran official says before nuclear talks
- U.S. defense chief tries to rally NATO allies on Iran as tensions simmer
- U.S. tells NATO it wants to avoid war with Iran: diplomats
- Exclusive: Iran still short of nuclear deal's enriched uranium cap - diplomats
- Iran's military will respond firmly if U.S. continues aggression, Rouhani says in phone call with Macron

- At the G20, Trump will see failure everywhere he looks
- Iran says saving nuclear deal not its problem, EU warns no alternative
- Iran likely to come up at G20 - Germany
- Iran seen breaking nuclear pact limit in days; Trump says 'no time pressure'
- Iran says progress at last-ditch nuclear deal talks 'not enough'
- Factbox: A breach of Iran nuclear deal could trigger sanctions snapback
- U.S. can't 'obliterate' Iran unless it uses banned arms: Zarif
- 'Last chance' to save nuclear deal at Vienna meeting, Iran warns
- European Talks With Iran End, Leaving Nuclear Issue Unsettled
- 'Not enough progress' in Vienna talks on salvaging Iran nuclear deal
- As America and Iran inch closer to war, new talks are needed
- Tulsi Gabbard: Neocons, Netanyahu, and Saudi Arabia have made it difficult for Trump to avoid war with Iran
- INSTEX is like a beautiful car without gasoline, Iran envoy says

## H. SAUDI ARABIA

- Royal Saudi and US air forces carry out exercise over Arabian Gulf
- Saudi crown prince, Pompeo send message to Iran: End hostility or pay the price

## I. TURKEY

- Turkey says U.S. stance on F-35 doesn't fit spirit of NATO partnership
- U.S. and Turkey in close touch on S-400/F-35 dispute: NATO commander

## J. ISRAEL

- Israel urges snapback sanctions on Iran if it breaches uranium limit
- Israel holds largest military drill amid US-Iran tensions

## EAST ASIA

### K. JAPAN

- Pope slated to visit Hiroshima and Nagasaki in late November
- 'Atomic-bombed cross' to return to cathedral in Nagasaki
- TEPCO wrongly reports problems at nuclear plant after earthquake
- Leaders of Japan, France share Middle East concerns

## L. NORTH KOREA

- Double-dealing tactics will never work
- DPRK-US joint statement set the stage for peninsula peace process'
- North Korea says U.S. extension of sanctions 'a hostile act': KCNA
- Multi-million dollar projects can boost North Korea-U.S. nuclear talks: South Korea minister
- World media run features to mark anniversary of DPRK-US summit
- North Korea says time running out for talks as U.S. envoy due in South
- North Korea's Kim not ready to denuclearize - U.S. intelligence agency chief
- N. Korea's official paper urges use of domestic goods to overcome sanctions
- NK says US should come up with new proposal if it wants to resume nuclear talks

## M. SOUTH KOREA

- Korea's nuclear reactor technologies allegedly leaked to UAE, US
- No. of nuclear warheads worldwide declines
- Moon, Saudi crown prince set to hold summit
- Dismantling Yongbyon is irreversible advance in NK's denuclearization: Moon

## N. CENTRAL, SOUTH AND SOUTHEAST ASIA

- Anti-Nuclear Initiatives of Kazakhstan
- Cabinet body okays fuel supply for Rooppur power plant

## O. WORLD/MISC

- Armenian regulator must address staff deficit, says IAEA
- NASA boss says 'no doubt' SpaceX explosion delays flight program
- Why Fear of Nuclear Threatens National Security And World Peace
- IAEA Conference on the Management of Spent Fuel from Nuclear Power Reactors Begins
- At U.N., Iran says atmosphere not right for U.S. talks, U.S. pushes diplomacy
- Supporting the International Dosimetry Chain: IAEA Symposium on Medical Radiation Dosimetry Concludes
- IAEA reports on verification activities in 2018
- Should a new Cold War be welcomed?
- Proven Clean Energy: Time to Talk About Nuclear Power?
- NSG: Credentials for membership - Zafar Nawaz Jaspal
- Ex-Foreign Ministry official says it's 'impossible' to continue co-op with Europe

## P. OP-ED

### India

- The Myth of Indian Strategic Restraint
- Why India's Hypersonic Missile Could Trigger A Nuclear War
- Why India Doesn't Need NSG Membership
- Modi Needs to Realise What's Good for the US Is Not Good for India
- 45 years since Pokhran-1 nuclear test: A page in history
- Submarines are game changer in maritime warfare: How's India placed

### Pakistan

- Effectiveness of Nuclear Deterrence of India and Pakistan in Pulwama incident
- Complex Pakistan-US relationship
- A new era in Pakistan-India relations
- Cold start for tactical nukes
- Benefits of nuclear power

### USA

- The US and Iran are playing nuclear roulette in the Gulf
- Strikes on Iran Approved by Trump, Then Abruptly Pulled Back
- Trump wants a new nuclear deal with Iran. No one else does.
- How Congress can strengthen US-India relations amid rising trade tensions and curb China threat

### Russia

- Will US elites give détente with Russia a chance? (by Stephen Cohen)

**West Asia****Iran**

- Why should China fully support Iran in Persian Gulf tensions?
- U.S. sanctions on Iran kill off faint hopes of diplomatic solution
- Escalation or Negotiation?
- Elisa Catalano Ewers, Ilan Goldenberg, Nicholas Heras and Kaleigh Thomas
- Iran's Nuclear Ambitions Could Be Stamped Out by a Crafty Trump Strategy
- Attack on Iran would be an unmitigated disaster for all
- Kushner behind Trump's withdrawal from Iran nuclear deal: writer
- Why Pompeo is travelling to Middle East?

**East Asia**

- The best-case scenario vs. the worst-case scenario
- Falling nuclear industry

**Q. THINK TANKS**

- The future of global nuclear power through the eyes of young Russian and American professionals
- Should nuclear power be expanded significantly into developing countries?
- What countries will be the most important in leading a significant expansion of global nuclear power-both from the perspective of the supplier and the user?
- Signaling and Catalysis in Future Nuclear Crises in South Asia: Two Questions after the Balakot Episode
- A not so modest proposal: Maintain the INF, extend New START, and involve new actors in arms control
- Bolton's Attempt to Sabotage New START

**R. STATEMENTS, REPORTS AND INTERVIEWS**

- Nuclear Operations
- Will Europe Get Its Own Bomb?
- Nuclear Risk Reduction : A Framework For Analysis
- Averting Orbital Apocalypse : Crucial new satellite-tracking technology relies on perceiving the nearly imperceptible.
- Comment by the Deputy Director of the Information and Press Department of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Russian Federation A. A. Kozhin in connection with the statements of the American General
- Impossible to predict where Trump will go with Iran policy: Falk
- Trump's willingness to talk with Iran is "Not a serious": Robert Hunter

## A. India

### 'Make in India' Initiative in Defence Sector

*PIB Delhi, June 24, 2019*

'Make in India' programme is being used by the Government for defence procurements by categorising the capital acquisition proposals under 'Buy (Indian-IDDMM)', 'Buy (Indian)', 'Buy and Make (Indian)', 'Make' and 'Strategic Partnership Model' categories of Defence Procurement Procedure (DPP)-2016. DPP -2016 focuses on institutionalising, streamlining and simplifying defence procurement procedure to give a boost to 'Make in India' initiative of the Government of India. In the last four financial years i.e. from 2015-16 to 2018-19, out of the total 210 contracts, 135 contracts have been signed with Indian Vendors including Defence Public Sector Undertakings/ Public Sector Undertakings/ Ordnance Factory Board and private vendors for capital procurement of defence equipment for Armed Forces such as Helicopters, Naval vessels, Radars, Ballistic Helmets, Artillery Guns, Simulators, Missiles, Bullet Proof Jackets, Electronic Fuzes, and Ammunition.

<http://pib.nic.in/PressReleseDetail.aspx?PRID=1575384>

### India, U.S. nearing industrial security pact for defence tech transfers

*Sanjeev Miglani, Reuters, June 25 2019*

India and the United States are closing in on an industrial security agreement that will allow the transfer of defence technology, sources said on Monday, ahead of U.S. Secretary of State Mike Pompeo's talks in New Delhi this week to promote strategic ties. Disputes over trade and protectionist moves have escalated between the two countries in recent months, but defence ties remain strong with Washington seeking to build Indian capabilities as a counterweight to China.

India has bought weapons worth more than \$15 billion from the United States over the past decade as it seeks to replace its Russian-

origin military and is in talks for helicopters, armed drones and a bigger Indian plan for local production of combat planes together worth billions of dollars. To allow for transfer of technology for building combat jets locally and other joint ventures, the United States had sought guarantees for the protection of classified information and technology.

<https://in.reuters.com/article/india-usa-pompeo/india-u-s-nearing-industrial-security-pact-for-defence-tech-transfers-idINKCN1TP1YX>

### Thorium-Based Nuclear Reactors

*PIB Delhi, June 26, 2019*

Department of Atomic Energy (DAE) has planned the use of large deposits of Thorium available in the country as a long-term option. A three-stage nuclear power programme has been chalked out to use Thorium as a viable and sustainable option, right at the inception of India's nuclear power programme. The three stage nuclear power programme aims to multiply the domestically available fissile resource through the use of natural Uranium in Pressurised Heavy Water Reactors, followed by use of Plutonium obtained from the spent fuel of Pressurised Heavy Water Reactors in Fast Breeder Reactors. Large scale use of Thorium will subsequently follow making use of the Uranium-233 that will be bred in Reactors. The utilisation of Thorium, as a practically inexhaustible energy source, has been contemplated during the third stage of the Indian Nuclear Programme. As is the case with generation of electricity from Uranium, there will be no emission of green house gases from Thorium also and therefore, it will be a clean source of energy.

Development of technologies pertaining to utilisation of thorium has been a part of ongoing activities in Department of Atomic Energy. With sustained efforts over the years, India has gained experience in different areas of Thorium fuel cycle. Efforts are currently on to enlarge the present Thorium related R&D work and activities to a bigger scale and towards development of technologies for the third

stage of our nuclear power programme. Safety has been accorded paramount importance in all Thorium technology development studies.

[http://pib.nic.in/  
PressReleaseDetail.aspx?PRID=1575801](http://pib.nic.in/PressReleaseDetail.aspx?PRID=1575801)

## Power Generation Through Nuclear Energy

*PIB Delhi, June 26, 2019*

Atomic Energy Commission (AEC) set up in 1958, is the apex body regarding use of nuclear energy, it formulates policy of the Department of Atomic Energy in all matters concerning nuclear energy. The targets for nuclear power generation are set on an annual basis, as a part of Nuclear Power Corporation of India Limited (NPCIL)'s annual Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) with Department of Atomic Energy (DAE) considering planned biennial shutdowns (BSD) of units during the year, connections of new units to the grid if any, during the year etc. The generation target for the year 2018-19 was 36904 Million Units (MUs).

[http://pib.nic.in/  
PressReleaseDetail.aspx?PRID=1575800](http://pib.nic.in/PressReleaseDetail.aspx?PRID=1575800)

## Warship under Make in India

*PIB Delhi, June 26, 2019*

The Government has taken initiatives in construction of warship under the "Make in India".

Major shipbuilding projects in respect to Indigenous Aircraft Carrier, Frigates, Submarines, Destroyers, Corvettes, Naval Offshore Patrol Vessels etc., are at various stages of execution at different Indian shipyards. The Navy designs most of its weapon intensive warships in-house and gets them built indigenously at Indian Shipyards. The Indian Navy has in-house capability to design complex frontline combatants like Corvettes, Stealth Frigates, Destroyers and Aircraft Carriers.

[http://pib.nic.in/  
PressReleaseDetail.aspx?PRID=1575779](http://pib.nic.in/PressReleaseDetail.aspx?PRID=1575779)

## Increase in Defence Budget

*PIB Delhi, June 26, 2019*

Replacement of ageing and obsolete defence equipment is part of modernisation of Armed Forces which is a continuous process based on threat perception, operational challenges, technological changes and available resources. The process is based on a 15 year Long Term Integrated Perspective Plan (LTIPP), five year Service Capital Acquisition Plan (SCAP) and Annual Acquisition Plan (AAP).

Allocated budget is optimally utilised to avoid gap between the need and the availability of funds. There has been consistent increase in total Capital Budget of Ministry of Defence. The details of Capital Budget (BE) for the last three years and current year are as under:

Year	Capital Budget (BE) (Rs. in crore)
2016-17	90,209.63
2017-18	91,579.70
2018-19	99,563.86
2019-20 (interim)	1,08,248.80

This information was given by Raksha Rajya Mantri Shri Shripad Naik in a written reply to Shri Jayadev Galla in Lok Sabha today.

[http://pib.nic.in/  
PressReleaseDetail.aspx?PRID=1575780](http://pib.nic.in/PressReleaseDetail.aspx?PRID=1575780)

## Plan to make use of Nuclear Wastes

*PIB Delhi, June 27, 2019*

India has adopted "closed fuel cycle", where spent nuclear fuel is regarded as a material of resource. Closed fuel cycle aims at reprocessing of spent fuel for recovery of Uranium and Plutonium and recycling them back to reactor as fuel. This finally leads to a very small percentage of residual material present in spent nuclear fuel requiring their management as radioactive waste.

Safe management of radioactive waste has been accorded high priority right from the inception of our nuclear energy programme. High level radioactive waste also contains many useful isotopes like Caesium-137, Strontium-90, Ruthenium-106 etc. With the advent of new technologies based on partitioning of waste, emphasis is accorded to separation and recovery of these useful radio-isotopes so as to make use of the waste for various societal applications.

<http://pib.nic.in/PressReleaseDetail.aspx?PRID=1576010>

### **India, China, Pakistan increasing size of their nuclear arsenals: report**

*The Hans India, June 17, 2019*

The overall number of nuclear warheads in the world has declined in the past year but nations are modernising their arsenals, a report published Monday said. At the start of 2019, the United States, Russia, Britain, France, China, India, Pakistan, Israel and North Korea had a total of some 13,865 nuclear weapons, according to estimates in a new report by the Stockholm International Peace Research Institute (SIPRI).

<https://www.thehansindia.com/news/international/india-china-pakistan-increasing-size-of-their-nuclear-arsenals-report-538533>

### **BHEL bags Rs 800 crore orders to set up 200 MW solar power plants**

*The New Indian Express, June 17, 2019*

Public sector enterprise Bharat Heavy Electricals Limited (BHEL) on Sunday said its Solar Photovoltaic (SPV) portfolio has touched surpassed the 1,000 megawatt (MW) capacity, after winning two orders worth Rs 800 crore for setting up 200 MW solar energy capacity. "Bharat Heavy Electricals Limited's (BHEL) Solar Photovoltaic (SPV) portfolio has surpassed 1 GW with the company winning two EPC orders for setting up SPV plants with a cumulative capacity of 200 MW," the PSU said.

<http://www.newindianexpress.com/business/2019/jun/17/bhel-bags-rs-800-crore-orders-to-set-up-200-mw-solar-power-plants-1991196.html>

### **Indian subcontinent faces N-bomb danger**

*Kalyan Ray, Deccan Herald, June 18, 2019*

India is one of the three countries – the other two being Pakistan and China – that continues to expand its nuclear arsenal, making the sub-continent one of the most volatile places in the world, says a new report. "India currently holds 130-140 nuclear weapons but is expanding its military fissile material production capabilities on a scale that may lead to significant increases in the size of their nuclear weapon inventories over the next decade," says Stockh...

<https://www.deccanherald.com/national/indian-subcontinent-faces-n-bomb-danger-741051.html>

### **Defence ministry invites proposals to construct submarines**

*Deccan Chronicles, June 21, 2019*

Under the 'Make in India' initiative, the Defence Ministry has invited Indian firms to partner foreign players to manufacture six submarines. The project is expected to cost Rs 45,000 crore, *Hindustan Times* reported. The government had permitted the construction of submarines in January. Ministry, on Thursday, issued the Expression of Interest (EOI) – a process to shortlist Indian companies as strategic partners – to construct six conventional submarines.

<https://www.deccanchronicle.com/nation/current-affairs/210619/defence-ministry-invites-proposal-to-construct-submarines.html>

### **India's NSG membership not on Kazakhstan meeting agenda, says China'**

*Atul Aneja, The Hindu, June 21, 2019*

China on Friday clarified that India's membership of the Nuclear Suppliers Group (NSG) was not on the agenda of the plenary of the grouping that concluded in Nur-Sultan, formerly known as Astana, in Kazakhstan on Friday. The Chinese foreign ministry also signalled that an

early decision on New Delhi's entry into the 48-nation club that controls the global follows of nuclear material is unlikely.

Foreign ministry spokesperson Lu Kang said, "As I said, this plenary meeting being held, as we know from the agenda, will discuss the technical, legal and political issues concerning the entry of NPT non-parties and will not be discussing the entry of any specific country."

<https://www.thehindu.com/news/international/indias-nsg-membership-not-on-kazakhstan-meeting-agenda-says-china/article28098118.ece>

### **'Wuhan spirit' fails to break NSG deadlock as China continues to play hardball over India's entry into elite club**

*Vinay Kaura, Firstpost, June 24, 2019*

China once again ensured that there was no discussion on India's admission into the Nuclear Suppliers Group (NSG), arguing that the issue can be discussed only after a consensus evolves over the entry of all countries who have not signed the Non-Proliferation Treaty (NPT). The NSG plenary concluded recently in Nur-Sultan, formerly known as Astana, in Kazakhstan.

<https://www.firstpost.com/india/wuhan-spirit-fails-to-break-nsg-deadlock-as-china-continues-to-play-hardball-over-indias-entry-into-elite-club-6869981.html>

### **IAF upgrading Mirage 2000, eyeing 5th Generation LCA**

*Zee News, June 24, 2019*

Upgrading Mirage 2000 and getting a 5th Generation Light Combat Aircraft will help the Indian Air Force in bridging the technological divide and ensuring a lethal arsenal, top air forces officers said on Monday. Air Marshal Raghunath Nambiar, the Air Officer Commanding-in-Chief, Western Air Command, pointed out that countries like China and Russia were already developing 5th Generation fighter jets.

He said, "China and Russia are trying to reach the 5th Generation fighter and our

technology is of the 4th Generation." He further said that the Indian Air Force was in the process of making a 5th Generation Light Combat Aircraft and the prototype of the same would be ready in 10 years. The senior IAF officials also confirmed that Mirage 2000, which were used for bombing terror camps in Pakistan's Balakot on February 26, were undergoing an upgrade. According to Air Officer Commanding-in-Chief, Central Air Command, Air Marshal Rajesh Kumar, the upgradation would extend the life of Mirage 2000 by 20 years.

<https://zeenews.india.com/india/iaf-upgrading-mirage-2000-eyeing-5th-generation-lca-2213914.html>

### **Nuclear-Capable Prithvi II Missile Successfully Test Fired**

*NDTV, June 27, 2019*

India successfully test-fired indigenously developed nuclear-capable missile Prithvi-II on Thursday night as part of a user trial by the Army from a test range off the Odisha coast. The trial of the surface-to-surface missile, which has a strike range of 350 km, was carried out from a mobile launcher from Launch Complex-III of the Integrated Test Range (ITR) at Chandipur, at around 8.30 pm, sources said. "It was a routine trial," a source said. Prithvi-II was also successfully test-fired at night on February 21, 2018 from the ITR at Chandipur.

<https://www.ndtv.com/india-news/nuclear-capable-prithvi-ii-missile-successfully-test-fired-2060447>

### **Why nuclear when India has an 'ocean' of energy**

*M. Ramesh, The Hindu, June 30, 2019*

If it is right that nothing can stop an idea whose time has come, it must be true the other way too – nothing can hold back an idea whose time has passed. Just blow the dust off, you'll see the writing on the wall: nuclear energy is fast running out of sand, at least in India. And there is something that is waiting to take its place.

India's 6,780 MW of nuclear power plants contributed to less than 3% of the country's electricity generation, which will come down as other sources will generate more.

<https://www.thehindu.com/business/Industry/why-nuclear-when-india-has-an-ocean-of-energy/article28230036.ece>

## B. China

### China plans pilot nuclear reactor for heating in northeast

*Muyu Xu, David Stanway, Reuters, June 17, 2019*

China plans to build a pilot small-scale nuclear reactor that could replace coal or gas to heat towns and cities in its colder northern regions, an official with the state-owned developer in charge of the project said on Monday. The small heating reactor is planned for the city of Jiamusi in northeastern Heilongjiang province, one of two proposed units with a combined capacity of 400 megawatts, Wang Xujia, a senior engineer with the State Power Investment Corp., said on the sidelines of an industry conference.

"The project is still under central government review for approval," Wang told Reuters, adding that the developer aimed to put the project into operation by 2024.

China has been exploring the use of small nuclear reactors – less than a fifth of the size of a standard reactor – as alternative heating systems in smog-prone northern regions. The state provides heating throughout northern China from November to March, using predominantly coal- or gas-fired boilers.

<https://in.reuters.com/article/china-nuclear/china-plans-pilot-nuclear-reactor-for-heating-in-northeast-idINKCN1TI0HZ>

### 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>

### Chinese nuclear power plants open up to public to prove confidence in safety

*Shan Jie in Dalian and Yantai, Global Times, June 17, 2019*

The plant, operated jointly by China General Nuclear, State Power Investment Corporation Limited (SPIC) and the Dalian government, started to generate power in 2013. The school, which is administered by Wafangdian city under Dalian, had been running in the area long before the nuclear power plant began construction in 2007. When plans to build the nuclear power plant were announced in the early years of the century, some residents were fearful. "People said a time bomb had been set here," Jiang Heyu, headmaster of the school, told the Global Times.

<http://www.globaltimes.cn/content/1154593.shtml>

### There are 'fewer but newer' nuclear arms in the world, says Stockholm peace group

*South China Morning Post, June 17, 2019*

US, Russia and others are getting rid of hundreds of old weapons, but modernising others, while China, India and Pakistan are increasing their arsenals. The overall

number of nuclear warheads in the world has declined in the past year but nations are modernising their arsenals, a report published on Monday said. At the start of 2019, the United States, Russia, Britain, France, China, India, Pakistan, Israel and North Korea had some 13,865 nuclear weapons, according to estimates in a new report by the Stockholm International Peace Research Institute (SIPRI). That represents a decrease of 600 nuclear weapons compared to the start of 2018.

But at the same time all nuclear weapon-possessing countries are modernising these arms – and China, India and Pakistan are also increasing the size of their arsenals. “The world is seeing fewer but newer weapons,” said Shannon Kile, director of the SIPRI Nuclear Arms Control Programme and one of the report’s authors. The number of nuclear arms has been drastically reduced since a peak in the mid-1980s when there were some 70,000 nuclear warheads in the world. While Kile said progress should not be underestimated, he also noted a number of worrying trends, such as the build-up of nuclear arms on both sides of the border between India and Pakistan, and the danger of a conventional conflict escalating to a nuclear one. There is also a more general trend towards an “increased salience” of nuclear weapons, where changing strategic doctrines, particularly in the US, are giving nuclear weapons an expanded role in both military operations and national security dialogue, Kile said. “I think the trend is moving away from where we were five years ago, where the world’s nuclear weapons were being marginalised,” Kile said.

<https://www.scmp.com/news/world/europe/article/3014864/there-are-fewer-newer-nuclear-arms-world-says-stockholm-peace>

### **Chinese netizens say H-bomb a backbone against US**

*Global Times, June 17, 2019*

A blinding flash across the sky; a miniature sun of extreme heat explodes over the test site in western China. A deafening sound soon crackles through the air, as a huge mushroom cloud rises. This was the scene described by a flagship Chinese paper 52

years ago - on June 17, 1967 - when China conducted its first hydrogen bomb test.

Chinese Net users commemorated the 52nd anniversary of the landmark test on Monday, saying that the weapon has been the strongest backbone against foreign suppression over the past 50-plus years and there is nothing the Chinese people cannot accomplish, alluding to the Chinese’s strong will to be self-reliant in strategic technologies and response to a trade war with the US.

<http://www.globaltimes.cn/content/1154635.shtml>

### **NUDT joint team wins the 10th International Space Orbit Design Competition**

*China Military Online, June 17, 2019*

The 10th International Space Orbit Design Competition announced its winners on June 13. A joint team of China’s National University of Defense Technology (NUDT) and the Xi’an Satellite Control Center (XSCC) won the championship by a landslide. This is the first time that a Chinese team has won this competition, breaking the monopoly of European and American teams on the championship. The International Space Orbital Design Competition, launched by the European Space Agency (ESA) in 2005 and held every 1-2 years, is a high-level and professional competition in the world space field, representing the highest level of research in the field of space orbital design, known as the “Olympics of the Space Industry.” This year’s event, hosted by NASA’s Jet Propulsion Laboratory (JPL), the winner of the last competition, ran for four weeks.

[http://english.chinamil.com.cn/view/2019-06/17/content\\_9532247.htm](http://english.chinamil.com.cn/view/2019-06/17/content_9532247.htm)

### **Xi to pay state visit to DPRK at end of week**

*Cao Desh, China Daily, June 18, 2019*

President Xi Jinping will make a state visit to the Democratic People’s Republic of Korea on Thursday and Friday, the first

by a top leader of China in 14 years. Xi, also general secretary of the Communist Party of China Central Committee, was invited by Kim Jong-un, chairman of the Workers' Party of Korea and chairman of the State Affairs Commission of the DPRK, for the visit, the first since Xi became the CPC's top leader at the 18th CPC National Congress in 2012.

<http://www.chinadaily.com.cn/a/201906/18/WS5d07fb24a3103dbf14328b93.html>

### **Don't open 'Pandora's Box' in Middle East, China warns**

*Ben Blanchard, Reuters, June 18, 2019*

The Chinese government's top diplomat warned on Tuesday that the world should not open a "Pandora's Box" in the Middle East, as he denounced U.S. pressure on Iran and called on it not to drop out of a landmark nuclear deal. Fears of a confrontation between Iran and the United States have mounted since last Thursday when two oil tankers were attacked in the Gulf of Oman. The United States blamed Iran for the attacks, more than a year after President Donald Trump withdrew from a 2015 Iran nuclear deal. Iran denied involvement in the tanker attacks and said on Monday it would soon breach limits on how much enriched uranium it can stockpile under the deal, which had sought to limit its nuclear capabilities. Acting U.S. Defense Secretary Patrick Shanahan announced on the same day the deployment of about 1,000 more troops to the Middle East for what he said were defensive purposes, citing concerns about a threat from Iran.

Wang also said that the Iran nuclear deal was the only feasible way to resolve its nuclear issue, and he urged Iran to be prudent. "We understand that relevant parties may have different concerns but first of all the comprehensive nuclear deal should be properly implemented," he added. "We hope that Iran is cautious with its decision-making and not lightly abandon this agreement."

<https://www.reuters.com/article/us-iran-nuclear-china/dont-open-pandoras-box-in-middle-east-china-warns-idUSKCN1TJ0B8>

### **Armed airborne vehicle debuts at technology fair in Fuzhou**

*Deng Xiaoci in Fuzhou, Global Times, June 18, 2019*

A new domestically-developed, weapons-integrated military vehicle specially designed for airdrop missions made its public debut at the opening of the 17th China Cross-Straits Technology and Projects Fair in Fuzhou, capital of East China's Fujian Province, on Tuesday. The vehicle is capable of traversing obstacles just over half a meter and passing ditches of 75 centimeters deep and climbing a road with a 45 degree slope. The top speed of the vehicle is 135 kilometers per hour, according to its developer Xiaolong Auto based in Wuhan, Central China's Hubei Province.

<http://www.globaltimes.cn/content/1154693.shtml>

### **Shanghai to host 2nd AI global conference in August**

*China Daily, June 18, 2019*

Shanghai will sharpen the focus and expand the scope of the second World Artificial Intelligence Conference as the city gears up to be the national center for the thriving technology. The conference, which debuted last September, is scheduled to run from Aug 29 to 31 this year at two major venues alongside the Bund - the Expo Center and Xuhui Binjiang, Shanghai Vice-Mayor Wu Qing said at a media briefing on Tuesday. Two summits on science and technology innovation and 10 industry panels will be held during the three-day event. Government officials, representatives of international organizations, top-notch scientists and business leaders are invited to share their insights on a variety of topics, from machine learning, chips and smart hardware to autonomous driving and 5G.

Official statistics showed that the city is already home to 1,000 companies with AI as its core business. According to a plan issued last year by municipal authorities, Shanghai is looking to lead the pack by

becoming a global AI hub, with plans to expand the scale of its industry to more than 100 billion yuan (\$14.4 billion) by 2020.

<http://usa.chinadaily.com.cn/a/201906/18/WS5d089f7aa3103dbf14328eca.html>

### **Chinese President Xi Jinping gives North Korean leader Kim Jong-un his full support**

*Keegan Elmer, South China Morning Post, June 19, 2019*

'Traditional friendship' between two nations will continue whatever the future brings, Xi says ahead of two-day trip to Pyongyang. Visit comes amid rising tensions between Beijing and Washington, and stalled negotiations on the denuclearisation of the Korean peninsula

Chinese President Xi Jinping has pledged his full support for North Korean leader Kim Jong-un and promised to play an active role in efforts to bring peace and stability to the region, a day ahead of his first ever state visit to the reclusive nation.

<https://www.scmp.com/news/china/diplomacy/article/3015159/chinese-president-xi-jinping-gives-north-korean-leader-kim>

### **China hosts conference to promote AI ethical standards**

*Xinhua, June 19, 2019*

China is keen on ensuring that ethical standards take hold in the booming artificial intelligence industry, says Chen Xiaoping, director of the Robotics Lab at the University of Science and Technology of China. As AI is increasingly seen as a significant source of productivity and opportunities, the discomfort or even pessimism regarding the technology cannot be ignored, according to the leading AI scientist. Last year, Chen was asked to set up the Professional Committee for AI Ethics under the Chinese Association for Artificial Intelligence, China's state-level AI association, and to draw up AI ethics guidelines.

[http://www.china.org.cn/arts/2019-06/19/content\\_74898956.htm](http://www.china.org.cn/arts/2019-06/19/content_74898956.htm)

### **China vows unwavering determination to maintain Iranian nuclear deal: FM**

*China Military Online, June 19, 2019*

China said its determination to maintain the Joint Comprehensive Plan of Action (JCPOA) is unwavering and is willing to continue to make efforts for the full and effective implementation of the JCPOA. Chinese State Councilor and Foreign Minister Wang Yi made the remarks when meeting the press after his meeting with Syrian Deputy Prime Minister and Foreign Minister Walid Mualem. Calling on all parties to jointly promote the alleviation of Iranian nuclear issue and the situation in the Gulf region, instead of letting it get worse, even slipping into conflicts, Wang urged all parties to firmly maintain the deal.

[http://eng.chinamil.com.cn/view/2019-06/19/content\\_9533521.htm](http://eng.chinamil.com.cn/view/2019-06/19/content_9533521.htm)

### **China plans world-class rare-earth cluster in Xiongan New Area**

*Li Xuanmin, Global Times, June 19, 2019*

China announced on Wednesday that it will build a world-class manufacturing cluster for rare-earth functional materials in the Xiongan New Area in North China's Hebei Province, a significant move that industry insiders said signals policymakers' determination to dominate key technologies of the rare-earth sector that is deemed as China's leverage amid a lingering trade war. The Hebei Innovation Center for Rare-earth Functional Material Production was set up in Xiongan on Tuesday, according to a post on the official WeChat account of the Xiongan governing body. The center was set up by a company founded by six centrally administrated state-owned enterprises and seven listed companies.

<http://www.globaltimes.cn/content/1154879.shtml>

## China's FC-31 fighter jet shows major upgrades at Paris Air Show

*Liu Xuanzun, Global Times, June 19, 2019*

China's fifth-generation stealth fighter jet FC-31 showcased its latest upgrades at the ongoing Paris Air Show, and analysts noted on Wednesday that the displayed model shows noteworthy changes in design that could significantly improve its capabilities. A scaled model of the FC-31 is being displayed by the state-owned Aviation Industry Corporation of China (AVIC) at the company's stand at the 53rd Paris Air Show, which is scheduled to run from Monday to Sunday.

Chinese military observers and media said the model on display appears to have undergone many changes compared to the aircraft's past designs. The area behind the cockpit and the areas where the two engines are housed are now bulkier, Weihutang, a military column affiliated with China Central Television, reported on Wednesday. The optimized aerodynamic design further reduces wind resistance, the report said. Wang said that the warplane will continue to boost its capabilities. For countries looking to buy an advanced stealth fighter jet, the FC-31 is similar to the US F-35 but much cheaper, and China does not attach political conditions to arms sales as the US does, Wang said.

<http://www.globaltimes.cn/content/1154840.shtml>

## China completes outer dome on overseas Hualong One reactor in Pakistan

*Reuters, June 20, 2019*

China has finished building the outer safety dome at its first overseas "Hualong One" nuclear reactor in Pakistan, with the project scheduled to be finished by the end of 2020, the China National Nuclear Corp (CNNC) said late Tuesday. China is hoping to use its third-generation Hualong One design to boost its presence in the overseas nuclear power sector and it is already making plans to build projects in Argentina and Britain. CNNC described the completion of the

double-layered steel dome on the containment building of the Karachi 2 nuclear power plant in Pakistan as a milestone that would help demonstrate China's Hualong One technology worldwide. The firm is building two Hualong One units at the site.

<https://in.reuters.com/article/china-nuclearpower-pakistan/china-completes-outer-dome-on-overseas-hualong-one-reactor-in-pakistan-idINKCN1TK063>

## Xi begins two-day state visit to DPRK

*Cao Desheng, China Daily, June 20, 2019*

General Secretary of the Central Committee of the Communist Party of China and Chinese President Xi Jinping arrived Thursday for a state visit to the Democratic People's Republic of Korea (DPRK). Xi highlighted China's firm position on Wednesday to build close ties with the DPRK, and reaffirmed Beijing's support for Pyongyang in striving for the political settlement of the Korean Peninsula nuclear issue. Xi made the comments in a signed article published by the DPRK's mainstream media including the Rodong Sinmun, an official newspaper of the Central Committee of the Workers' Party of Korea.

<http://www.chinadaily.com.cn/a/201906/20/WS5d0a835aa3103dbf14329308.html>

## South China Sea: Satellite image shows Chinese fighter jets deployed to contested island

*Brad Lendon, CNN, June 21, 2019*

A satellite image obtained by CNN shows China has deployed at least four J-10 fighter jets to the contested Woody Island in the South China Sea, the first known deployment of fighter jets there since 2017. The image was taken Wednesday and represents the first time J-10s have been seen on Woody or any Chinese-controlled islands in the South China Sea, according to ImageSat International, which supplied the image to CNN. The deployment comes as tensions remain high in the South China

Sea and Chinese President Xi Jinping prepares to meet United States President Donald Trump at the G-20 summit in Japan next week.

<https://edition.cnn.com/2019/06/20/asia/china-fighters-satellite-image-woody-island-intl-hnk/index.html>

### **Deployment of fighter jets in South China Sea 'necessary': expert**

*Guo Yuandan and Lu Wenao, Global Times, June 21, 2019*

At least four J-10 fighter jets have been deployed on Yongxing Island in the South China Sea, a satellite image shows, which a Chinese expert said is a necessary move for the country's national defense. The image, released by CNN, was taken on Wednesday and represents the first time for J-10s to be seen on the island, according to Israel-based firm ImageSat International.

Peter Layton, a former Royal Australian Air Force officer and fellow at the Griffith Asia Institute, told CNN that "It could be an early training deployment as part of getting the J-10 squadron operationally ready for an ADIZ (air defense identification zone) declaration." The Global Times learned that China never confirmed that it may set up an ADIZ in the South China Sea, and there has been no indication of such. "There is a massive difference between training and maintenance on land and on the islands. And China needs the jets to protect the peace and stability in the South China Sea," Fu said.

<http://www.globaltimes.cn/content/1155224.shtml>

### **Xi Jinping vows to work with North Korea on 'political resolution' to nuclear issue**

*Lee Jeong-ho, South China Morning Post, June 21, 2019*

Chinese president also tells Kim Jong-un that Beijing is determined to support the country's new 'strategic path' North Korean leader calls visit 'decisive' in showing the unchanging friendship of the two countries

to the world. Chinese President Xi Jinping wrapped up his two-day state visit to North Korea on Friday after pledging to work with Pyongyang to achieve a "political resolution" to the nuclear issue. In a meeting with North Korean leader Kim Jong-un before returning to Beijing, Xi also said China was determined to support the country's new "strategic path", Chinese state-run newspaper People's Daily reported.

"This visit ... has achieved complete success in reinforcing the traditional friendship between China and North Korea," Xi was quoted as saying. "It has laid down the direction of future development of China-North Korean relations in the new era, and also shown to the outside world the firm determination of China and North Korea in achieving a political resolution to the Korean peninsula problem and delivering long-lasting peace in the region." North Korea's state media quoted Kim as emphasising Beijing's rock solid relationship with Pyongyang. According to Korean Central News Agency (KCNA), Kim told Xi that his visit was "decisive" in showing the unchanging friendship between the two countries to the world.

<https://www.scmp.com/news/china/diplomacy/article/3015472/xi-jinping-and-kim-jong-un-present-united-front-against>

### **China eyes Argentina in global nuclear roll-out**

*Buenos Aires Times, June 22, 2019*

Costs, emissions and safety at stake as Argentina and China look set to seal a nuclear power deal. In the midst of economic and political uncertainty, Argentina has doubled down on a major Chinese nuclear power deal. The new plant in Buenos Aires province will help meet Argentina's energy needs with the support of Chinese technology and finance. With China looking to ramp up its nuclear power exports and countries seeking low-carbon electricity, the project in Argentina could represent the beginning of a China-led renaissance.

However, concerns over nuclear power's cost and safety continue to plague it.

Four years after formally agreeing to its construction, Argentina is moving forward with the Atucha III plant that will likely become operational in 2021. In April, President Mauricio Macri's administration signed a letter of intent with China's National Energy Administration. The contract, which is expected to be signed in the coming weeks, will include a US\$10 billion loan from the Industrial and Commercial Bank of China (ICBC), which will cover 85% of the plant's construction costs.

<https://www.batimes.com.ar/news/argentina/china-eyes-argentina-in-global-nuclear-roll-out.phtml>

### **Chinese astronomers to search for cradles of new suns with FAST**

*Xinhua, June 23, 2019*

How many new suns could emerge in the Milky Way in the future? Chinese astronomers plan to use the Five-hundred-meter Aperture Spherical Radio Telescope (FAST), by far the largest telescope ever built, to search for birthplaces of new suns so they can better understand how stars and life substances are formed. Astronomers at the National Astronomical Observatories of the Chinese Academy of Sciences recently caught the birth of a dark molecular cloud for the first time by using three telescopes of the United States and Europe.

[http://www.xinhuanet.com/english/2019-06/23/c\\_138166776.htm](http://www.xinhuanet.com/english/2019-06/23/c_138166776.htm)

### **U.S. bars China supercomputer firms, institute from buying American parts**

*David Shepardson, Reuters, June 23, 2019*

The U.S. Commerce Department said on Friday it was adding several Chinese companies and a government-owned institute involved in supercomputing with military applications to its national security "entity list" that bars them from buying U.S. parts and components without government approval.

The export restriction announcement adding the firms to what is effectively a trade blacklist is the latest effort by the Trump administration to restrict the ability of Chinese firms to gain access to U.S. technology amid an ongoing trade war. The department said it was adding Sugon, the Wuxi Jiangnan Institute of Computing Technology, Higon, Chengdu Haiguang Integrated Circuit and Chengdu Haiguang Microelectronics Technology - along with numerous aliases of the five entities - to the list over concerns about military applications of the supercomputers they are developing.

<https://in.reuters.com/article/us-usa-commerce-china/u-s-bars-china-supercomputer-firms-institute-from-buying-american-parts-idINKCN1TM212>

### **Chinese military tests long-range, heavy aerial delivery with unmanned transport aircraft**

*Liu Xuanzun, Global Times, June 23, 2019*

Chinese military analysts predicted on Sunday that more unmanned transport aircraft could join the Chinese military logistics arsenal for long-range and heavy delivery in the future, as the Chinese military recently made breakthroughs in the heavy cargo delivery exercise with an unmanned transport plane. Jointly held by the National Defense University of the People's Liberation Army (PLA) and the state-owned China Aerospace Science and Technology Corporation, an aerial delivery exercise took place recently in Zhangye, Northwest China's Gansu Province, China Central Television (CCTV) reported on Thursday..

<http://www.globaltimes.cn/content/1155338.shtml>

### **China's President Xi to attend G20 summit from June 27-29: Xinhua**

*Reuters, June 23, 2019*

China's President Xi Jinping will attend the G20 summit in Japan next week, state-run Xinhua news agency said on Sunday, giving the first official confirmation of his attendance at a gathering where he is

expected to meet U.S. President Donald Trump. The G20 summit will be held in the city of Osaka on June 27-29. Xinhua did not give further details.

<https://www.reuters.com/article/us-g20-china-xi/chinas-president-xi-to-attend-g20-summit-from-june-27-29-xinhua-idUSKCN1TO01B>

### **China stays open to international cooperation in space missions**

*Yu Jianbin, People's Daily, June 24, 2019*

China Space Station is set to welcome on board nine international scientific projects from 17 countries covering a wide range of research areas, the China Manned Space Agency and the United Nations Office for Outer Space Affairs (UNOOSA) announced recently. The projects include space astronomy, space life sciences and biotechnology, space medicine, physics and applied new technologies. They will be carried out on the space station which is expected to be put into use around 2022. The selection of these projects and the preparation of future cooperation plans mark that the international cooperation of China Space Station has entered a new stage.

<http://en.people.cn/n3/2019/0624/c90000-9590849.html>

### **China launches new BeiDou satellite**

*Xinhua, June 25, 2019*

China sent a new satellite of the BeiDou Navigation Satellite System (BDS) into space from the Xichang Satellite Launch Center in Sichuan Province at 2:09 a.m. Tuesday. Launched on a Long March-3B carrier rocket, the satellite was sent to the inclined geosynchronous earth orbit. It is the 46th satellite of the BDS satellite family and the 21st satellite of the BDS-3 system.

[http://www.xinhuanet.com/english/2019-06/25/c\\_138171404.htm](http://www.xinhuanet.com/english/2019-06/25/c_138171404.htm)

### **Speculation rife about DF-17 after video shows hypersonic vehicle**

*Liu Xuanzun, Global Times, June 24, 2019*

China's missile manufacturing giant showcased hypersonic boost-glide vehicles

in a recent animated video, and media reports speculate that the weapon might be the DF-17 of the People's Liberation Army (PLA) Rocket Force. Such weapons, which Russia and the US are developing, are very difficult to intercept due to their hypersonic speed and high mobility, experts said Monday. The animated video, released by the state-owned China Aerospace Science and Industry Corporation (CASIC) on its social media platform Douyin account, shows the launch of multiple boost-glide vehicles, which reenter the atmosphere and hit an underground command center.

<http://www.globaltimes.cn/content/1155476.shtml>

### **Air-defense training held in Gobi desert**

*China Military online, June 25, 2019*

A Type-730 30mm machine gun of a LD-2000 close-in weapons system is well prepared prior to a recent joint air-defense training exercise conducted by a surface-to-air missile brigade with the air force under the PLA Western Theater Command at a military shooting range in northwest China's Gobi desert.

[http://english.chinamil.com.cn/view/2019-06/25/content\\_9538433.htm](http://english.chinamil.com.cn/view/2019-06/25/content_9538433.htm)

### **Major Chinese nuclear power firm taps market of clean energy in S America**

*Zheng Xin, China Daily, June 26, 2019*

China General Nuclear Power Corp, one of the country's largest nuclear power companies, has signed an agreement with Italian energy giant Enel for a 100 percent equity purchase of its Gamma new energy project in Brazil, a sign that CGN is entering the clean energy market in South America. The Gamma project, located in the northeastern part of Brazil, has a total installed capacity of 540MW, including two solar energy projects totaling 450MW and one 90MW wind power project, said the company. With another clean energy project to be agreed soon, which the

company has not revealed the details of so far, CGN is expected to become the fifth-largest clean energy power generator in Brazil, it said.

[http://www.chinadaily.com.cn/global/2019-06/26/content\\_37484869.htm](http://www.chinadaily.com.cn/global/2019-06/26/content_37484869.htm)

## **Robots to replace 20 million manufacturing jobs by 2030: Oxford Economics**

### **China will count 14 million robots**

*Associated Press, June 26, 2019*

A total of 20 million manufacturing jobs could disappear by 2030 as they would be handled by robots, reports said. In a report titled "How Robots Change The World," forecasting and analysis organization Oxford Economics predicts the number of robots will multiply 10-fold by 2030, causing the destruction of 20 million jobs in the manufacturing sector. Lower skilled workers and poorer regions will be hit worst, causing intense social and economic stress needing policy solutions, the report noted. In combination with Artificial Intelligence, service sector jobs could also fall prey to increasing automatization, according to Oxford Economics.

The report predicted that each robot could replace 1.6 workers, so while productivity and economic growth might be stimulated, there has been growing concern about the impact on jobs, in less developed regions in particular, the United Daily News reported. The employees who lost their job in manufacturing were also likely to gravitate toward other jobs that might suffer under the impact of automatization. Of the 20 million robots estimated to be operating in 2030, 14 million could be located in China, the report said.

<https://www.taiwannews.com.tw/en/news/3732551>

## **AIT reassures on US arms sales**

*Taipei Times, June 26, 2019*

The US' decades-long stance in providing Taiwan with weapons has not changed, the American Institute in Taiwan (AIT) said

yesterday, after reports that US President Donald Trump's administration has temporarily set aside an arms sales package to Taiwan to reach a trade deal with China. "There has been no change to our policy, which is that US arms sales to Taiwan are guided by the Taiwan Relations Act [TRA] and based on an assessment of Taiwan's defense needs," AIT acting spokesman Aaron Huang said. "Our long-standing policy on arms sales to Taiwan has been consistent across multiple US administrations. We believe our consistent policy has contributed to the security of Taiwan, and has also supported the maintenance of peace and stability across the Taiwan Strait," he added.

In related news, the National Ministry of Defense yesterday said it closely monitored the Chinese aircraft carrier Liaoning as it passed through the Taiwan Strait earlier in the day. The carrier, accompanied by other Chinese People's Liberation Army Navy ships, sailed north through the Strait on its way back to its home port in Qingdao, Shandong Province, the defense ministry said.

<http://www.taipeitimes.com/News/taiwan/archives/2019/06/26/2003717602>

## **Submarine-launched missile meets national security needs: Defense Ministry**

*Guo Yuandan and Liu Xuanzun, Global Times, June 27, 2019*

The scheduled test was normal, China's Ministry of National Defense said on Thursday, when asked about the alleged test launch of a JL-3 submarine-launched ballistic missile (SLBM) on June 2. "These tests are not targeted at any country or objective," Defense Ministry spokesperson Ren Guoqiang said at a routine press conference. Ren was responding to a question from the Global Times on reports that residents claimed to have seen an unidentified flying object (UFO) on June 2. Just as media and netizens speculated on the true nature of the UFO, relating it to a naval exercise that took place in the Bohai Sea and Bohai Straits at the same

time, the People's Liberation Army Rocket Force and Navy hinted on June 3 that the "UFOs" could be missiles launched. Chinese and foreign reports then speculated that the missile could be China's new SLBM, the JL-3. During the press conference, Ren did not explain what weapon was used in the test, however, if the information provided in the question was wrong and it was not the JL-3, the spokesperson would have denied it, as in many previous cases, military analysts said.

<http://www.globaltimes.cn/content/1156030.shtml>

### **Like plum blossom, big freeze will not kill China's innovation**

*China Daily, June 27, 2019*

A magnetic levitation train running at a speed of 600 kilometers per hour has passed its test operation; China finished its first sea launch of a solid fuel rocket; and the latest ranking of the world's top 500 supercomputers shows that 219 belong to China. Xinhua News Agency comments: None of the aforementioned achievements has been easy. Behind every breakthrough are the researchers' hard work and the country's huge input. Irrespective of how circumstances at home and abroad have changed, China has never stopped pursuing technology innovation, as innovation is not only an important driver of growth, but also a solid support for China to cope with the external challenges.

[http://www.chinadaily.com.cn/cndy/2019-06/27/content\\_37485291.htm](http://www.chinadaily.com.cn/cndy/2019-06/27/content_37485291.htm)

### **Plasma diagnostic system improved to ensure safe nuclear fusion**

*Xinhua, June 27, 2019*

Chinese researchers have improved a diagnostics system for nuclear fusion devices, paving the way for producing controlled thermonuclear fusion power in the future. At the temperatures required for fusion reactions, the matter can only exist in the plasma state, free negative electrons and positive nuclei. Some fusion reactors use a magnetic field to confine hot plasma for fusion actions to take place. Plasma is hard

to control and contain and is subject to sudden termination, usually with very little warning. When a disruption occurs, the considerable thermal and magnetic energy contained within the plasma is suddenly released very quickly, which can lead to damages.

[http://www.xinhuanet.com/english/2019-06/27/c\\_138176926.htm](http://www.xinhuanet.com/english/2019-06/27/c_138176926.htm)

### **China's Xi, Germany's Merkel agree Iran issue should be resolved peacefully: Xinhua**

*Reuters, June 28, 2019*

Chinese President Xi Jinping and German Chancellor Angela Merkel agreed the Iran nuclear issue should be resolved peacefully and that further escalation of tension should be avoided, China's official Xinhua news agency said on Friday. Xi and Merkel met on the sidelines of a Group of 20 leaders' meeting in Japan, the report said, adding that Xi told Merkel German companies were welcome to continue investing in China.

<https://in.reuters.com/article/g20-summit-china-germany/chinas-xi-germanys-merkel-agree-iran-issue-should-be-resolved-peacefully-xinhua-idINKCN1TT1NO>

### **Shanghai debuts AI incubator**

*He Wei, China Daily, June 28, 2019*

Shanghai has unveiled its first dedicated artificial intelligence incubator as part of its push to make AI a cornerstone of its industrial transformation. Launched in Shanghai's Wujiaochang, an area home to multiple leading research houses such as Fudan University and Tongji University, the first 3,000 square-meter AI Space serves as an accelerator to turn abstract AI ideas into prototypes and potentially into tangible products. Backed by the Shanghai Commission of Economy and Informatization, the facility will provide working space, data bases, technical support, financing and resources match-making with application scenarios. Such a model will be duplicated across the city in due time. Five AI startups have signed

memoranda of understanding with the first AI space, covering areas from the combination of AI and medical care, education and big data.

<http://www.chinadaily.com.cn/a/201906/28/WS5d15856ca3103dbf1432ad74.html>

### **China fully committed to Iran nuclear deal: Chinese delegate**

*Xinhua, June 29, 2019*

China is fully committed to the Joint Comprehensive Plan of Action (JCPOA), said a Chinese delegate after a three-hour meeting of Iran, Russia, China, Britain, France and Germany here on Friday. Fu Cong, director general of the Department of Arms Control of the Chinese Foreign Ministry stressed that China categorically rejects U.S. "zero-tolerance policy" on Iran oil sales, and is willing to do everything it can to maintain legitimate economic and trade relations with the country and safeguard economic interests of Chinese companies. China will also go forward at full speed with respect to the Arak nuclear reactor project, Fu said. The Chinese-led initiative to redesign Iranian heavy water reactor in Arak is aimed at minimizing its plutonium production and avoid production of weapons-grade plutonium.

[http://www.xinhuanet.com/english/2019-06/29/c\\_138183759.htm](http://www.xinhuanet.com/english/2019-06/29/c_138183759.htm)

### **ADASpace set to star in AI satellite constellation sphere**

*Wang Yi, Global Times, June 30, 2019*

A private Chinese company plans to build the country's first artificial intelligence (AI) satellite constellation, which will have stronger autonomous operating capacity and improve efficiency in applications including natural disaster responses. To evaluate how existing telecom standards and AI solutions can be leveraged to manage future satellite constellations is a positive attempt. This ambitious plan by a private company shows how China's aerospace industry is thriving, according to analysts. ADASpace, based in Chengdu, capital of Southwest China's Sichuan Province,

specializes in satellite design and data services. It signed a strategic agreement on Saturday with a launch vehicle producer for its Xingshidai plan, which aims to build an AI constellation by 2021.

<http://www.globaltimes.cn/content/1156263.shtml>

### **C. Pakistan**

#### **Outer dome installed at Karachi 2**

*World Nuclear News, June 18, 2019*

The outer safety dome has been installed on the containment building of unit 2 at the Karachi nuclear power plant in Pakistan. The unit is the first of two Chinese-supplied Hualong One reactors being built at the site. The steel dome - measuring about 53 metres in diameter and over 23m in height, and weighing about 366 tonnes - was placed upon the top of the containment building walls at 8:06am yesterday, China National Nuclear Power (CNNP) has announced. The Hualong One uses a double-layer safety shell design. Together with the inner protective dome, the outer dome protects the reactor and prevents the release of radioactive materials into the environment in the event of a serious accident.

<https://world-nuclear-news.org/Articles/Outer-dome-installed-at-Karachi-2>

#### **Installation Of Outer Containment Dome Of Nuclear Reactor In Pakistan To Boost Cooperation Between China, BRI Countries**

*Sumaira FH, Urdu Point, June 19, 2019*

The successful installation of outer containment dome of a nuclear reactor in Pakistan will speed up nuclear cooperation between China and the countries participating in the Belt and Road Initiative, analysts said.

The outer containment dome of the Karachi unit 2 nuclear reactor was successfully installed, a milestone marking the end of its general construction work, said China National Nuclear Corp, one of

China's largest nuclear power companies, China Daily reported on Wednesday.

The installation of the outer containment dome of Karachi unit 2, the first export of China's Hualong One pressurized water reactor design, a third-generation reactor design, will be followed up by containment and heat tests, it said.

<https://www.urdupoint.com/en/business/installation-of-outer-containment-dome-of-nuc-648835.html>

### **Rabbani questions rationale behind National Development Council's formation**

*Iftikhar A. Khan, Dawn, June 21, 2019*

Former chairman of the Senate Mian Raza Rabbani on Thursday voiced his concern over formation of a National Development Council (NDC) through a notification, questioning the rationale for constituting what he described as an extra-constitutional organ having functions parallel to a constitutional institution, National Economic Council (NEC).

<https://www.dawn.com/news/1489439/rabbani-questions-rationale-behind-national-development-councils-formation>

### **Pakistan ahead of India in terms of number of nuclear warheads: report**

*Duniya News, June 22, 2019*

Pakistan has 150-160 nuclear warheads compared to India's 130-140 warheads, according to a 2019 report by the Stockholm International Peace Research Institute (SIPRI). They are comparable in the sense that both have the capability to strike each other's territories and cause immense damage and massive loss of life.

Pakistan has longer-range nuclear weapons, such as the Shaheen 3 missile that can reach India's Andaman Islands near Southeast Asia. India is developing long-range ballistic missiles able to strike targets across China. India's nuclear-powered ballistic missile submarine "INS Arihant" became operational last year, giving the country a

"nuclear triad" – the ability to launch nuclear strikes by land, air and sea.

<https://dunyanews.tv/en/Pakistan/497029-Pakistan-ahead-of-India-in-terms-of-number-of-nuclear-warheads:-report>

### **Indian Navy fails to locate Pakistani submarine post Pulwama incident**

*Duniya News, June 23, 2019*

Indian Navy faced another humiliation after it failed to locate a Pakistani submarine near Pakistani waters in Arabian Sea after the Pulwama incident. As per Indian media reports, in March the Indian Navy deployed over 60 ships, including an aircraft carrier and nuclear submarines near Pakistani waters in the Arabian Sea to "prevent and deter any misadventure".

Indian navy was not able to locate Pakistan's fast-attack submarine PNS Saad, that had taken its position to deter any threat by India, even after 21 days of its search. The missing non-nuclear Pakistani submarine powered with an air-independent propulsion system reportedly forced the entire Indian Navy to engage in extensive searches.

<https://dunyanews.tv/en/Pakistan/497236-Indian-Navy-fails-to-locate-Pakistani-submarine-post-Pulwam--incident>

## **D. USA**

### **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.

<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 Adds Troops After Iran Says It Will Breach Nuclear Deal

*Edward Wong, Helene Cooper and Megan Specia, The New York Times, June 17, 2019*

Tensions between the United States and Iran flared on Monday as Tehran said it would soon breach a key element of the 2015 international pact limiting its nuclear program, while President Trump ordered another 1,000 troops to the Middle East and vowed again that Iran would not be allowed to develop a nuclear weapon.

The Pentagon's announcement of the troop deployment came three days after attacks on two oil tankers in the Gulf of Oman that the administration has blamed Iran for. And it came hours after Iran said it was within days of violating a central element of the landmark 2015 agreement – intended to curb its ability to develop a nuclear weapon – unless European nations agreed to help it blunt crippling American economic sanctions.

<https://www.nytimes.com/2019/06/17/world/middleeast/iran-nuclear-deal-compliance.html>

## Supreme Court allows Virginia to block mining of nation's largest uranium deposit

*Richard Wolf, USA Today, June 17, 2019*

The Supreme Court ruled Monday that industry groups and the Trump administration cannot force Virginia to open up the nation's largest deposit of uranium to mining.

The case, pending for more than seven months, deeply divided the justices between those favoring states' rights and those arguing that the federal government retains authority over the nuclear industry. In the

end, three conservatives and three liberals combined in the 6-3 ruling for Virginia, with Associate Justice Neil Gorsuch writing the main opinion. Chief Justice John Roberts and Associate Justices Stephen Breyer and Samuel Alito dissented.

<https://www.usatoday.com/story/news/politics/2019/06/17/nuclear-power-supreme-court-rules-virginia-uranium-mining-spat/1437391001/>

## Trump Careens Toward a Confrontation With Iran

*David E. Sanger, The New York Times, June 17, 2019*

After coming to office vowing to solve two very different nuclear crises, President Trump finds himself in a bind familiar to his predecessors: careening toward a confrontation with Iran and stalemated with North Korea. Iran's announcement on Monday that it expects within 10 days to blow past the limits on how much nuclear fuel it can stockpile opens a new and perilous phase of its confrontation with the West.

After a year of restraint, during which Iran complied with the terms of an agreement that Mr. Trump very publicly abandoned, there is a greater sense than at any time in recent years that what began as an effort to drive Iran to the negotiating table may instead push the two countries into a conflict leaders on both sides insist they do not want.

<https://www.nytimes.com/2019/06/17/us/politics/trump-iran-nuclear-deal.html>

## Kazatomprom chief warns against US uranium tariffs

*World Nuclear News, June 18, 2019*

Kazatomprom CEO Galymzhan Pirmatov says he is "concerned" that more US reactors would be forced to close if the Trump administration were to introduce tariffs and force utilities to buy at least one-quarter of their uranium from domestic miners, the Financial Times reported yesterday.

The US Department of Commerce (DOC) on 15 April submitted to the White House the results of an investigation into the effects of uranium imports on US national security. The US President now has until the middle of July to decide whether to act on the DOC's findings and recommendations, which have not been made public.

<http://world-nuclear-news.org/Articles/Kazatomprom-chief-warns-against-US-uranium-tariffs>

### **Apollo astronauts celebrate 50 years since first moon landing**

*Forrest Crellin, Reuters, June 18, 2019*

Three astronauts instrumental in the groundbreaking U.S. space program of the 1960s and 70s gathered at the Paris Air Show on Tuesday to celebrate the 50th anniversary of Apollo 11, the mission that first put a man on the moon.

Walter Cunningham, 87, who was part of the Apollo 7 mission, Al Worden, 87, who flew with Apollo 15, and Charlie Duke, 83, who walked on the moon with Apollo 16, recounted their extra-terrestrial experiences before a captive airshow audience. Worden, who orbited the moon alone for days in 1971, holds the feat of having been the world's most isolated human, while Cunningham is notable for being part of a team that talked back to Mission Control in 1968, getting them blacklisted from future flights.

<https://in.reuters.com/article/us-france-airshow-apollo-moon/apollo-astronauts-celebrate-50-years-since-first-moon-landing-idINKCN1TJ2BA>

### **Trump says U.S. is 'very prepared' with regard to Iran**

*Reuters, June 19, 2019*

President Donald Trump said on Tuesday the United States was very prepared with regard to Iran, as tensions ramped up after attacks on several oil tankers and Tehran's announcement it would step up uranium enrichment. "We're very prepared for Iran. We'll see what happens," Trump told reporters. On Monday, the United States announced it would deploy about 1,000

more troops to the Middle East, citing concerns about a threat from Iran.

U.S. officials have blamed Iran for attacks last week on two oil tankers in the Gulf of Oman and attacks on four tankers in May off the coast of the United Arab Emirates. Iran has denied any involvement.

<https://in.reuters.com/article/iran-nuclear-usa-trump/trump-says-u-s-is-very-prepared-with-regard-to-iran-idINKCN1TJ2RN>

### **How Donald Trump created one hell of a mess with Iran**

*Peter Bergen, CNN, June 21, 2019*

The shooting down of a US military drone by Iran on Thursday emphasizes that the conflict between the United States and Iran is deepening.

It's a crisis that President Donald Trump predictably provoked by pulling out of the Iranian nuclear deal just over a year ago – with no real Plan B beyond imposing ever-tougher sanctions on the Iranian regime. But the story gets more complicated, because in the last few weeks, Trump has sent mixed messages regarding his true intentions.

<https://edition.cnn.com/2019/06/20/opinions/us-iran-mess-trump-endgame-bergen/index.html>

### **U.S. targets Russian firm for allegedly helping North Korea evade sanctions**

*Reuters, June 20, 2019*

The United States has sanctioned a Russian financial institution for allegedly helping North Korea evade financial sanctions by assisting a company linked to Pyongyang's primary foreign exchange bank, the U.S. Treasury Department said on Wednesday.

U.S. officials targeted Russian Financial Society and accused it of opening multiple bank accounts for Dandong Zhongsheng Industry & Trade Co. Ltd, which is owned and controlled by North Korea's Foreign Trade Bank (FTB).

FTB and its chief representative in Moscow Han Jang Su were previously sanctioned, according to the Treasury Department.

<https://in.reuters.com/article/usa-northkorea-russia/u-s-targets-russian-firm-for-allegedly-helping-north-korea-evade-sanctions-idINKCN1TK2M6>

## U.S. imposes sanctions on Russian firm over North Korea violations

*Reuters, June 20, 2019*

The United States on Wednesday targeted a Russian financial firm under a North Korea sanctions programme, according to a notice posted on the U.S. Treasury website.

<https://in.reuters.com/article/usa-northkorea-russia/u-s-imposes-sanctions-on-russian-firm-over-north-korea-violations-idINKCN1TK2K8>

## U.S. redoubles sanctions threat over S-400 as Erdogan vows retaliation

*Jonathan Spicer, Humeyra Pamuk, Reuters, June 20, 2019*

The U.S. government on Thursday said economic sanctions over Turkey's planned purchase of a Russian missile defence system remained a "very viable" option, even as Turkish President Tayyip Erdogan vowed to retaliate if that occurred.

U.S. Assistant Secretary of State for Political-Military Affairs Clarke Cooper told reporters on a teleconference that the United States and other NATO allies remained in discussions with Turkey about resolving the dispute. "Seeking resolution is still within the realm of possible today, but imposition of sanctions remains a course of action and a very viable one at this point," Cooper said during a visit to Brussels, where NATO is headquartered.

<https://in.reuters.com/article/turkey-usa-security-erdogan/u-s-redoubles-sanctions-threat-over-s-400-as-erdogan-vows-retaliation-idINKCN1TL1JH>

## U.S. House Speaker Pelosi says she is glad Trump called off Iran strikes

*Reuters, June 21, 2019*

U.S. House of Representatives' Speaker Nancy Pelosi said on Friday she was glad

that President Donald Trump called off planned military strikes on Iranian targets, saying the collateral damage would have been "very provocative." "A strike of that amount of collateral damage would be very provocative, and I'm glad the president did not take that," Pelosi told reporters, reiterating her demand that Trump seek congressional authorization before any military action against Tehran. "We think there are many options that are not what they call 'kinetic' ... that might be more useful," she said.

<https://in.reuters.com/article/mideast-iran-usa-pelosi/u-s-house-speaker-pelosi-says-she-is-glad-trump-called-off-iran-strikes-idINKCN1TM2D6>

## Trump says he halted U.S. strike on Iran over possible casualties

*Reuters, June 21, 2019*

U.S. President Donald Trump on Friday said he called off a planned military strike against Iran because it would have been a disproportionate response to Tehran's downing of an unmanned U.S. surveillance drone, adding that more sanctions have been imposed. "We were cocked & loaded to retaliate last night on 3 different sights (sic) when I asked, how many will die," Trump wrote in a series of morning tweets. "150 people, sir, was the answer from a General. "10 minutes before the strike I stopped it, not proportionate to shooting down an unmanned drone. I am in no hurry." Trump said U.S. sanctions imposed on Iran were having an effect and, without mentioning details, said more were added Thursday night.

<https://in.reuters.com/article/mideast-iran-usa-trump/trump-says-he-halted-u-s-strike-on-iran-over-possible-casualties-idINKCN1TM1PE>

## Oyster Creek licence transfer approved

*World Nuclear News, June 21, 2019*

The US Nuclear Regulatory Commission has approved the transfer of Oyster Creek's licence from Exelon Generation Co to Oyster Creek Environmental Protection (OCEP), as owner, and Holtec

Decommissioning International (HDI), as decommissioning operator.

The NRC's order, which was issued on 20 June, is effective immediately but the transfer will not be finalised until the transaction between Exelon, OCEP and HDI is completed. Now NRC approval has been received, Holtec says it expects the transaction to be formally completed in July, after which Holtec will assume ownership of the site, "real" property and used nuclear fuel. Holtec will also assume responsibility for managing the plant's decommissioning trust fund (DTF), which will cover the cost of decommissioning.

<https://www.world-nuclear-news.org/Articles/Oyster-Creek-licence-transfer-approved>

### **Trump eyes more Iran sanctions; military action still on table**

*Reuters, June 22, 2019*

U.S. President Donald Trump said Saturday he will impose additional sanctions on Iran in an effort to prevent Tehran from obtaining nuclear weapons, adding that military action was still a possibility. Trump, who was speaking to reporters at the White House, made his comments after recently calling off military action against Iran to retaliate for the downing of a U.S. military drone.

"We are putting additional sanctions on Iran," Trump said. "In some cases we are going slowly, but in other cases we are moving rapidly." The president said military action "is always on the table" against Iran.

<https://in.reuters.com/article/mideast-iran-usa-trump/trump-eyes-more-iran-sanctions-military-action-still-on-table-idINKCN1TN0HJ>

### **Trump says new sanctions on Iran to start Monday, dials back rhetoric**

*Parisa Hafezi, Nandita Bose, Reuters, June 23, 2019*

U.S. President Donald Trump said on Saturday he would impose fresh sanctions on Iran but that he wanted to make a deal to bolster its flagging economy, an apparent move to defuse tensions following the

shooting down of an unmanned On Thursday, an Iranian missile destroyed a U.S. Global Hawk surveillance drone, an incident that Washington said happened in international airspace. Trump later said he had called off a military strike to retaliate because it could have killed 150 people. Tehran repeated on Saturday that the drone was shot down over its territory and said it would respond firmly to any U.S. threat.

Speaking in Washington on Saturday before heading to the U.S. presidential retreat at Camp David, Trump indicated the government was taking a diplomatic path to put pressure on Tehran by moving to impose new sanctions.

<https://in.reuters.com/article/mideast-iran-usa-threat/trump-says-new-sanctions-on-iran-to-start-monday-dials-back-rhetoric-idINKCN1TN04Y>

### **U.S. sanctions on Iran are biting: Bolton**

*Reuters, June 23, 2019*

Iran is feeling the effects of existing U.S. sanctions as President Donald Trump prepares to impose more of them from Monday, his National Security Adviser John Bolton said on Sunday during a visit to Israel. While flagging further sanctions, Trump also said on Saturday he wanted to make a deal to bolster Iran's flagging economy, an apparent move to defuse tensions following the shooting down of an unmanned U.S. drone by the Islamic Republic.

Tensions in the region began to worsen significantly when Trump pulled out of a 2015 nuclear deal between Iran and six powers and reimposed sanctions on the country. The sanctions had been lifted under the pact in return for Tehran curbing its nuclear programme. "Iran's continued pursuit of nuclear weapons, its threats to exceed the limits set in the failed Iran nuclear deal in the coming days ... are not signs of a nation seeking peace," Bolton told reporters during a visit to Israel.

<https://in.reuters.com/article/mideast-iran-israel-bolton/u-s-sanctions-on-iran-are-biting-bolton-idINKCN1TO0CM>

## Trump's Iran Reversal Raises Allies' Doubts Over His Tactics, and U.S. Power

*Patrick Kingsley, The New York Times, June 23, 2019*

Some framed it as another empty threat from a leader whose bark is consistently worse than his bite. Some saw a method to the perceived madness — a potentially shrewd act of brinkmanship. And others considered it simply the latest act of an America that, long before President Trump, has often oscillated from isolation to intervention, and back.

Mr. Trump's order to attack Iran on Thursday in retaliation for its downing of a spy drone, and his abrupt reversal minutes before American forces carried it out, have intensified global doubts about the president's judgment and the power wielded by the United States.

<https://www.nytimes.com/2019/06/23/world/europe/trump-iran-usa.html>

## One-Third Of U.S. Supports Nuclear War On North Korea, Knowing It Would Kill One Million, Report Shows

*Tom O'Connor, Newsweek, June 24, 2019*

One-third of the United States population would support a preemptive attack on North Korea, even in a nuclear scenario, knowing it would kill one million innocent people, according to a recent survey. The Bulletin of the Atomic Scientists, in collaboration with U.K.-based research firm YouGov, published a new study Monday detailing U.S. public opinion on military conflict with North Korea at a time when the pace of a historic peace process between the longtime rivals appeared to slow. Among the most "disturbing" results discovered was that "a large hawkish minority lurks within the U.S. public; over a third of respondents approve of a US preventive strike across the scenarios and appear insensitive to informational cues that most security experts would expect to reduce such levels of support."

<https://www.newsweek.com/us-support-north-korea-nuclear-war-one-million-dead-1445578>

## Trump says fresh U.S. sanctions on Iran will target supreme leader

*Reuters, June 24, 2019*

U.S. President Donald Trump on Monday signed an executive order that would impose fresh sanctions on Iran, amid increased tensions between the long-time foes.

Trump initially told reporters the sanctions, which will target Iranian Supreme Leader Ayatollah Ali Khamenei and his office, were in response to Tehran's downing of a U.S. drone last week. Tehran has said the drone was flying in its airspace, which Washington has denied. Later, Trump said the sanctions would have been imposed regardless of the incident over the drone. The United States has also blamed Iran for attacks earlier this month on two oil tankers at the entrance of the Gulf of Oman. Iran, in turn, has denied that it is to blame.

<https://in.reuters.com/article/mideast-iran-usa-sanctions/trump-says-fresh-u-s-sanctions-on-iran-will-target-supreme-leader-idINKCN1TP230>

## U.S. prods Iran for talks to ease Gulf tensions; Tehran dismisses sanctions threat

*Parisa Hafezi, Lesley Wroughton, Reuters, June 24, 2019*

U.S. President Donald Trump said on Sunday he was not seeking war with Tehran after a senior Iranian military commander warned any conflict in the Gulf region could spread uncontrollably and threaten the lives of U.S. troops. Tensions remain high between longtime foes Iran and the United States after Trump said on Friday that he called off a military strike to retaliate for Iran's downing of an unmanned U.S. drone out of concern it would have been a disproportionate response.

"I'm not looking for war," Trump said on NBC's Meet the Press program. U.S. Secretary of State Mike Pompeo repeated

to reporters on Sunday that Washington wanted talks with Tehran.

<https://in.reuters.com/article/mideast-iran-usa/u-s-prods-iran-for-talks-to-ease-gulf-tensions-tehran-dismisses-sanctions-threat-idINKCN1TO0DZ>

### **Bolton says way is open for Iran to enter talks with U.S.**

*Reuters, June 25, 2019*

U.S. National Security Adviser John Bolton, speaking after the United States increased sanctions against Iranian officials, said Washington was still willing to talk to Iran. "The president has held the door open to real negotiations to completely and verifiably eliminate Iran's nuclear weapons programme, its pursuit of ballistic missile delivery systems, its support for international terrorism and other malign behaviour worldwide," Bolton said in Jerusalem. "All that Iran needs to do is to walk through that open door."

The United States backed out of the 2015 international agreement curbing Iran's nuclear programme in May last year. Iran denies it is trying to build nuclear weapons. U.S. President Donald Trump on Monday targeted Iranian Supreme Leader Ayatollah Ali Khamenei and other Iranian officials with sanctions, increasing pressure on Iran after Iranian forces shot down an unmanned American drone.

<https://in.reuters.com/article/mideast-iran-usa-bolton/bolton-says-way-is-open-for-iran-to-enter-talks-with-u-s-idINKCN1TQ0K7>

### **Trump threatens attacks on Iran in retaliation for strikes**

*Reuters, June 25, 2019*

President Donald Trump on Tuesday threatened to attack Iran in retaliation for any strikes by Tehran "on anything American," after Iran said new U.S. sanctions precluded any diplomacy and called the White House actions "mentally retarded."

"Iran's very ignorant and insulting statement, put out today, only shows that

they do not understand reality. Any attack by Iran on anything American will be met with great and overwhelming force. In some areas, overwhelming will mean obliteration," Trump said in a Twitter post.

The United States imposed sanctions on senior Iranian officials, including Supreme Leader Ayatollah Ali Khamenei, on Monday. U.S. sanctions on Foreign Minister Mohammad Javad Zarif are expected later this week.

<https://www.reuters.com/article/us-mideast-iran-trump/trump-threatens-attacks-on-iran-in-retaliation-for-strikes-idUSKCN1TQ1YE>.

### **Trump puts sanctions on Iranian supreme leader, other top officials**

*Steve Holland, Stephen Kalin, Reuters, June 25 2019*

U.S. President Donald Trump targeted Iranian Supreme Leader Ayatollah Ali Khamenei and other top Iranian officials with sanctions on Monday, taking a dramatic, unprecedented step to increase pressure on Iran after Tehran's downing of an unmanned American drone.

With tensions running high between the two countries, Trump signed an executive order imposing the sanctions, which U.S. Treasury Secretary Steven Mnuchin said would lock billions of dollars more in Iranian assets.

Trump told reporters the sanctions were in part a response to last week's downing of a U.S. drone by Iran, but would have happened anyway. He said Khamenei was ultimately responsible for what Trump called "the hostile conduct of the regime" in the Middle East.

Trump said the sanctions "will deny the Supreme Leader and the Supreme Leader's office, and those closely affiliated with him and the office, access to key financial resources and support."

<https://in.reuters.com/article/mideast-iran-usa-cyber/trump-puts-sanctions-on-iranian-supreme-leader-other-top-officials-idINKCN1TP0AZ>

## Trump Threatens ‘Obliteration’ of Iran, as Sanctions Dispute Escalates

*David E. Sanger, David D. Kirkpatrick and Isabel Kershner, The New York Times, June 25, 2019*

President Trump warned on Tuesday that any attack Iran might carry out “on anything American” would result in the “obliteration” of parts of Iran, responding angrily to comments by President Hassan Rouhani that the White House was “mentally handicapped.” The sudden exchange of threats and insults was at least a temporary setback to Mr. Trump’s earlier efforts to de-escalate the confrontation and move toward negotiations.

After his decision last week to call off a military strike in retaliation for the downing of an unmanned reconnaissance drone, Mr. Trump had held out the possibility of negotiations with “no preconditions” and said he was not looking for war, even as he insisted that Iran would never be allowed to possess a nuclear weapon.

<https://www.nytimes.com/2019/06/25/world/middleeast/iran-rouhani-us-sanctions.html>

## SpaceX lifts 24 satellites into orbit after ‘most difficult launch’

*Bill Tarrant, Reuters, June 26 2019*

A SpaceX Falcon Heavy rocket blasted off from Kennedy Space Center in Florida on Tuesday, putting 24 experimental satellites into orbit after what Elon Musk’s rocket company called one of its “most difficult” launches ever. The craft lifted off to cheers from onlookers at 2:30 a.m. (0630 GMT) after a three-hour delay from the original launch time late Monday.

The boosters separated safely as the craft began its six-hour mission to deploy the satellites. The two side booster rockets returned safely to Earth, descending onto adjacent Air Force landing pads, but the rocket’s center booster missed its mark, crashing in the Atlantic Ocean. Musk, who predicted trouble landing the center booster on SpaceX’s drone ship, said on Twitter early Tuesday, “It was a long shot.”

<https://in.reuters.com/article/us-space-exploration-spacex/spacex-lifts-24-satellites-into-orbit-after-most-difficult-launch-idINKCN1TQ0JS>

## U.S. envoy says Iran sanctions working, warns against nuclear breaches

*John Irish, Reuters, June 27, 2019*

The U.S. policy of maximum economic pressure on Tehran is working but the sanctions do not give Iran the right to breach its nuclear commitments, a senior U.S. official said on Monday. U.S. Special Representative on Iran Brian Hook was speaking in an interview before a meeting with senior French, British and German diplomats in Paris to convince them that the Trump administration’s policy of crippling sanctions was the best way to get Iran back to the negotiating table. “We are dedicated to this policy of maximum economic pressure because it is working, it is denying the regime historic levels of revenue,” Hook told Reuters.

The meeting also comes with Iran on course to reach that limit of the maximum amount of enriched uranium it is allowed to have under a 2015 nuclear deal that includes the three European powers, Russia and China. When asked about Iran possibly breaching those restrictions, Hook said it was clear there would be consequences and that despite the U.S. pullout from the accord in 2018 and subsequent sanctions, it was not an excuse to violate the accord.

<https://in.reuters.com/article/mideast-iran-hook/u-s-envoy-says-iran-sanctions-working-warns-against-nuclear-breaches-idINKCN1TS28T>

## US-Iran tensions: All the latest updates

*Aljazeera, June 29, 2019*

Fears of war between the United States and Iran have intensified after a US drone was shot down by Iranian forces. Washington and Tehran disputed the circumstances of the drone shootdown, with Iran saying the unmanned spy plane was downed after it encroached on Iranian airspace, but the US said the aircraft was hit over international territory. The incident marked the first direct Iranian-claimed attack on US assets and came amid heightened tensions, unleashed by

US President Donald Trump's decision last year to withdraw from an international accord that curbed Tehran's nuclear programme.

<https://www.aljazeera.com/news/2019/06/iran-tensions-latest-updates-190621103437644.html>

### **U.S. Senate defeats measure to restrain Trump on Iran**

*Reuters, June 29, 2019*

The U.S. Senate on Friday defeated legislation that would have barred President Donald Trump from launching an attack on Iran without first obtaining the approval of Congress, except in self-defence. The measure was defeated 50 to 40, ensuring that the measure would not get the 60 needed to pass the Republican-majority Senate as an amendment to an annual defence policy bill. Ten senators did not vote.

U.S.-Iranian military tensions have risen over the past two months, after Trump a year ago withdrew the United States from an international nuclear deal with Tehran and world powers. The bill, the National Defense Authorization Act, or NDAA, passed the Senate on Thursday, but Senate leaders made the unusual decision to allow the amendment vote on Friday after a handful of Republicans joined Democrats in calling for debate on the matter.

<https://in.reuters.com/article/mideast-iran-usa-senate/u-s-senate-defeats-measure-to-restrain-trump-on-iran-idINKCN1TT2U7>

### **U.S., North Korea agree at DMZ to resume stalled nuclear talks: Trump**

*Reuters, June 30, 2019*

U.S. President Donald Trump said he and North Korean leader Kim Jong Un agreed on Sunday to resume stalled nuclear talks when they met in the Demilitarised Zone (DMZ) between the two Koreas. "The meeting was a very good one, very strong. We'll see what can happen," Trump said after his talks with Kim.

He said both sides would set up teams to push forward stalled talks aimed at getting North Korea to give up its nuclear weapons,

adding he was in no rush for a deal.

<https://in.reuters.com/article/northkorea-usa-southkorea-trump/u-s-north-korea-agree-at-dmz-to-resume-stalled-nuclear-talks-trump-idINKCN1TV090>

### **U.S. Democratic candidates dump on Trump over North Korea meeting**

*Doina Chiacu, Reuters, June 30, 2019*

U.S. candidates running for the 2020 Democratic presidential nomination on Sunday criticized President Donald Trump's latest overture to North Korean leader Kim Jung Un, saying the leaders' meeting lacked substance and elevated a ruthless dictator. The Republican Trump became the first sitting U.S. president to step into North Korea on Sunday, drawing on his penchant for showmanship and surprise to pull off talks with Kim in the Demilitarized Zone that divides the two Koreas.

The meeting, at Trump's last-minute invitation, drew praise from some including Pope Francis as a step toward peace. Critics called it a publicity stunt and said Trump wasted an important symbolic move when there has been little sign that North Korea has taken meaningful steps toward denuclearization.

<https://in.reuters.com/article/northkorea-usa-democrats/u-s-democratic-candidates-dump-on-trump-over-north-korea-meeting-idINKCN1TV0T8>

### **After surprise Trump-Kim meeting, U.S. and North Korea to reopen talks**

*Roberta Rampton, Hyonhee Shin, Reuters, June 30, 2019*

U.S. President Donald Trump became the first sitting U.S. president to set foot in North Korea on Sunday when he met its leader, Kim Jong Un, in the Demilitarized Zone (DMZ) between the two Koreas and agreed to resume stalled nuclear talks.

The meeting, initiated by a spur-of-the-moment tweet by Trump that Kim said

took him by surprise, once again displayed the rapport between the two. But they are no closer to narrowing the gap between their positions since they walked away from their summit in February in Vietnam. The two men shook hands warmly and expressed hopes for peace when they met for the third time in just over a year on the old Cold War frontier that for decades has symbolised the hostility between their countries, which are technically still at war. Trump, escorted by Kim, briefly crossed a military demarcation line into the North side of the Joint Security Area (JSA), patrolled by soldiers from both Koreas.

<https://in.reuters.com/article/northkorea-usa-southkorea/after-surprise-trump-kim-meeting-u-s-and-north-korea-to-reopen-talks-idINKCN1TV01Z>

### **Trump says officials in ‘final stages’ of working out meeting with North Korea’s Kim**

*Reuters, June 30, 2019*

U.S. President Donald Trump said on Sunday he had been told that North Korean leader Kim Jong Un would like to meet him, and officials are arranging a quick meeting at the demilitarised zone (DMZ) dividing the two Koreas later in the day. “I’ve been told that Kim Jong Un would like to meet, and it looks like they’re in the final stages of working out just a very quick meeting,” Trump said. “I look forward to going to the DMZ, which I’ve wanted to see for a long time,” he said.

<https://in.reuters.com/article/northkorea-usa-meeting/trump-says-officials-in-final-stages-of-working-out-meeting-with-north-koreas-kim-idINKCN1TV02W>

### **Trump meets with Kim, crosses border into North Korea**

*Reuters, June 30, 2019*

U.S. President Donald Trump met with North Korean leader Kim Jong Un for the third time on Sunday amid hopes for new talks at ending North Korea’s nuclear programmes. Trump met Kim on the southern side of the border village of

Panmunjom in the Demilitarised Zone separating the two Koreas. Trump briefly crossed the inter-Korean military border into the North, becoming the first ever U.S. president to set foot in the reclusive country.

<https://in.reuters.com/article/northkorea-usa-meeting/trump-meets-with-kim-crosses-border-into-north-korea-idINKCN1TV07Z>

## ***E. Europe***

### **France, Germany to increase efforts to reduce Iran tensions, avert war: ministers**

*Reuters, June 19, 2019*

France and Germany will increase their efforts to reduce tensions over Iran, but time was running out and the risk of war could not be ruled out, their foreign ministers said on Wednesday. “We want to unify our efforts so that there is a de-escalation process that starts,” French Foreign Minister Jean-Yves Le Drian told reporters after a cabinet meeting in Paris.

“There is still time and we hope all the actors show more calm. There is still time, but only a little time,” he said. Britain, France and Germany, known as the E3, plan a new push to keep Iran in the 2015 nuclear deal despite Tehran’s threat to violate one of its central limits, but they may be nearing the end of the diplomatic road they embarked on more than 15 years ago, diplomats told Reuters on Tuesday. Germany Foreign Minister Heiko Maas, who attended the French cabinet meeting, echoed those comments adding that “the risk of war in the Gulf has not been averted.” “We need to do everything so that it doesn’t come to this. That’s why we are talking to all sides. I was in Iran and we are also talking with the Americans. We need to de-escalate through dialogue. It is a time of ‘diplomacy first’ and that’s what we are committed to.”

<https://in.reuters.com/article/iran-nuclear-france-germany/france-germany-to-increase-efforts-to-reduce-iran-tensions-avert-war-ministers-idINKCN1TK1FE>

## France sends top diplomat to Iran for talks to reduce tensions

*Reuters, June 20, 2019*

French President Emmanuel Macron's top diplomatic adviser travelled to Iran on Wednesday to hold talks with local officials as part of European efforts to reduce tensions in the Gulf region, a presidency official said. "The diplomatic adviser did indeed travel to Iran on June 19...to hold high-level talks with the objective of contributing to a de-escalation of tensions in the region," the official said, confirming information from two diplomatic sources. The diplomat, Emmanuel Bonne, has been based in Iran in the past and is a Middle East expert.

<https://in.reuters.com/article/iran-nuclear-france/france-sends-top-diplomat-to-iran-for-talks-to-reduce-tensions-idINKCN1TK2QU>

## British minister held 'constructive' talks with Iran on rising tensions

*Reuters, June 23, 2019*

The British minister for the Middle East had "open, frank and constructive" talks with Iranian government representatives about rising tensions in the region during a visit to Tehran, Britain's Foreign and Commonwealth Office said on Sunday. "I reiterated the UK's assessment that Iran almost certainly bears responsibility for recent attacks on tankers in the Gulf of Oman," Andrew Murrison, minister for the Middle East and North Africa, said in a statement.

"Such activity, which carries a high risk of miscalculation, needs to stop to allow for immediate de-escalation of rising tensions." Tehran has denied involvement in the tanker attacks. U.S. President Donald Trump said on Sunday he was not seeking war with Tehran after a senior Iranian military commander warned any conflict in the Gulf region could spread uncontrollably and threaten the lives of U.S. troops.

<https://in.reuters.com/article/mideast-iran-britain/british-minister-held-constructive-talks-with-iran-on-rising-tensions-idINKCN1TO0SR>

## Europeans warn Iran against reducing nuclear deal commitments

*Reuters, June 24, 2019*

France, Britain and Germany have sent an official diplomatic warning to Iran about the serious consequences Tehran faces if it scales back its compliance with the 2015 nuclear deal, two European diplomats said on Monday. Three diplomats said the European signatories to the deal lodged the diplomatic demarche, the term for a formal note, on June 22, with two saying the communication aimed to warn Iran specifically against scaling back its commitments to the accord.

It was not immediately clear what consequences Iran might face for non-compliance. Iran has said it will not give the European powers more time beyond July 8 to save the nuclear deal. It has said it is ready to go through with a threat to enrich uranium to a higher level if Europe cannot shield Tehran from U.S. sanctions. The move by the Europeans highlights the growing frustration they have with Iran, which has put the onus on them to do more to shield Tehran from the crippling impact of sanctions.

<https://in.reuters.com/article/iran-nuclear-europe/europeans-warn-iran-against-reducing-nuclear-deal-commitments-idINKCN1TP21R>

## NATO calls on Russia to destroy new missile, warns of response

*Robin Emmott, Reuters, June 25 2019*

NATO urged Russia on Tuesday to destroy a new missile before an August deadline and save a treaty that keeps land-based nuclear warheads out of Europe or face a more determined alliance response in the region. NATO defence ministers will discuss on Wednesday their next steps if Moscow keeps the missile system that the United States says would allow short-notice nuclear attacks on Europe and break the 1987 Intermediate-range Nuclear Forces Treaty (INF). "We call on Russia to take the responsible path, but we have seen no indication that Russia intends

to do so," Secretary-General Jens Stoltenberg told a news conference. "We will need to respond," Stoltenberg said.

He declined to go into more details. But diplomats said defence ministers will consider more flights over Europe by U.S. warplanes capable of carrying nuclear warheads, more military training and the repositioning U.S. sea-based missiles.

<https://in.reuters.com/article/russia-usa-missiles/nato-calls-on-russia-to-destroy-new-missile-warns-of-response-idINKCN1TQ14Q>

### **France warns Iran against violating nuclear commitments: foreign minister**

*Reuters, June 25 2019*

France warned Iran on Tuesday that a violation of its nuclear commitments to the 2015 nuclear deal would be a serious mistake and that France, Britain and Germany were making it clear to Tehran that it was not in its interest to do so. Iran will take new steps to reduce its commitments under its nuclear deal with world powers on July 7, the Secretary of the Supreme National Security Council, Ali Shamkhani, said on Tuesday.

"Iran has announced its intention to no longer meet certain obligations of the Vienna agreement, in particular on the authorised stocks of low-enriched uranium from gas. They have announced this initiative for the coming days," France's Foreign Minister Jean-Yves Le Drian told lawmakers.

<https://in.reuters.com/article/iran-nuclear-france/france-warns-iran-against-violating-nuclear-commitments-foreign-minister-idINKCN1TQ1T0>

### **World's first underground nuclear waste storage moves forward in Finland**

*Reuters, June 25 2019*

Finland's plan to establish the world's first underground nuclear waste disposal tool a step forward on Tuesday when its builder Posiva announced a 500-million-euro (\$569.55 million) investment in facilities needed for nuclear waste burial. Posiva, owned by Finnish utilities Fortum and

Teollisuuden Voima, plans to bury used nuclear fuel around 400 meters (1,312 feet) deep in Onkalo bedrock on Olkiluoto island, some 230 km northwest of Helsinki.

Finland's government has already granted a construction license for the above-ground encapsulation plant and disposal facility Posiva needs to treat the highly radioactive waste before taking it to the underground waste repository. "We expect to award contracts for the most significant works in the near future," Posiva President Janne Mokka said in a statement. He estimated the facilities could be operational by mid 2020s. In Posiva's disposal process, the waste will be packed in sealed copper canisters before being transferred into tunnels and further into deposition holes lined with bentonite buffer.

<https://in.reuters.com/article/us-finland-nuclear-waste/worlds-first-underground-nuclear-waste-storage-moves-forward-in-finland-idINKCN1TQ1NL>

## **F. Russia**

### **INF Treaty 101: The Basics of the Ailing US-Russia Nuclear Pact**

*Sputnik News, June 18, 2019*

The treaty, signed over three decades ago, witnessed in excess of 2,500 intermediate-range nuclear weapons destroyed by its participants, with mutual inspections and satellite observations employed to ensure compliance.

In October 2018, US President Donald Trump announced that his country is going to withdraw from the INF Treaty, citing Russia's alleged violations of the agreement, with Moscow denying these allegations and, in turn, arguing that it's Washington who is breaching the terms of the deal. As the landmark pact agreed over three decades ago rapidly approaches its end, set to expire on 2 August, it might be worthwhile pausing and taking a look at the actual agreement to better understand what its demise means for the world.

<https://sputniknews.com/world/201906181075941616-inf-treaty-history-facts/>

## Iran's actions on nuclear deal can be reversed – Russian diplomat

*TASS News Agency, June 18, 2019*

Teheran's steps in relation to the Joint Comprehensive Plan of Action (JCPOA) on the Iranian nuclear deal are of a forced and sporadic nature and can be reversed, Russian Deputy Foreign Minister Sergey Ryabkov said on Tuesday.

"Russia fully understands that Tehran's actions are of a forced, sporadic, and, most importantly, reversible nature. We understand and in many ways share the disappointment of the Iranian side in relation to the lack of an adequate response to its urgent requests to take into account Tehran's concerns regarding the stalling of the JCPOA in terms of the practical impact of the nuclear deal," Ryabkov said. "Iran is honoring all its obligations and even today, it technically remains within the framework set by the JCPOA. Russia consistently stresses the necessity of a responsible approach to the implementation of obligations by all parties to the nuclear deal."

<https://tass.com/politics/1064437>

## Russian Su-27 fighter jets intercept US nuclear-capable B-52 bombers above Baltic & Black Seas – MoD

*Russian Times, June 18, 2019*

Russian fighters were scrambled twice to intercept American B-52H bombers, active on the eastern and southern borders. The close encounters between Russian and US planes occurred both above the Baltic and Black seas. The US strategic bombers were intercepted twice on Monday, Russian Defense Ministry has said, without providing exact numbers of aircraft involved into the encounters. "The crews of Russian Su-27 fighter jets ... have intercepted US Air Force B-52H strategic bombers, that approached Russian state border from the Black and Baltic seas," the military said.

<https://www.rt.com/news/462081-russian-fighters-intercept-b52/>

## A winnable nuclear war? New Pentagon document shows US military thinks so

*Russian Times, June 19, 2019*

The Pentagon document laying out the US doctrine of nuclear operations was publicly available for about a week, then made 'official use only.' What's inside is a chilling reminder that Washington sees nuclear war as winnable. "Nuclear Operations," or Joint Publication 3-72, was dated on June 11 and made private since, but not before it was downloaded by Steven Aftergood, an activist at the Federation of American Scientists (FAS).

The publication "provides fundamental principles and guidance to plan, execute, and assess nuclear operations." The rest of it is in the same matter-of-fact tone, even when discussing practical consideration of potentially world-ending weapons.

<https://www.rt.com/usa/462251-nuclear-doctrine-document-pentagon/>

## Putin says U.S. attack on Iran would be a catastrophe

*Reuters, June 20, 2019*

Russian President Vladimir Putin said on Thursday that a U.S. military attack on Iran would be a catastrophe for the Middle East that would trigger a surge in violence and a possible refugee exodus. Putin, speaking during his annual televised question and answer session, said Moscow believed Tehran was in full compliance with its nuclear commitments and called sanctions against Iran groundless.

<https://in.reuters.com/article/mideast-iran-usa-putin/putin-says-u-s-attack-on-iran-would-be-a-catastrophe-idINKCN1TL1JN>

## Meet Russia's Kiev-Class Aircraft Carrier (Armed with Nuclear Weapons)

*Kyle Mizokami, The National Interest Blog, June 20, 2019*

The four Kiev-class carriers were part of a major shipbuilding effort designed to fulfill

both sets of tasks. At the tail end of the Cold War, the Soviet Union produced a number of unique aircraft carriers. Known as the Kiev class, the carriers were the Soviets' initial foray into the world of fixed wing naval aviation, and the only Soviet carriers to become fully operational. The story of the Kiev carriers is also the story of a land power forging a path to become a naval power, seeking to realize a fleet that could challenge the mighty U.S. Navy.

<https://nationalinterest.org/blog/buzz/meet-russias-kiev-class-aircraft-carrier-armed-nuclear-weapons-63557>

### **Hackers target Russia's defense, nuclear power industry secrets**

*TASS News Agency, June 24, 2019*

Cyberhackers target information concerning Russian technologies in the defense and atomic energy industry, the deputy director of the National Coordination Center for Computer Incidents, Nikolai Murashov told a news briefing on Thursday. "Analysis of information coming from GosSOPKA (government system of identification, warning and elimination of effects of cyberattacks against Russia's IT resources) indicates that most attacks are aimed at stealing information. First and foremost the attackers focus on Russia's technologies in the defense and nuclear industries, energy and missile building, as well as information from public administration systems," Murashov said.

<https://tass.com/world/1065822>

### **Russia's Rosatom Sees Foreign Revenues, New Products Fuelling Rapid Growth**

*Moscow Times, June 24, 2019*

Russian state nuclear company Rosatom aims to triple its revenues in U.S. dollar terms by 2030, driven by foreign projects from Belarus to Bangladesh and new product areas such as carbon fibre, its chief executive told Reuters. Rosatom is the world's only integrated nuclear firm, providing a one stop shop from uranium enrichment to handling nuclear waste, after

its two biggest rivals Areva and Westinghouse hit financial troubles. Alexey Likhachyov, 58, has led Rosatom since 2016, with goals to increase competitiveness, add new markets and products, and boost its share of global nuclear technology exports.

<https://www.themoscowtimes.com/2019/06/24/russias-rosatom-sees-foreign-revenues-new-products-fuelling-rapid-growth-a66135>

### **Nato gives Russia final warning over nuclear arms pact**

*Michael Peel, Financial Times, June 25, 2019*

Nato has given Russia a final warning to destroy a disputed missile system or else trigger the collapse of a cold war-era nuclear arms pact and spark countermeasures by the western alliance. Defence ministers from the 29-member group will hold talks on Wednesday in Brussels on their response should the Intermediate-Range Nuclear Forces (INF) treaty between the US and Russia fall apart as expected in early August. The deal's likely demise has spooked European countries because it opens the way for the kind of east-west arms race on the continent not seen since the days of the Soviet Union.

<https://www.ft.com/content/509ea7ea-9760-11e9-8cfb-30c211dcd229>

### **Putin aide: downed U.S. drone was in Iranian airspace**

*Reuters, June 25 2019*

Russia has military intelligence that shows that a U.S. drone was in Iranian air space when it was shot down by Iran last week, Nikolai Patrushev, Secretary of Russia's Security Council, said on Tuesday. Speaking at a briefing for journalists in Jerusalem, Patrushev said evidence presented by the United States alleging Iran was behind attacks on ships in the Gulf of Oman was poor quality and unprofessional.

<https://in.reuters.com/article/mideast-iran-russia-drones/putin-aide-downed-u-s-drone-was-in-iranian-airspace-idINKCN1TQ11B>

## Russia extends fuel supply to Armenian plant

*World Nuclear News, June 26, 2019*

TVEL and Haykakan Atomayin Elektrakayan - Armenian Nuclear Power Plant - have signed contractual documents for supplies of Russian nuclear fuel in 2019-2020. TVEL, the nuclear fuel manufacturer subsidiary of Russian state nuclear corporation Rosatom, said that a stock of fresh nuclear fuel had already been provided to the site of the power plant in Metsamor in compliance with a supplement signed in 2017 to their general contract. The agreement was signed by Artur Baghdasaryan, deputy director general of Armenian NPP., and Oleg Grigoriyev, TVEL's senior vice-president for Commerce and International Business.

In 2011, the Armenian Nuclear Regulatory Authority granted the plant an operating licence extension until 2021, subject to annual safety demonstration since 2016. The plant is preparing to submit an application for a second licence renewal to extend its operating lifetime until 2026.

<https://www.world-nuclear-news.org/Articles/Russia-extends-fuel-supply-to-Armenian-plant>

## Russian Senate Rules to Leave Nuclear Arms Treaty in Unanimous Vote

*The Moscow Times, June 26, 2019*

Russian senators have voted unanimously to uphold President Vladimir Putin's suspension of a landmark nuclear arms control treaty with the United States on Wednesday. The U.S. will withdraw from the Intermediate-range Nuclear Forces (INF) Treaty on Aug. 2 unless Moscow ends violations, which Russia denies, of the 1987 pact. Putin signed a decree suspending Russia's compliance with the INF Treaty in March after the U.S. announced its impending withdrawal.

<https://www.themoscowtimes.com/2019/06/26/russian-senate-rules-leave-nuclear-arms-treaty-unanimous-vote-a66167>

## Shipbuilders to deliver heavy nuclear-powered missile cruiser to Russian Navy in 2022

*TASS News Agency, June 27, 2019*

Shipbuilders will deliver the Project 1144 heavy nuclear-powered missile-carrying cruiser Admiral Nakhimov to the Russian Navy in 2022 after its repairs and upgrade, Sevmas Shipyard Chief Mikhail Budnichenko told TASS at the Army-2019 international military and technical forum on Thursday. The heavy nuclear-powered missile-carrying cruiser Admiral Nakhimov was laid down on May 17, 1983. The cruiser was initially named the Kalinin. The warship was put afloat on April 25, 1986 and made operational in Russia's Northern Fleet on December 30, 1988. The nuclear-powered cruiser was renamed into the Admiral Nakhimov on April 22, 1992.

<https://tass.com/defense/1065876>

## 'Russia, China, N. Korea eager to find common ground, but US push for superiority ruins everything'

*Russian Times, June 29, 2019*

Donald Trump said a lot of good things on Russia, China and North Korea during the G20 summit, but there's no guarantee he won't announce that he's changed his mind in a tweet next week, analysts have told RT.

"The outcomes are always good whenever President Trump meets world leaders, be it Putin, Xi Jinping or North Korean [Kim Jong-un]," political analyst Andre Vltchek commented, speaking on the outcome of the high-profile gathering in Osaka but noting that, in a week or a month, Trump could wake up and tweet something on Venezuela, North Korea that completely contradicts his earlier words.

<https://www.rt.com/news/463024-russia-china-korea-us-trump/>

## Russia Plans to Build Four Submarines Armed with Nuclear Drone-Torpedoes

*Sebastien Roblin, The National Interest Blog, June 29, 2019*

For decades, submarine nuclear deterrence has been uniquely provided by the nuclear-powered ballistic missile submarine (SSBN), designed to loft missiles from beneath the waves into space before releasing multiple nuclear warheads that rain hellfire on cities and military bases below. SSBNs can remain submerged basically indefinitely thanks to their nuclear reactors, and are thus unlikely to be all hunted down prior to launch orders being issued.

However, while Russia is planning to fully replace its older SSBNs with eight ultra-quiet Borei-class boats (detailed in a companion article), it is embarking on a radical new direction by also ordering four Khabarovsk-class nuclear-powered submarine drone-torpedo carriers, or SSDNs.

<https://nationalinterest.org/blog/buzz/russia-plans-build-four-submarines-armed-nuclear-drone-torpedoes-64776>

## Russia: JCPOA parties to help Iran export heavy water, enriched uranium

*Tehran Times, June 29, 2019*

“In the context of the JCPOA’s ‘nuclear’ aspects, experts from the member nations have been tasked to elaborate practical measures to make it possible for Iran to export low enriched uranium and heavy water in bypassing of the U.S. sanctions,” the Russian Foreign Ministry said on Friday after the JCPOA Joint Commission meeting in Vienna, according to TASS.

Under the JCPOA, Iran was only allowed to keep 300 kilograms of enriched uranium. Also, based on the agreement, Iran was authorized to exchange heavy water for importation of yellow cake. As a retaliation against the U.S. withdrawal from the JCPOA and reimposition of sanctions on Iran coupled with a failure by the European Union to compensate for the U.S. exit, Iran

officially announced that Iran stops selling stockpiles of enriched uranium and heavy water for 60 days from May 8.

<https://www.tehrantimes.com/news/437545/Russia-JCPOA-parties-to-help-Iran-export-heavy-water-enriched>

## Russia New Stealth Submarine Is Armed with 72 Nuclear Warheads

*Sebastien Roblin, The National Interest Blog, June 30, 2019*

On May 22, 2018, the Russian submarine Yuri Dolgoruky slipped beneath the waves of the Arctic White Sea. Hatches along the submerged boat’s spine opened, flooding the capacious tubes beneath. Moments later, an undersea volcano seemingly erupted from the depths.

Amidst roiling smoke, four stubby-looking missiles measuring twelve-meters in length emerged one by one. Momentarily, they seemed on the verge of faltering backward into the sea before their solid-fuel rockets ignited, propelling them high into the stratosphere. The four missiles soared across Russia to land in a missile test range on the Kamchatka peninsula, roughly 3,500 miles away.

<https://nationalinterest.org/blog/buzz/russia-new-stealth-submarine-armed-72-nuclear-warheads-64656>

## Russia beating U.S. in race for global influence, Pentagon study says

*Bryan Bender, Politico, June 30, 2019*

The U.S. is ill-equipped to counter the increasingly brazen political warfare Russia is waging to undermine democracies, the Pentagon and independent strategists warn in a detailed assessment that happens to echo much bipartisan criticism of President Donald Trump’s approach to Moscow. The more than 150-page white paper, prepared for the Joint Chiefs of Staff and shared with POLITICO, says the U.S. is still underestimating the scope of Russia’s aggression, which includes the use of propaganda and disinformation to sway

public opinion across Europe, Central Asia, Africa and Latin America. The study also points to the dangers of a growing alignment between Russia and China, which share a fear of the United States' international alliances and an affinity for "authoritarian stability."

<https://www.politico.com/story/2019/06/30/pentagon-russia-influence-putin-trump-1535243>

## West Asia

### G. Iran

#### **MP says U.S. well aware of Iran's defense power**

*Tehran Times, June 16, 2019*

Majlis National Security and Foreign Policy Committee Chairman Heshmatollah Falahatpisheh said on Sunday that the White House is well aware of Iran's defense power. Speaking to a visiting French delegation led by Chair of the French Parliament Foreign Affairs Committee Marielle de Sarnez, Falahatpisheh said since the enemies know Iran's defense capabilities well, there is no chance of engaging in war with Iran.

The U.S. recently sent military reinforcement forces, including the USS Abraham Lincoln aircraft carrier strike group, a squadron of B-52 bombers, and a battery of patriot missiles, to the Middle East, citing alleged unspecified "threats" from Iran. The Iranian MP in another part of his remarks pointed to the days when the French-made Dassault Mirage fighters were provided to the Iraqi dictator Saddam Hussein during his war with Iran in the 1980s, saying

the use of those aircraft incurred irreparable damages on civilian and domestic areas in Iran, some effects of which have not been wiped out even today.

<https://www.tehrantimes.com/news/437043/MP-says-U-S-well-aware-of-Iran-s-defense-power>

#### **Tehran sets to release details on limiting nuclear commitments**

*Tehran Times, June 16, 2019*

Following Tehran's decision to counter the United States' unilateral withdrawal from

the nuclear deal in May 2018, Iran on Monday will announce its latest measures to limit its commitments under deal with world powers. The briefing will be held at the Arak heavy water reactor facility.

According to a report by Tasnim news agency, the Atomic Energy Organization of Iran has invited over 70 press representatives to the Arak nuclear facility for Monday, where "very important information" on increasing the country's enriched uranium stockpile will be announced. The report added that Tehran will also announce its measures to prepare for a second phase of limiting commitments that is to begin in a few weeks.

<https://www.tehrantimes.com/news/437054/Tehran-sets-to-release-details-on-limiting-nuclear-commitments>

#### **If I were Iran, I would want to pull out of the JCPOA as well: Mogherini's adviser**

*Tehran Times, June 17, 2019*

Nathalie Tocci, special adviser to the EU's foreign policy chief Federica Mogherini, has said if she was an Iranian decision maker, she would leave the 2015 nuclear deal, known as the Joint Comprehensive Plan of Action. "I think, and all I can say about this is, putting myself in Iranian shoes, and if I were an Iranian decision maker I would probably be making these threats rightly so. I mean, it's clear that if one side of a contract lives up to their commitments, meaning Iran and the other side, meaning the other E3+3, and obviously this includes Russia as well, it's only fair for one side to say, Hang on, you know, if you continue acting this way I'm going to pull out," he told RT in an interview published on Monday.

She added, "Now having said that, I also think that it would be actually fairly irrational for Iran to leave the JCPOA before 2020 simply because it is basically a year and a few months time before there could be a change in the United States...Or not. And indeed if the answer is not, then

indeed if I were Iran I would probably not stick with the JCPOA because indeed, as I said, the social contract can only hold if both sides live up to the bargain.”

<https://www.tehrantimes.com/news/437101/If-I-were-Iran-I-would-want-to-pull-out-of-the-JCPOA-as-well>

### **Iran to scale back nuclear deal commitments: Tasnim**

*Reuters, June 17, 2019*

Iran will announce further moves on Monday to scale back compliance with an international nuclear pact that the United States abandoned last year, the semi-official Tasnim news agency reported on Sunday. “Iran’s Atomic Energy Organisation tomorrow at the Arak heavy water site will announce preparatory steps that have been taken to further decrease Tehran’s commitments under the deal,” Tasnim said, without citing sources. The organisation will announce moves to increase stocks of enriched uranium and production of heavy water at Arak, Tasnim reported. The United States and the International Atomic Energy Agency believe Iran had a nuclear weapons programme that it abandoned. Tehran denies ever having had one.

<https://in.reuters.com/article/iran-nuclear/iran-to-scale-back-nuclear-deal-commitments-tasnim-idINKCN1TH0AH>

### **Iran says it dismantled a U.S. cyber espionage network**

*Reuters, June 17, 2019*

Iran said on Monday it had exposed a large cyber espionage network it alleged was run by the U.S. Central Intelligence Agency (CIA), and that several U.S. spies had been arrested in different countries as the result of this action. U.S.-Iran tensions are growing following accusations by U.S. President Donald Trump’s administration that Tehran last Thursday attacked two oil tankers in the Gulf of Oman, a vital oil shipping route. Iran denies having any role. The secretary of Iran’s Supreme National Security Council, Ali Shamkhani, said on Monday: “One of the most complicated CIA cyber espionage

networks that had an important role in the CIA’s operations in different countries was exposed by the Iranian intelligence agencies a while ago and was dismantled.”

<https://in.reuters.com/article/usa-iran-cyber/iran-says-it-dismantled-a-u-s-cyber-espionage-network-idINKCN1TI1IU>

### **Iran will leave non-proliferation pact if EU fails to save nuclear deal: lawmaker**

*Reuters, June 17, 2019*

Iran will quit a treaty against the spread of nuclear weapons unless European powers save a separate 2015 atomic deal that Washington abandoned last year, a senior Iranian lawmaker told the semi-official Fars news agency on Monday. “There is not much time left until the end of the 60 days ultimatum given by Iran to the Europeans to save the (2015) deal. After that Iran will suspend implementation of the Non-proliferation Treaty,” said Mojtaba Zolnour, who is head of nuclear committee of parliament.

Tensions between Tehran and Washington have spiked since President Donald Trump withdrew last year from the international nuclear deal between Iran and major powers - under which Iran had agreed to curb its nuclear work in exchange for some sanctions relief.

<https://in.reuters.com/article/iran-nuclear-npt/iran-will-leave-non-proliferation-pact-if-eu-fails-to-save-nuclear-deal-lawmaker-idINKCN1TI1LD>

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<https://in.reuters.com/article/iran-nuclear-npt/iran-will-leave-non-proliferation-pact-if-eu-fails-to-save-nuclear-deal-lawmaker-idINKCN1T1ILD>

### **Iran will not wage war against any nation: Iranian president**

*Reuters, June 18, 2019*

Iran will not wage war against any nation, President Hassan Rouhani said on Tuesday, a day after the United States announced the deployment of more troops to the Middle East amid rising tensions between Tehran and Washington.

Fears of a confrontation between Iran and the United States have mounted since attacks on two oil tankers at the entrance to the Gulf on Thursday, which Washington has blamed on Tehran. "Iran will not wage war against any nation," Rouhani said in a speech broadcast live on state TV. "Those facing us are a group of politicians with little experience." He added, "Despite all of the Americans' efforts in the region and their desire to cut off our ties with all of the world and their desire to keep Iran secluded, they have been unsuccessful."

<https://in.reuters.com/article/iran-nuclear-usa/iran-will-not-wage-war-against-any-nation-iranian-president-idINKCN1TJ0J0>

### **Top MP advises Europe to take Iran's ultimatum seriously**

*Tehran Times, June 19, 2019*

A senior Iranian lawmaker on Wednesday advised European parties to the 2015 nuclear pact, also known as the JCPOA, to take Tehran's 60-day ultimatum seriously. On May 8, exactly one year after U.S.

President Donald Trump quit the JCPOA, Iran adopted a countermeasure announcing its decision to abandon limits on its uranium enrichment stockpile unless Europe makes a decision within 60 days to shield it from the U.S. sanctions.

Heshmatollah Falahatpisheh, chairman of the Majlis National Security and Foreign Policy Committee, said European countries must take Iran's 60-day ultimatum seriously and end their inaction regarding the agreement. He made the remarks in meeting with a member of the German Parliament Matthias Hohn in Tehran, Mehr reported. Falahatpisheh said the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA) has certified Iran's compliance with all its commitments under the JCPOA but Europe has taken no positive, practical measure after U.S. withdrawal from the deal.

<https://www.tehrantimes.com/news/437184/Top-MP-advises-Europe-to-take-Iran-s-ultimatum-seriously>

### **Iran says there will be no war with United States: IRNA**

*Reuters, June 19, 2019*

There will not be any military confrontation between Iran and the United States, the secretary of Iran's Supreme National Security Council was quoted as saying on Wednesday by state news agency IRNA. Worries about a military confrontation between Iran and the United States have mounted since attacks last week on two oil tankers near the Gulf. Washington blamed long-time foe Iran for the attacks but Tehran denied any responsibility. "There will not be a military confrontation between Iran and America since there is no reason for a war. Accusing other countries has turned into a common practice among U.S. officials as they try to pressure other counties," Ali Shamkhani said.

<https://in.reuters.com/article/iran-nuclear-usa-conflict/iran-says-there-will-be-no-war-with-united-states-irna-idINKCN1TK0RH>

## **Iran condemns 'airspace violation' by U.S., warns of consequences**

*Reuters, June 20, 2019*

Iran's Foreign Ministry on Thursday condemned what it called a violation of Iranian airspace by a U.S. drone, state TV reported, warning of the consequences of such "provocative" measures. "Any such violations of Iran's borders are strongly condemned ... We warn of the consequences of such illegal and provocative measures," said ministry spokesman Abbas Mousavi. Iran said on Thursday that its elite Revolutionary Guards had shot down a U.S. drone flying over southern Iran, raising fears of military confrontation with the United States. Washington said a U.S. drone had been shot down in international airspace.

<https://in.reuters.com/article/mideast-iran-drone-ministry/iran-condemns-airspace-violation-by-u-s-warns-of-consequences-idINKCN1TL0WJ>

## **Zarif: Iran to start second phase of limiting nuclear commitments on July 7**

*Tehran Times, June 21, 2019*

Foreign Minister Mohammad Javad Zarif has said that Iran will start a second phase of diminishing its undertakings under the 2015 nuclear deal, aka Joint Comprehensive Plan of Action (JCPOA), on July 7. On May 8, Iran announced a partial withdrawal from some aspects of the pact, saying that the country would no longer adhere to some of the limits on its nuclear activities. It also threatened to step up uranium enrichment if an agreement is not made within 60 days to shield it from the sanctions' effects. Behrooz Kamalvandi, spokesman for the Atomic Energy Organization of Iran (AEOI), announced last Monday that Iran's stockpile of enriched uranium will exceed 300 kilograms by June 27.

<https://www.tehrantimes.com/news/437246/Zarif-Iran-to-start-second-phase-of-limiting-nuclear-commitments>

## **Rouhani: Most intl. problems rooted in U.S. unilateralism**

*Tehran Times, June 23, 2019*

Iranian President Hassan Rouhani said on Sunday that most of the problems the world is facing today are rooted in U.S. unilateralism and violation of international law by Washington. "Most of the regional and international problems have been caused by dictatorship and bullying of certain countries especially the United States whose roots are in violating international law and moving on the path of unilateralism," Rouhani said during a meeting with President of the Inter-Parliamentary Union (IPU) Gabriela Cuevas Barron. Rouhani said that the U.S. quit the 2015 nuclear deal, officially known as the Joint Comprehensive Plan of Action (JCPOA), in May 2018 and has threatened other countries to violate the resolution 2231 of the UN Security Council which endorsed the JCPOA.

<https://www.tehrantimes.com/news/437341/Rouhani-Most-intl-problems-rooted-in-U-S-unilateralism>

## **Trump lauds Iran's decision not to shoot down manned plane**

*Tehran Times, June 23, 2019*

U.S. President Donald Trump has lauded Iran's decision not to shoot down a plane carrying 38 people when it shot down an unmanned U.S. spy drone on Thursday morning. "There was a plane with 38 people yesterday, did you see that?" Trump told reporters on Saturday before leaving the White House for Camp David. "I think that's a big story. They had it in their sights and they didn't shoot it down. I think they were very wise not to do that. And we appreciate that they didn't do that. I think that was a very wise decision." The IRGC announced on Thursday that its air defense force had shot down an intruding American spy drone in the country's southern coastal province of Hormozgan.

<https://www.tehrantimes.com/news/437320/Trump-lauds-Iran-s-decision-not-to-shoot-down-manned-plane>

## Iran's Nuclear Standoff Is About to Enter a Perilous New Phase

*Jonathan Tirone, Bloomberg, June 23, 2019*

Iran is set to breach a cap on its enriched-uranium stockpile within days, potentially pushing its conflict with the U.S. into a dangerous new phase. Limiting the volume and purity of its accumulated uranium was a central part of Iran's nuclear deal with world powers in 2015. The U.S. abandoned the deal in May 2018 and reimposed sanctions. President Donald Trump said Saturday he'll impose "major" additional U.S. penalties on Monday.

<https://www.bloomberg.com/news/articles/2019-06-23/iran-s-nuclear-standoff-is-about-to-enter-a-perilous-new-phase>

## 'Europe does not want to pay the least price to save nuclear deal'

*Tehran Times, June 24, 2019*

Iranian Deputy Foreign Minister for Political Affairs Abbas Araghchi said on Sunday that Europe does not want to pay the least price to keep 2015 nuclear deal, officially known as the Joint Comprehensive Plan of Action (JCPOA). "We have been convinced that Europe's refusal to abide by its commitments under the JCPOA does not come from inability but from lack of will. Europe does not want to pay the least cost to preserve the JCPOA. The European companies do not dare to disobey the U.S. Treasury's orders which means Europe's lack of sovereignty even inside of its borders," Araghchi said during a meeting with British Minister of State for the Middle East Andrew Murrison in Tehran.

<https://www.tehrantimes.com/news/437387/Europe-does-not-want-to-pay-the-least-price-to-save-nuclear>

## Shamkhani says new steps to reduce commitment to JCPOA coming July 7

*Tehran Times, June 25, 2019*

Iran will take new steps to reduce its commitments under the nuclear deal with world powers on July 7, Ali Shamkhani, secretary of the Supreme National Security Council, said on Tuesday in a note to Fars

news agency. Shamkhani said European signatories to the nuclear deal had not done enough to save it. The 2015 deal requires Iran to curb its nuclear program in return for the lifting of sanctions.

The United States withdrew from the deal last year and reimposed sanctions. Iran says it intends to continue complying with it, but cannot do so indefinitely unless European countries find ways to protect it from U.S. sanctions.

<https://www.tehrantimes.com/news/437439/Shamkhani-says-new-steps-to-reduce-commitment-to-JCPOA-coming>

## Iran to take second step in limiting nuclear commitments 'more strongly'

*Tehran Times, June 25, 2019*

Foreign Ministry spokesman Abbas Mousavi said on Monday that Iran will take the second step in reducing its commitments under the 2015 nuclear deal "more strongly". On May 8, Supreme National Security Council (SNSC) declared Tehran's partial withdrawal from the nuclear deal commitments in response to the U.S. exit from the multilateral pact and reimposition of sanctions on Iran. The decision by Tehran was taken one year after the U.S. ditched the agreement endorsed by the UN Security Council Resolution 2231.

Under the nuclear agreement, officially called Joint Comprehensive Plan of Action (JCPOA), Iran is tasked to put caps on its nuclear activities in exchange for termination of economic and financial sanctions.

<https://www.tehrantimes.com/news/437386/Iran-to-take-second-step-in-limiting-nuclear-commitments-more>

## Cyber-attack against Iran: a failed strategy of U.S. presidents from Bush to Trump

*Hamid Bayati, Tehran Times, June 25, 2019*

After that, on January 16 2011, New York Times and many other media published

news about how Stuxnet malicious computer worm was jointly built by U.S., the Zionist regime, United Kingdom and Germany. New York Times revealed that George W. Bush, U.S. former president, initially issued the permit for production of Stuxnet and then they started building the virus in cooperation with the Zionist regime.

According to the official documents, Stuxnet was built jointly by U.S., Germany, U.K. and the Zionist regime, but Germany and U.K. may not have been aware what function the virus will have in future. What we know for sure is that George W. Bush issued the permit for building Stuxnet and Barack Obama gave the permit for using the virus in 2009.

<https://www.tehrantimes.com/news/437399/Cyber-attack-against-Iran-a-failed-strategy-of-U-S-presidents>

### **Iran will never pursue a nuclear weapon, says foreign minister**

*Reuters, June 25 2019*

Iran will never pursue a nuclear weapon, Foreign Minister Mohammad Javad Zarif said on Tuesday, according to the IRIB news agency. He pointed to the past use of nuclear weapons by the United States and to recent comments by U.S. President Donald Trump that he had called off a military strike on Iran because it would have killed 150 people.

"You were really worried about 150 people? How many people have you killed with a nuclear weapon? How many generations have you wiped out with these weapons?" Zarif said. "It is us who, because of our religious views, will never pursue a nuclear weapon," he added.

<https://in.reuters.com/article/mideast-iran-usa-zarif/iran-will-never-pursue-a-nuclear-weapon-says-foreign-minister-idINKCN1TQ1DS>

### **Iran dismisses new U.S. sanctions, calls White House 'retarded'**

*Reuters, June 25 2019*

Iranian President Hassan Rouhani dismissed new U.S. sanctions on Iran's Supreme Leader Ali Khamenei and

described the White House as "mentally retarded", an insult Iran has used in the past about President Donald Trump. In a speech broadcast live on state television, Rouhani said sanctions against Khamenei would fail because he had no assets abroad. Rouhani described the latest round of sanctions as a sign of U.S. desperation. "The White House actions mean it is mentally retarded," he said "Tehran's strategic patience does not mean we have fear."

<https://in.reuters.com/article/mideast-iran-usa-rouhani/iran-dismisses-new-u-s-sanctions-calls-white-house-retarded-idINKCN1TQ0N0>

### **What Iran gains, what U.S. loses by downing U.S. drone**

*Majid Rafiee, Tehran Times, June 26, 2019*

Although the downing of US military drone by Iranian forces is not unprecedented, but the importance of this matter is double because of special capabilities of the drone and the specific political existing situation between the two countries after the US withdrawal from the Joint Comprehensive Plan of Action (JCPOA), as well as the beginning of a series of steps taken by Iran to reduce its nuclear commitments under the JCPOA.

It was a sign of the capability of the Islamic Republic of Iran to defend itself beyond the assessments of military experts in the world, including the Americans. The successful performance of Khordad 3 surface-to-air missile system will surely force the Americans to review their military analysis of Iran's defense capabilities.

<https://www.tehrantimes.com/news/437447/What-Iran-gains-what-U-S-loses-by-downing-U-S-drone>

### **Rouhani urges Europe to honor JCPOA, advises U.S. to return to the deal**

*Tehran Times, June 26, 2019*

President Hassan Rouhani on Wednesday advised European countries to meet their obligations under the 2015 nuclear pact

and the Americans to return to the deal, also known as the Joint Comprehensive Plan of Action (JCPOA), saying it would be to the benefit of everyone if they followed his advice. "We advise the Americans that the path you have chosen is flawed," Rouhani said during a cabinet session. "We advise the Europeans that your inaction toward Barjam (JCPOA) has been flawed and we tell them both to return to their commitments." "This will be to the benefit of us, you, the region, law, international bodies and the non-proliferation regime," the president argued.

<https://www.tehrantimes.com/news/437487/Rouhani-urges-Europe-to-honor-JCPOA-advises-U-S-to-return-to>

### **Leader: U.S. negotiations offer is a deception aimed to strip Iran of its defense power**

*Tehran Times, June 26, 2019*

The Leader of the Islamic Revolution Ayatollah Ali Khamenei said on Wednesday that U.S. officials' claims seeking negotiations with Tehran is an act of "deception," saying such an offer is merely aimed at disarming the Iranian nation of its "elements of power." Ayatollah Seyyed Ali Khamenei made the remarks in response to numerous offers of negotiations recently put forward by U.S. President Donald Trump and Secretary of State Mike Pompeo amid a campaign of "maximum pressure" against Tehran.

"Having failed to achieve its goal through pressure, the enemy is coming forward with an offer of talks, while assuming the Iranian nation is simple-minded," the Leader said, according to a Press TV report of his statements. "The Iranian nation will definitely make progress, but without you and on the condition that you don't approach it," he said to U.S. officials.

<https://www.tehrantimes.com/news/437462/Leader-U-S-negotiations-offer-is-a-deception-aimed-to-strip>

### **Iran will speed up enriching of uranium after deadline to Europe ends on Thursday: IRIB**

*Reuters, June 26 2019*

Iran will speed up enrichment of uranium after a deadline given to European countries to prevent this ends on Thursday, the spokesman for Iran's Atomic Energy Organization said on Wednesday, according to the IRIB news agency. "The deadline of the Atomic Energy Organization for passing the production of enriched uranium from the 300 kilogram border will end tomorrow," the organization's spokesman Behrouz Kamalvandi said. "With the end of this deadline, the speed of enrichment will speed up." The Secretary of Iran's Supreme National Security Council said on Tuesday that the Islamic Republic will take new steps to reduce its commitments under its nuclear deal with world powers on July 7.

<https://in.reuters.com/article/mideast-iran-enrichment/iran-will-speed-up-enriching-of-uranium-after-deadline-to-europe-ends-on-thursday-irib-idINKCN1TR004>

### **'We only want to sell our oil,' Iran official says before nuclear talks**

*Francois Murphy, Reuters, June 27 2019*

Iran's main demand in talks aimed at saving its nuclear deal is to be able to sell its oil at the same levels that it did before Washington withdrew from the accord a year ago, an Iranian official said on Thursday.

Iran is threatening to go over the maximum amount of enriched uranium it is allowed under the deal in retaliation for crippling U.S. economic sanctions imposed in the past year. It is just days away from that limit, diplomats say, and going over it could unravel the accord. Senior officials from Iran and the deal's remaining parties will meet in Vienna on Friday with the aim of saving the agreement. But with European powers limited in their ability to shield Iran's economy from U.S. sanctions it is unclear what they can do to

provide the large economic windfall Tehran wants.

<https://in.reuters.com/article/iran-nuclear-demand/we-only-want-to-sell-our-oil-iran-official-says-before-nuclear-talks-idINKCN1TS2PX>

## U.S. defense chief tries to rally NATO allies on Iran as tensions simmer

*Phil Stewart, Robin Emmott, Sabine Siebold, Reuters, June 27 2019*

Acting U.S. Defense Secretary Mark Esper appealed to NATO allies on Thursday to publicly denounce Iran's hostile actions and consider participating in a still-evolving plan to better safeguard strategic waterways around the Strait of Hormuz.

Esper, at NATO headquarters in his international debut as Pentagon chief, also called for help moving tensions with Iran from a military path - which included Iran's downing of a U.S. drone last week and an aborted U.S. military response - to a diplomatic one. "I discussed the need to internationalize this issue by encouraging NATO allies and regional partners to voice their opposition to Iran's bad behavior and to help us deter further provocative acts by improving maritime security," Esper told reporters after the closed-door discussions.

<https://in.reuters.com/article/mideast-iran-usa-esper/u-s-defense-chief-tries-to-rally-nato-allies-on-iran-as-tensions-simmer-idINKCN1TS2I4>

## U.S. tells NATO it wants to avoid war with Iran: diplomats

*Reuters, June 27 2019*

Acting U.S. Defense Secretary Mark Esper told NATO allies on Thursday that Washington did not want to go to war with Iran but also could not tolerate any further incidents, according to allied diplomats present.

Speaking to NATO defence ministers in a closed-door session, Esper said the United States held Iran responsible for attacks on two oil tankers in the Gulf of Oman but did not want the situation to escalate. "His first words were: we don't want to go to war

with Iran," one diplomat said. "Esper also made clear that this is about the limit (of what the United States will tolerate from Iran), that nothing more should happen now," a second diplomat said.

<https://in.reuters.com/article/mideast-iran-usa-nato/u-s-tells-nato-it-wants-to-avoid-war-with-iran-diplomats-idINKCN1TS1XJ>

## Exclusive: Iran still short of nuclear deal's enriched uranium cap - diplomats

*Francois Murphy, Reuters, June 27 2019*

Iran is still short of the maximum amount of enriched uranium it is allowed to have under its deal with major powers but it is on course to reach that limit at the weekend, the latest data from U.N. nuclear inspectors shows, diplomats say.

This makes it unlikely Iran will follow through on its threat to violate one of the nuclear deal's central restrictions on Thursday, which could have unravelled the pact altogether. It also sets up a meeting with other signatories on Friday aimed at saving the accord, which is straining under U.S. pressure. "They haven't reached the limit... It's more likely to be at the weekend if they do it," one diplomat said on condition of anonymity.

<https://in.reuters.com/article/mideast-iran-usa-nuclear/exclusive-iran-still-short-of-nuclear-deals-enriched-uranium-cap-diplomats-idINKCN1TS0S8>

## Iran's military will respond firmly if U.S. continues aggression, Rouhani says in phone call with Macron

*Tehran Times, June 27, 2019*

Iran's armed forces will respond firmly if U.S. continues to violate Iran's territory, President Hassan Rouhani said late on Tuesday in a phone conversation with French President Emmanuel Macron. However, Rouhani added, Iran is not interested in escalating tension in the region and has never sought war with any country.

"We have always been committed to development of stability and security in the region and will make efforts in this respect," Rouhani asserted. Rouhani said the U.S. administration is responsible for escalation of tension in the region. The Islamic Revolution Guards Corps on Thursday shot down a U.S. drone which violated Iran's airspace. Amir Ali Hajizadeh, commander of the aerospace unit of the IRGC, said on Friday that the drone had received warnings for four times before being shot down.

<https://www.tehrantimes.com/news/437461/Iran-s-military-will-respond-firmly-if-U-S-continues-aggression>

### **At the G20, Trump will see failure everywhere he looks**

*Tehran Times, June 27, 2019*

And he really is doomed to failure in all kinds of areas. He hates the supranational DNA of the G20 and they abhor his divisive America First rhetoric. The President's two-day ordeal will be made worse because he needs his fellow leaders' help in his latest showdown with Iran. It almost came to war last week. After Iran shot down a US drone, Trump was ready to strike back with a retaliatory attack, only calling it off 10 minutes before it was due to launch.

<https://www.tehrantimes.com/news/437499/At-the-G20-Trump-will-see-failure-everywhere-he-looks>

### **Iran says saving nuclear deal not its problem, EU warns no alternative**

*Michelle Nichols, Reuters, June 27 2019*

Iran warned the U.N. Security Council on Wednesday that it would no longer be burdened with preserving a 2015 nuclear deal with world powers as European states pushed Tehran to stick with the agreement because there is "no credible, peaceful alternative." U.S. President Donald Trump withdrew from the deal last year, inflaming tensions between Tehran and Washington that led to Iran shooting down a U.S. drone last week. Trump ordered retaliatory air strikes but called them off at the last minute.

Under the deal to curb Tehran's nuclear program most U.N. and western sanctions

on Iran were lifted, however the United States has imposed new sanctions that it says are designed to force Iran back to the negotiating table.

<https://in.reuters.com/article/iran-nuclear-un/iran-says-saving-nuclear-deal-not-its-problem-eu-warns-no-alternative-idINKCN1TR23K>

### **Iran likely to come up at G20 - Germany**

*Reuters, June 27 2019*

Germany is concerned about current tensions over Iran, a government official said on Wednesday, adding that the topic could well come up in many discussions at this weekend's G20 summit in Japan.

U.S. President Donald Trump will arrive in Japan's western city of Osaka for the G20 meeting just a week after calling off a retaliatory air strike on Iran after it shot down an unmanned U.S. aircraft. The threat of Middle East conflict has driven up global oil prices.

<https://in.reuters.com/article/germany-g20-iran/iran-likely-to-come-up-at-g20-germany-idINKCN1TR1TB>

### **Iran seen breaking nuclear pact limit in days; Trump says 'no time pressure'**

*Francois Murphy, Roberta Rampton, Reuters, June 27 2019*

Diplomats said Iran is on course to breach a threshold in its nuclear agreement within days but U.S. President Donald Trump, who has ratcheted up pressure on the Middle Eastern country, said there was "absolutely no time pressure" on the issue. The prospect that Tehran could soon violate its nuclear commitments, a week after Trump called off air strikes on Iran at the last minute, has created additional diplomatic urgency to find a way out of the crisis.

Iran had set Thursday as a deadline beyond which it would exceed the threshold for stockpiles of enriched uranium allowed under its 2015 nuclear deal with major powers, which Tehran is

still following even though Washington abandoned it last year.

<https://in.reuters.com/article/mideast-iran-usa/iran-seen-breaking-nuclear-pact-limit-in-days-trump-says-no-time-pressure-idINKCN1TS1NM>

### **Iran says progress at last-ditch nuclear deal talks 'not enough'**

*John Irish, Francois Murphy, Reuters, June 28 2019*

European countries offered too little at last-ditch talks on Friday to persuade Iran to back off from its plans to breach limits imposed by its nuclear agreement with world powers, Iran's envoy said. A week after Washington abruptly called off air strikes on Iran, diplomats say Tehran is days away from exceeding the maximum amount of enriched uranium allowed under its 2015 nuclear deal with world powers, which Washington quit last year.

The countries that are still parties to the agreement - European powers Britain, Germany and France plus Russia and China - held urgent talks with Iranian officials on Friday in Vienna in hopes of persuading Tehran to hold off. The Europeans say breach of the agreement by Iran would escalate confrontation at a time when Tehran and Washington are at risk of a miscalculation that could trigger a war.

<https://in.reuters.com/article/iran-nuclear-eu/iran-says-progress-at-last-ditch-nuclear-deal-talks-not-enough-idINKCN1TT0JL>

### **Factbox: A breach of Iran nuclear deal could trigger sanctions snapback**

*Michelle Nichols, Reuters, June 28 2019*

Iran could within days breach part of its 2015 nuclear deal with world powers, a move that could Diplomats said on Thursday Iran could soon exceed a cap on low-enriched uranium. The limit was agreed as part of the nuclear deal that lifted most international sanctions on Iran in return for curbs on its atomic activities.

If any one of the European parties to the deal - Britain, France and Germany - believe Iran

has violated the agreement, they can trigger a dispute resolution process that could, within as little as 65 days, end at the U.N. Security Council with a so-called snapback of U.N. sanctions on Iran. Russia and China are allies of Iran and unlikely to make such a move.

"The more Iranians do things that potentially violate the accord, the less inclined we are to make efforts to help them, It's a vicious circle. If they go in this direction they will be all alone, face snapback and be ostracized by everyone," said a senior European diplomat, speaking on condition of anonymity.

<https://in.reuters.com/article/iran-nuclear/factbox-a-breach-of-iran-nuclear-deal-could-trigger-sanctions-snapback-idINKCN1TT0YI>

### **U.S. can't 'obliterate' Iran unless it uses banned arms: Zarif**

*Tehran Times, June 28, 2019*

Iranian Foreign Minister Mohammad Javad Zarif says unless it resorts to using "prohibited weapons," the United States is not in any position to "obliterate" Iran as President Donald Trump has recently threatened. Facing immense pressure at home for his inability to respond in kind to Iran's downing of an intruding US spy drone last week, Trump said in a Twitter rant on Tuesday that Tehran will be met with "obliteration" if it ever attacks "anything American."

<https://www.tehrantimes.com/news/437501/U-S-can-t-obliterate-Iran-unless-it-uses-banned-arms-Zarif>

### **'Last chance' to save nuclear deal at Vienna meeting, Iran warns**

*Aljazeera, June 28, 2019*

A meeting in Vienna among the remaining signatories of the embattled nuclear deal between Tehran and world powers may be the "last chance" to save the historic accord, Iran has warned. In comments carried by Iran's Fars News Agency, Ministry of Foreign Affairs spokesman Abbas Mousavi said the gathering in the Austrian capital on Friday was an

opportunity to see how those still party to the 2015 agreement could “meet their commitments towards Iran”.

<https://www.aljazeera.com/news/2019/06/chance-save-nuclear-deal-vienna-meeting-iran-warns-190628064648361.html>

### **European Talks With Iran End, Leaving Nuclear Issue Unsettled**

*David E. Sanger, The New York Times, June 28, 2019*

A last-minute effort by European powers to persuade Iran not to breach limits on its stockpile of nuclear fuel ended inconclusively on Friday, with the Iranians saying that Britain, France and Germany had made only modest progress in developing a system to get around tight American sanctions on trade with Tehran.

As he left the talks in Vienna, Abbas Araghchi, the Iranian deputy foreign minister, said he expected Iran would go ahead with its plan to break the ceiling on how much low-enriched uranium it was allowed to possess. That breach could come as early as this weekend, potentially setting off another confrontation with the Trump administration, after a week of recriminations and military threats following the downing of an American drone and attacks on tankers.

<https://www.nytimes.com/2019/06/28/us/politics/europe-iran-nuclear-deal.html>

### **‘Not enough progress’ in Vienna talks on salvaging Iran nuclear deal**

*Tehran Times, June 29, 2019*

Iran’s deputy foreign minister says progress has been made in Vienna talks aimed at saving the 2015 nuclear deal with world powers but the demands of the Islamic Republic are yet to be met. “It was a step forward, but it is still not enough and not meeting Iran’s expectations,” Abbas Araqchi told reporters on Friday after almost four hours of talks with senior diplomats from Britain, China, France, Germany and Russia. On Friday, the remaining signatories of the nuclear agreement met in the Austrian capital as a

last-ditch effort to save the accord after the US withdrew last year. US President Donald Trump withdrew Washington in May 2018 from the multilateral nuclear accord, officially known as the Joint Comprehensive Plan of Action (JCPOA), which was reached between Iran and six world powers in 2015.

<https://www.tehrantimes.com/news/437508/Not-enough-progress-in-Vienna-talks-on-salvaging-Iran-nuclear>

### **As America and Iran inch closer to war, new talks are needed**

*The Economist, June 29, 2019*

For nearly four years Iran’s path to a nuclear weapon was blocked. The deal it signed with America and other powers in 2015 limited its nuclear programme to civilian uses, such as power-generation, and subjected them to the toughest inspection regime in history. The experts agreed that Iran was complying and that its nuclear activities were contained. But then President Donald Trump ditched the nuclear deal and Iran resumed stockpiling low-enriched uranium. It is now poised to breach the 300kg cap set by the agreement. Iran may hesitate before crossing that line, but it is also threatening to increase the enrichment level of its uranium, bringing it closer to the stuff that goes into a bomb.

<https://www.economist.com/leaders/2019/06/29/as-america-and-iran-inch-closer-to-war-new-talks-are-needed>

### **Tulsi Gabbard: Neocons, Netanyahu, and Saudi Arabia have made it difficult for Trump to avoid war with Iran**

*Tehran Times, June 30, 2019*

Gabbard said a war with Iran would make the Iraq War look like a “picnic,” according to a report of the interview posted on ealclearpolitics.com. “The neocons in the Trump administration and Saudi Arabia and Netanyahu have created a situation where it’s going to be very difficult for President Trump to avoid a war with Iran,” Gabbard said. “This is

why the neocons hate you more than anybody,” Carlson told Gabbard.

Gabbard responded by saying, “We hear a lot of politicians say the same argument that we’ve got to stay engaged in the world otherwise we’ll be isolationists as though the only way the United States can engage with other countries is by blowing them up or strangling them with economic sanctions by smashing them and trying to overthrow their governments.”

<https://www.tehrantimes.com/news/437591/Tulsi-Gabbard-Neocons-Netanyahu-and-Saudi-Arabia-have-made>

### **INSTEX is like a beautiful car without gasoline, Iran envoy says**

*Tehran Times, June 30, 2019*

INSTEX - the Instrument in Support of Trade Exchanges - is a European special purpose vehicle aimed at facilitating legitimate trade between Europe and Iran. “The current situation of INSTEX does not suffice. This mechanism without money is like a beautiful car without gasoline,” Takht Ravanchi told reporters. On Friday, the remaining signatories of the nuclear agreement met in the Austrian capital as a last-ditch effort to save the accord after the U.S. withdrew last year. They announced in a statement that the European Union mechanism for trade with Iran is up and running. “France, Germany and the United Kingdom informed participants that INSTEX had been made operational and available to all EU member states and that the first transactions are being processed,” reads an excerpt of the statement published on the official website of the EU.

<https://www.tehrantimes.com/news/437593/INSTEX-is-like-a-beautiful-car-without-gasoline-Iran-envoy-says>

#### **H. Saudi Arabia**

### **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>

### **Saudi crown prince, Pompeo send message to Iran: End hostility or pay the price**

*Deema Al-khudair, Arab News, June 17, 2019*

The US will take all actions necessary – “diplomatic and otherwise” – to deter Iran from disrupting Gulf energy supplies, US Secretary of State Mike Pompeo warned on Sunday. Pompeo spoke hours after Saudi Crown Prince Mohammed bin Salman said the Kingdom would “not hesitate in dealing with any threat against our people, sovereignty and vital interests.” The twin warnings to the regime in Tehran followed last week’s attacks on two oil tankers in the Gulf of Oman, widely assumed to have been carried out by Iran. “We don’t want war. We’ve done what we can to deter it,” Pompeo said in a TV interview. “But the Iranians should understand very clearly that we will continue to take actions that deter Iran from engaging in this kind of behavior.

“What you should assume is we are going to guarantee freedom of navigation throughout the Strait of Hormuz. This is an international challenge, important to the entire globe. The US is going to make

sure that we take all the actions necessary, diplomatic and otherwise, that achieve that outcome.”

<http://www.arabnews.com/node/1511786/middle-east>

### I. Turkey

#### Turkey says U.S. stance on F-35 doesn't fit spirit of NATO partnership

*Reuters, June 18, 2019*

Turkey said on Tuesday a U.S. warning that Ankara would be removed from Washington's F-35 fighter jet programme unless it drops a planned purchase of a Russian air defence system was out of keeping with the spirit of NATO partnership. A letter sent by U.S. acting Secretary of Defense Pat Shanahan to his Turkish counterpart earlier this month warning of the F-35 cancellation, and Ankara's insistence on installing the Russian S-400 system, has stoked tensions between the NATO allies.

Ankara has condemned the letter, saying it will not back down from its decision to acquire the S-400 missiles, which Turkish President Tayyip Erdogan on Saturday said would arrive in Turkey in the first half of July. On Tuesday, Turkish Defence Minister Hulusi Akar wrote back to Shanahan, his ministry said. "The letter repeated Turkey's discomfort over the tone and approach which does not fit the spirit of (NATO) allies and conveyed in detail our known opinion on the issue," it said in a statement.

<https://in.reuters.com/article/turkey-usa-security/turkey-says-u-s-stance-on-f-35-doesnt-fit-spirit-of-nato-partnership-idINKCN1TJ1A9>

#### U.S. and Turkey in close touch on S-400/F-35 dispute: NATO commander

*Andrea Shalal, Reuters, June 18, 2019*

Acting U.S. Defense Secretary Patrick Shanahan and his Turkish counterpart Hulusi Akar are in contact about Ankara's plans to buy a Russian air defence system, and may meet during NATO meetings in Brussels next week, NATO's commander said.

Washington says it will cancel Turkey's purchase of Lockheed Martin F-35 stealth fighters if it proceeds with plans to buy the S-400 defence system. "We won't co-locate those two assets, the S-400 and the F-35," NATO's Tod Wolters, a U.S. general, told Reuters at the Paris Airshow. He said Shanahan and Akar were in close dialogue about the issue, adding that the military-to-military relationship between the United States and NATO was "absolutely, positively solid"

<https://in.reuters.com/article/france-airshow-usa-turkey/u-s-and-turkey-in-close-touch-on-s-400-f-35-dispute-nato-commander-idINKCN1TJ0VH>

### J. Israel

#### Israel urges snapback sanctions on Iran if it breaches uranium limit

*Reuters, June 18, 2019*

Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu urged world powers on Monday to step up sanctions against Iran swiftly should it go through with a plan to exceed an enriched uranium limit set by a 2015 nuclear deal. Locked in a stand-off with Washington after the Trump administration withdrew from the nuclear agreement, Tehran said earlier on Monday it would breach internationally agreed curbs on its low-enriched uranium stock in 10 days.

"Should Iran deliver on its current threats, and violate the nuclear deal, the international community will have to implement, immediately, the pre-set sanctions mechanism, what is called 'snapback sanctions'," Netanyahu said in a speech. "In any event, Israel will not allow Iran to get nuclear weaponry," Netanyahu added, reiterating a long-standing, if veiled, threat to take preemptive military action. Iran denies seeking nuclear weaponry

<https://in.reuters.com/article/iran-nuclear-limit-israel/israel-urges-snapback-sanctions-on-iran-if-it-breaches-uranium-limit-idINKCN1TI183>

## Israel holds largest military drill amid US-Iran tensions

*Arab News, June 19, 2019*

The Israeli military said the four-day exercise had been planned long in advance. Israel wrapped up its largest military drill in years on Wednesday, with thousands of troops from the army, navy and air force simulating a future war with the militant Lebanese Hezbollah group amid fears that Iran would draw its Shiite proxy into the recent growing tensions in the Arabian Gulf. The Israeli military said the four-day exercise had been planned long in advance and focused on the immersion of all branches against threats emanating from Israel's north. It included a large deployment of unmanned aircraft and the first use of the F-35 stealth fighter planes to prepare for scenarios of missile attacks and underground infiltrations from Lebanon. But rising tensions between Iran and the US clearly served as a backdrop.

<http://www.arabnews.com/node/1513321/middle-east>

### *East Asia*

#### *K. Japan*

## Pope slated to visit Hiroshima and Nagasaki in late November

*The Asahi Shimbun, June 15, 2019*

Pope Francis will likely travel to Hiroshima and Nagasaki in November in what will be the first papal visit to Japan in 38 years, government and other sources said. Aside from visiting the two cities leveled by atomic bombing in 1945, Francis, 82, is expected to meet with Emperor Naruhito, who ascended the Chrysanthemum Throne in May, as well as Prime Minister Shinzo Abe. He will hold mass at the Tokyo Dome stadium in the capital during his four-day stay, the sources said. The pope is also considering meeting with people who evacuated their homes following the 2011 Fukushima nuclear disaster and an advocacy group calling for abolition of the death penalty. Francis, who assumed the papacy in 2013, is expected to visit from Nov. 23 to Nov. 26, the sources said. The last pontiff to visit Japan was John Paul II in 1981.

As spiritual head of 1.2 billion Catholics, the pope is an ardent advocate of a world without nuclear weapons and the abolition of capital punishment. On the latter issue, the Roman Catholic Church formally changed its teaching last year to declare it inadmissible whatever the circumstance after the Vatican had turned a blind eye to the death penalty in extreme cases. The recent change reflects Francis' vehement opposition to capital punishment. He may raise the issue during his stay in Japan, where execution by hanging is still carried out.

<http://www.asahi.com/ajw/articles/AJ201906150021.html>

## 'Atomic-bombed cross' to return to cathedral in Nagasaki

*Masato Tainaka, The Asahi Shimbun, June 17, 2019*

A cross found in the ruins of Urakami Cathedral after the atomic bombing of Nagasaki will be returned to its home from the United States this summer as an anti-nuclear symbol of peace. The wooden cross, which is about 1 meter tall with gold-colored trim, has been kept at the Peace Resource Center at Wilmington College in Ohio. The center, which houses many materials related to atomic-bombed sites in Hiroshima and Nagasaki, received the cross from Walter Hooke, a former U.S. Marine stationed in Nagasaki from autumn 1945. Hooke, who died in 2010 at the age of 97, told a U.S.-based researcher working on nuclear issues that he found the cross at the cathedral that was destroyed by the atomic bomb on Aug. 9, 1945.

<http://www.asahi.com/ajw/articles/AJ201906170032.html>

## TEPCO wrongly reports problems at nuclear plant after earthquake

*Koji Atsumi, The Asahi Shimbun, June 20, 2019*

Tokyo Electric Power Co. caused a scare in Niigata Prefecture by mistakenly reporting abnormalities at its Kashiwazaki-Kariwa nuclear plant after

the June 18 earthquake struck the area. At 10:52 p.m., TEPCO sent faxes to local governments, including the two municipalities that host the plant, that showed there were problems with electric power sources used to cool spent nuclear fuel pools for all seven reactors there.

Stunned by the report, Kashiwazaki Mayor Masahiro Sakurai instructed a staff member to confirm the information with TEPCO. Officials of the utility then realized their mistake and made a correction. The mayor summoned Chikashi Shitara, general manager of the plant, on June 19 to give him an earful for the error. "It is extremely shoddy for you to have made such a mistake on (information about) power sources, which is critically important," Sakurai told Shitara. The magnitude-6.7 earthquake struck off the coast of Yamagata and Niigata prefectures at 10:22 p.m. and did not affect plant operations.

<http://www.asahi.com/ajw/articles/AJ201906200054.html>

### **Leaders of Japan, France share Middle East concerns**

*Mari Yamaguchi, AP News, June 26, 2019*

French President Emmanuel Macron said Wednesday he and Japanese Prime Minister Shinzo Abe have agreed to bolster naval defense ties in the Indo-Pacific region and shared concerns about growing tensions in the Middle East. Macron, in Tokyo ahead of this week's Group of 20 summit in Osaka, told a joint news conference that he also hoped tensions over the U.S.-China trade dispute will ease during the summit. The two leaders discussed nuclear programs in North Korea and Iran and issues to be raised at the G-20 summit. Macron said he and Abe agreed on the need to ensure the verifiable, irreversible denuclearization of both Iran and North Korea.

<https://www.apnews.com/f8736b3b19004e49a3e88230c92de11b>

### **L. North Korea**

#### **Double-dealing tactics will never work**

*The Pyongyang Times, June 17, 2019*

Japan's double-dealing attitude of trumpeting about policy for negotiations with the DPRK on one hand and of getting bent on sanctions and pressure on the other hand has aroused suspicion of the international community. The Japan Liberal Democratic Party included such malicious and provocative phrases as "maximum pressure", "complete abandonment of nuclear and missile development" and "immediate repatriation of all abductees" in its commitment over the election of members of the House of Councilors on June 7. The election commitment of the ruling political party led by incumbent Prime Minister Abe offers a glimpse to the Japanese government's future DPRK policy.

The Japanese reactionaries' deep-running hostility toward the DPRK can never change just as a crow can not be whiter for often washing. Japan has long been divested of its justification and qualifications to get involved in the present trend for detente as it had done great disservice, steadily fanning up the exacerbation of the situation on the Korean peninsula. Japan has struggled hard to get rid of "alienation", trumpeting about "cost for denuclearization" only to be snubbed by the public at home and abroad.

Recently the heavyweights of the Japanese government get vocal for sort of dialogue to give impression that there is a change in the policy toward the DPRK and in its attitude to negotiations. But the discrepancy in its words and acts has instead touched off greater suspicion. As proven by the situation it is Japan which is keen on the futile sanctions racket, imploring for tightened pressure on the DPRK in the international arena and intensifying military actions in the region as never before. The Japanese government's DPRK policy is the height

of shamelessness and double-sidedness. Double-dealing tactics will never work. The Liberal Democratic Party's election commitment to diplomacy commanding the globe is truly doubtful as Japan now finds itself in utterly deplorable situation of being ostracized in the region. It had better learn elementary ethics of political diplomacy.

<http://www.pyongyangtimes.com.kp/?bbs=30392>

### **DPRK-US joint statement set the stage for peninsula peace process'**

*The Pyongyang Times, June 19, 2019*

Russian and Algerian personages released statements on June 7 and 9 to mark the first anniversary of the adoption of the historic June 12 DPRK-US Joint Statement. Gennadi Astakhov, chairman of the Tynda Organization for the Study of the Juche Idea in Russia, said that June 12, 2018 was the day of the publication of the joint statement in which the DPRK and the US agreed to put an end to the long-standing relations of hostility and open up a new future.

The June 12 DPRK-US Joint Statement set the stage for the ongoing peace process on the Korean peninsula which was the theatre of the most acute nuclear confrontation in the world. It also had a great impact on global peace and security. Thanks to the adoption of the joint statement, a turning point was provided to remove the danger of war and open a new era of peace and prosperity on the Korean peninsula. Thanks to Supreme Leader Kim Jong Un's bold decision and great magnanimity, the door for dialogue and negotiation was opened to improve the relations between the DPRK and the US which remained extremely hostile to each other in the world.

The chairman of the Algeria-Korea Friendship Association voiced full support for the DPRK government and people in their struggle for peace and reunification of the Korean peninsula, and expressed the will to conduct more vigorous activities for solidarity with the Korean people, saying that the Korean people will surely accomplish the cause of national reunification under the wise leadership of Kim Jong Un.

<http://www.pyongyangtimes.com.kp/?bbs=30405>

### **North Korea says U.S. extension of sanctions 'a hostile act': KCNA**

*Hyonhee Shin, Reuters, June 25 2019*

The recent U.S. extension of sanctions against North Korea was an act of hostility and an outright challenge to an historic summit between the two countries in Singapore last year, a spokesman for Pyongyang's foreign ministry said on Wednesday.

The White House last week extended six executive orders containing sanctions imposed over North Korea's nuclear and missile programmes by one year. The unidentified North Korean foreign ministry spokesman denounced U.S. Secretary of State Mike Pompeo's remarks on Sunday that more than 80 percent of the North Korean economy has been affected by sanctions. The spokesman also accused Washington of "viciously slandering" Pyongyang in its latest reports on human trafficking and religious freedom around the world.

<https://in.reuters.com/article/northkorea-usa-sanctions/north-korea-says-u-s-extension-of-sanctions-a-hostile-act-kcna-idINKCN1TR07V>

### **Multi-million dollar projects can boost North Korea-U.S. nuclear talks: South Korea minister**

*Kevin Krolicki, Jack Kim, Reuters, June 27 2019*

Inter-Korea commercial projects that can channel millions of dollars a year to Pyongyang may be used as leverage to boost talks on ending poor and isolated North Korea's nuclear programme, the South's point man on the North said on Thursday. Unification Minister Kim Yeon-chul said that, while U.S. President Donald Trump and North Korean leader Kim Jong Un had a high level of personal confidence, there was still considerable distrust among aides that was hindering progress in dialogue.

Kim Jong Un and Trump have met twice in high-profile summits but failed to make progress at their second meeting in Hanoi in February on how to dismantle North

Korea's nuclear programme in return for ending international sanctions.

<https://in.reuters.com/article/northkorea-usa-southkorea/multi-million-dollar-projects-can-boost-north-korea-u-s-nuclear-talks-south-korea-minister-idINKCN1T50BP>

### **World media run features to mark anniversary of DPRK-US summit**

*The Pyongyang Times, June 27, 2019*

Media in different countries and regions carried articles to mark the first anniversary of the adoption of the June 12 DPRK-US Joint Statement from June 8 to 17. AKP of Cambodia said that the adoption of the joint statement was an event which gave a hope of the settlement of peace on the Korean peninsula that had been a theatre of the most acute nuclear showdown in the world. The joint statement was a historic declaration as it said that the DPRK and the US, which had been most hostile to each other for a long time, would begin to write a history of new relations, AKP said. It stressed that now the policy-makers of the US have only two options as to whether to peacefully resolve the issue of the DPRK-US relations or to let the second hand of the confrontation between the DPRK-US run again.

The Syrian Arab News Agency said that the one year since the DPRK-US summit in Singapore showed who has truly wanted peace, adding that the US persistent unilateral demand for the dismantlement of nukes would not work on the DPRK regarding the sovereignty as its life and that the US has lost a golden chance due to its current method of political calculation. The website of the Asian Regional Institute of the Juche Idea introduced the practical steps taken by the DPRK for peace on the Korean peninsula last year, stressing that the U.S. should respond to the DPRK's active and sincere efforts in order to improve the DPRK-US relations and that the ball is in the US court.

<http://www.pyongyangtimes.com.kp/?bbs=30460>

### **North Korea says time running out for talks as U.S. envoy due in South**

*Hyonhee Shin, Reuters, June 29 2019*

Time is running out for the United States to formulate a new strategy to revive negotiations with North Korea, a senior North Korean diplomat said, as a U.S. envoy was due to hold talks in Seoul ahead of a visit by President Donald Trump.

U.S.-North Korean dialogue has stalled since a second summit between Trump and North Korean leader Kim Jong Un collapsed in Hanoi in February after U.S. calls for North Korea's complete denuclearisation and Kim's demands for sanctions relief. Kim has said a third meeting would be possible only if Washington is more flexible and set a year-end deadline. Washington says it is prepared to resume talks with no pre-conditions and South Korean President Moon Jae-in said on Wednesday that the United States was in behind-the-scenes talks with North Korea over a possible third summit and had proposed reopening working-level negotiations.

<https://in.reuters.com/article/northkorea-usa/north-korea-says-time-running-out-for-talks-as-u-s-envoy-due-in-south-idINKCN1T509P>

### **North Korea's Kim not ready to denuclearize - U.S. intelligence agency chief**

*Reuters, June 25 2019*

The U.S. intelligence community does not believe North Korean leader Kim Jong Un is ready to denuclearize, U.S. Defense Intelligence Agency Director Lieutenant General Robert Ashley told Fox News in an interview on Monday. A summit in February between Kim and President Donald Trump collapsed when the two leaders were unable to bridge differences between U.S. demands for denuclearization and North Korean demands for sanctions relief. "We still continue to assess within the IC (intelligence community) that Kim Jong Un is not ready to denuclearize," Ashley said.

Trump will visit South Korea this weekend after an exchange of letters with Kim boosted hopes for a resumption of talks aimed at ending North Korea's nuclear program. Trump is set to arrive in South Korea for a two-day visit on Saturday, and will meet President Moon Jae-in on Sunday, following a summit of G20 leaders in Japan, Moon's spokeswoman, Ko Min-jung, said on Monday.

<https://in.reuters.com/article/usa-northkorea-intelligence/north-koreas-kim-not-ready-to-denuclearize-u-s-intelligence-agency-chief-idINKCN1TP2PG>

### **N. Korea's official paper urges use of domestic goods to overcome sanctions**

*Korea Herald, June 26, 2019*

North Korea's official newspaper urged its citizens Wednesday to use domestically produced goods, rather than imports, to build a "self-reliant economy" in the face of global sanctions. "To sort out problems arising in the process of economic development and make the sanction scheme of our enemies bear no fruit, it would be critical to boost a self-reliant economy," the Rodong Sinmun, the organ of the North's ruling party, said in an article. "One of important methods to strengthen a self-reliant economy involves people actively using their own products," the paper said.

"When all people prefer and use domestic goods, it would lead to a process of expansive reproduction and help the national economy advance." The paper noted that depending on imports would make the country subservient to foreign countries, saying that real patriotism lies in ceaseless efforts to overcome any challenges and produce world-class goods through research and development.

[http://www.koreaherald.com/view.php?ud=20190626000201&ACE\\_SEARCH=1](http://www.koreaherald.com/view.php?ud=20190626000201&ACE_SEARCH=1)

### **NK says US should come up with new proposal if it wants to resume nuclear talks**

*Korea Herald, June 27, 2019*

North Korea said Thursday the United States should come up with a new proposal

if it truly wants to resume denuclearization negotiations, warning that time is not sufficient to produce results before its earlier imposed end-of-the-year deadline.

Kwon Jong-gun, director general of the North Korean foreign ministry's American affairs department, made the remark in a statement carried by the official Korean Central News Agency, saying the stalled nuclear talks won't resume automatically just because the US calls repeatedly for it. "As the Comrade Chairman of the State Affairs Commission has already declared in his historic Policy Speech, the US should come out to the table for the DPRK-US dialogue with a correct method of calculation and the time limit is until the end of this year," Kwon said, referring to leader Kim Jong-un by his title. The official also said the US should have the right attitude.

[http://www.koreaherald.com/view.php?ud=20190627000485&ACE\\_SEARCH=1](http://www.koreaherald.com/view.php?ud=20190627000485&ACE_SEARCH=1)

### **M. South Korea**

### **Korea's nuclear reactor technologies allegedly leaked to UAE, US**

*Shin Ji-hye, Korea Herald, June 18, 2019*

The South Korean government is reportedly looking into allegations of leaks of key nuclear reactor technologies to other countries. According to multiple local news reports Tuesday, the Nuclear Safety and Security Commission and the National Intelligence Service are verifying the authenticity of a tipoff delivered to the NSSC through a nuclear safety ombudsman system. Based on the tipoff, one retiree from state-run nuclear operator Korea Hydro & Nuclear Power has allegedly leaked "critical" nuclear reactor technologies to the US and the United Arab Emirates. The retiree had reportedly moved to the UAE's Nawah Energy Company in 2015.

He is alleged to have provided blueprints, production technologies and detailed documents of an APR-1400, an advanced

pressurized water nuclear reactor designed by the Korea Electric Power Corp., according to the reports. In response to the reports, Korea Hydro & Nuclear Power said, "It is difficult to verify the allegations now due to a lack of detailed information." It added that it would actively cooperate when the investigation begins. The nuclear operator, however, specifically denied one of the allegations: that NAPS, or Nuclear Application Programs, of APR-1400, were among the items leaked. KHNP and Kepco E&C said that the provision of NAPS to Emirates Nuclear Energy Corporation was done after going through proper procedures.

[http://www.koreaherald.com/view.php?ud=20190618000628&ACE\\_SEARCH=1](http://www.koreaherald.com/view.php?ud=20190618000628&ACE_SEARCH=1)

### **No. of nuclear warheads worldwide declines**

*Nam Kyung-don, Korea Herald, June 24, 2019*

The overall number of nuclear warheads in the world has declined in the past year but nations are modernizing their arsenals, a report said. At the start of 2019, the United States, Russia, Britain, France, China, India, Pakistan, Israel and North Korea had a total of some 13,865 nuclear weapons, according to estimates in a new report by the Stockholm International Peace Research Institute. That represents a decrease of 600 nuclear weapons compared to the start of 2018. But at the same time all nuclear weapon-possessing countries are modernizing these arms – and China, India and Pakistan are also increasing the size of their arsenals.

[http://www.koreaherald.com/view.php?ud=20190624000763&ACE\\_SEARCH=1](http://www.koreaherald.com/view.php?ud=20190624000763&ACE_SEARCH=1)

### **Moon, Saudi crown prince set to hold summit**

*Korea Herald, June 26, 2019*

President Moon Jae-in is set to hold a summit with Crown Prince Mohammed bin Salman of Saudi Arabia on Wednesday to discuss

ways to expand economic cooperation and bolster bilateral ties. Moon and Prince Mohammed plan to hold a summit and an expanded meeting involving their aides later in the day, followed by a ceremony to sign a set of tentative agreements on cooperation and an official luncheon, according to the presidential office Cheong Wa Dae.

[http://www.koreaherald.com/view.php?ud=20190626000191&ACE\\_SEARCH=1](http://www.koreaherald.com/view.php?ud=20190626000191&ACE_SEARCH=1)

### **Dismantling Yongbyon is irreversible advance in NK's denuclearization: Moon**

*Park Han-na, Korea Herald, June 26, 2019*

President Moon Jae-in said Wednesday it that North Korea can be considered to have entered an irreversible stage of denuclearization process when it dismantles a nuclear complex in Yongbyon. "If all the nuclear facilities in the complex, including the plutonium reprocessing facilities and the uranium enrichment facilities, are completely demolished and verified, it would be possible to say that the denuclearization of North Korea has entered an irreversible stage," he said in a joint written interview with global news agencies.

The two leaders walked out from the meeting without reaching an agreement. "Although an agreement was not reached last time in Hanoi, I expect that there will be substantive progress if the two sides continue negotiations based on what was discussed in Singapore and Hanoi," Moon said. Making substantive progress in North Korea-US talks and in the denuclearization process will give an impetus to inter-Korean economic cooperation projects and help the international community seek a partial or gradual easing of the UN Security Council sanctions imposed on the North Korean regime.

[http://www.koreaherald.com/view.php?ud=20190626000764&ACE\\_SEARCH=1](http://www.koreaherald.com/view.php?ud=20190626000764&ACE_SEARCH=1)

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

### **Anti-Nuclear Initiatives of Kazakhstan**

*Kazakh TV, June 25, 2019*

Kazakhstan's anti-nuclear initiatives are known worldwide as it set an example for other countries by closing the Semei nuclear test site and creating a nuclear-weapon-free zone in Central Asia. Representatives of major international organizations, politicians and authoritative experts spoke highly of Kazakhstan's contribution to the global process of nuclear disarmament and non-proliferation.

[https://kazakh-tv.kz/en/view/politics/page\\_203732\\_antinuclear-initiatives-of-kazakhstan](https://kazakh-tv.kz/en/view/politics/page_203732_antinuclear-initiatives-of-kazakhstan)

### **Cabinet body okays fuel supply for Rooppur power plant**

*Dhaka Tribune, June 19, 2019*

The cabinet committee on public purchase has approved a proposal on the supply of nuclear fuel for the Rooppur Nuclear Power Plant (RNPP) from Russia.

As per the proposal placed by the Science and Technology Ministry, Russian state-owned firm TVEL, joint stock company, will supply the fuel for the "entire lifetime" of the 2,400MW RNPP, which will have two units, each having 1200MW power generation capacity. The committee, presided over by its member Agriculture Minister Abdur Razzaque, also approved 12 procurement proposals of different ministries on various issues on Wednesday.

<https://www.dhakatribune.com/bangladesh/nation/2019/06/19/cabinet-body-okays-fuel-supply-for-rooppur-power-plant>

## ***O. World/Misc***

### **Armenian regulator must address staff deficit, says IAEA**

*World Nuclear News, June 17, 2019*

Armenia has made progress in strengthening its regulatory framework for nuclear and radiation safety but still faces

challenges, including a shortage of qualified and experienced staff at its regulatory body, an International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA) team of experts said today on completion of an Integrated Regulatory Review Service (IRRS) follow-up mission. The mission, which followed an initial IRRS mission in 2015, was conducted at the request of the government of Armenia and hosted by the Armenian Nuclear Regulatory Authority (ANRA).

The Armenian nuclear power plant in Metsamor provides 40% of the country's electricity. Unit 1 was permanently shut down in 1989, while the operating licence for unit 2 has been extended until 2021 subject to yearly safety demonstrations, with preparations under way for requesting an additional extension until 2026. Armenia also has a dry used fuel storage facility, a radioactive waste storage facility, and uses radioactive sources in medicine, industry and research.

<http://world-nuclear-news.org/Articles/Armenian-regulator-must-address-staff-deficit,-say>

### **NASA boss says 'no doubt' SpaceX explosion delays flight program**

*Eric M. Johnson, Reuters, June 18, 2019*

The explosion that destroyed a SpaceX astronaut taxi in April "no doubt" delays NASA's drive to return Americans to the International Space Station from U.S. soil later this year, the U.S. space agency's chief said on Tuesday. But NASA Administrator Jim Bridenstine stopped short of offering a clear flight timeline for its multibillion-dollar Commercial Crew Program, and said he would not prejudge the results of an investigation into the incident. "There is no doubt the schedule will change," Bridenstine told reporters at the Paris Airshow. "It won't be what was originally planned."

<https://in.reuters.com/article/us-france-airshow-nasa-spacex/nasa-boss-says-no-doubt-spacex-explosion-delays-flight-program-idINKCN1TJ0P2>

## Why Fear of Nuclear Threatens National Security And World Peace

*Michael Shellenberger, Forbes, June 22, 2019*

By calling off a planned US military attack on Iran, President Donald Trump may have averted terrorist attacks on Americans and a wider war in the Middle East. "Shiite militias could overrun the U.S. Embassy in Baghdad and seize hostages," experts told *NBC*. "Hezbollah, which, before 9/11, had killed more Americans than any other terror group, could strike in places as far-flung as Latin America." US military attacks against Iran could easily escalate into a wider conflict. While some wars are planned, others result from each side retaliating in ways it views as proportionate but viewed by the other side as disproportionate.

<https://www.forbes.com/sites/michaelshellenberger/2019/06/22/why-fear-of-nuclear-threatens-national-security-and-world-peace/#19f454b453f9>

## IAEA Conference on the Management of Spent Fuel from Nuclear Power Reactors Begins

*Irena Chatzis, IAEA, June 24, 2019*

The IAEA International Conference on the Management of Spent Fuel from Nuclear Power Reactors: Learning from the Past, Enabling the Future brings together experts from countries with decades of nuclear power operating experience along with countries developing or considering a nuclear power programme. "For nuclear power to be sustainable, the safe, secure, reliable and efficient management of its fuel cycle is paramount, in particular the management of the spent fuel and radioactive waste generated," said Mikhail Chudakov, IAEA Deputy Director General and Head of the Department of Nuclear Energy. "Research, development, engineering and demonstration activities are carried out in Members States to address nuclear power challenges and to enhance safety and security both when establishing and implementing strategies for managing the back end of the fuel cycle. Much can be gained from sharing knowledge,

experiences, lessons learned and best practices."

<https://www.iaea.org/newscenter/news/iaea-conference-on-the-management-of-spent-fuel-from-nuclear-power-reactors-begins>

## At U.N., Iran says atmosphere not right for U.S. talks, U.S. pushes diplomacy

*Michelle Nichols, Reuters, June 25 2019*

Iran's United Nations ambassador accused the United States on Monday of showing no respect for international law by imposing new sanctions on Iran, describing tensions between the pair as "really dangerous" and not the right atmosphere for talks. You cannot start a dialogue with somebody who is threatening you, who is intimidating you," Ambassador Majid Takht Ravanchi told reporters. "How can we start a dialogue with somebody whose primary occupation is to put more sanctions on Iran? The atmosphere of such a dialogue is not ready yet."

Earlier on Monday U.S. President Donald Trump targeted Iranian Supreme Leader Ayatollah Ali Khamenei and other senior officials with new U.S. sanctions, looking for a fresh blow to Iran's economy after Tehran downed an unmanned American drone. The United States has also blamed Iran for attacks on oil tankers in the Gulf region in May and June. Iran has denied any involvement.

<https://in.reuters.com/article/india-usa-pompeo/india-u-s-nearing-industrial-security-pact-for-defence-tech-transfers-idINKCN1TP1YX>

## Supporting the International Dosimetry Chain: IAEA Symposium on Medical Radiation Dosimetry Concludes

*Nathalie Mikhailova, IAEA, June 26, 2019*

The accurate measurement of radiation for medical purposes is vital to ensure the safety of patients and effectiveness of procedures. Last week, over 400 experts from 78 countries and 18 international

and professional organizations exchanged knowledge on advances in practices and standards in radiation dosimetry, radiation medicine and radiation protection over the last decade. The International Symposium on Standards, Applications and Quality Assurance in Medical Radiation Dosimetry took place in Vienna from 18 to 21 June.

Dosimetry – the science of measuring or calculating radiation doses – underpins the optimal use of radiation in medicine. “Accurate measurements in radiation dosimetry are vital in the medical use of radiation, as well as to assure the safety of patients, radiation workers and members of the public in a wide range of medical and industrial applications,” said Najat Mokhtar, IAEA Deputy Director General and Head of the Department of Nuclear Sciences and Applications. “This symposium provided an opportunity for hospital practitioners and researchers to meet with scientists from standards laboratories, to review the entire dosimetry chain and exchange ideas on new developments in the field.”

<https://www.iaea.org/newscenter/news/supporting-the-international-dosimetry-chain-iaea-symposium-on-medical-radiation-dosimetry-concludes>

### **IAEA reports on verification activities in 2018**

*World Nuclear News, June 27, 2019*

The amount of nuclear material around the world subject to safeguards increased in 2018, continuing a trend from previous years, according to the International Atomic Energy Agency’s (IAEA’s) latest Safeguards Statement.

The IAEA seeks to verify that countries around the world use nuclear material solely for peaceful purposes. It does this by applying technical measures, known as safeguards. Each year, the IAEA reports to its board of governors on its findings and conclusions through the Safeguards Implementation Report. This forms the basis of the Safeguards Statement.

<https://world-nuclear-news.org/Articles/IAEA-reports-on-verification-activities-in-2018>

### **Should a new Cold War be welcomed?**

*Saudi Gazette, June 27, 2019*

NATO is giving Russia a final opportunity to end what it claims is Moscow’s long-standing flouting of the terms of the Intermediate-Range Nuclear Forces (INF) treaty. The 1987 pact between the then Soviet Union and the United States and its allies banned missiles with a range of 500 to 5,500 kilometers. Moscow’s 9M729 rocket system is alleged to be designed to carry nuclear warheads and reach anywhere in Europe. Vladimir Putin is unlikely to back down on the missile program which has been in development for some years. Therefore, given President Donald Trump’s no-nonsense approach to international politics, he is almost certain to tear up the INF this summer. Will the world thus become a more dangerous place? The existence of any nuclear weaponry, particularly in the unpredictable hands of the likes of Iran, North Korea and Israel is certainly a threat.

Most importantly it risks the principle of nuclear deterrence which throughout the cold War actually made the world a safer place. The theory that the existence of massive nuclear firepower on both sides made neither prepared to use these horrific weapons was proved entirely correct. As delivery systems became ever swifter and more deadly, the possibility receded that a First Strike could obliterate the enemy. It was certain that in the event of any nuclear launch, a devastating counterstrike would be underway within minutes. So in this respect, a return to the Cold War status quo is almost to be welcomed. But Moscow is playing a rather different game this time. It knows that not all European states share Washington’s readiness to square up to the Russians.

<http://saudigazette.com.sa/article/570110/Opinion/Editorial/Should-a-new-Cold-War-be-welcomed>

## Proven Clean Energy: Time to Talk About Nuclear Power?

*IAEA, June 28, 2019*

Nuclear power can make a significant contribution to reducing greenhouse gas emissions worldwide, while at the same time fulfilling the increasing energy demands of a growing world population and supporting global sustainable development. Nuclear power has considerable potential to meet the climate change challenge by providing electricity, district heating and high temperature heat for industrial processes, generated with almost zero greenhouse gas emissions.

<https://www.iaea.org/newscenter/multimedia/videos/proven-clean-energy-time-to-talk-about-nuclear-power>

## NSG: Credentials for membership – Zafar Nawaz Jaspal

*Zafar Nawaz Jaspal, Global Village Space, June 29, 2019*

India and Pakistan have been vying for Nuclear Supplier Group membership from June 2016. Both are skilled to export nuclear technology and material under International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA) safeguards for civilian use. However, they are not granted membership of the Group because they never joined the Nuclear Non-Proliferation Treaty (NPT) nor signed the Comprehensive Test Ban Treaty (CTBT). Besides, they are against the Fissile Material Cut off Treaty at the Conference on Disarmament at Geneva. Nuclear Supplier Group (NSG) is a cartel of 48 nations. It was created as a voluntary cartel in 1975 on the behest of the United States.

The cartel was established in response to India's 18 May 1974, [peaceful] nuclear explosion (PNE), codenamed Smiling Buddha. Currently, 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, the United Kingdom and United States.

<https://www.globalvillagespace.com/nsg-credentials-for-membership-zafar-nawaz-jaspal/>

## Ex-Foreign Ministry official says it's 'impossible' to continue co-op with Europe

*Tehran Times, June 30, 2019*

Mohammad Ali Hosseini said Europe only seeks to protect its own interests with regard to the nuclear accord, also known as the JCPOA, Mehr reported on Sunday. "Europeans want to gain the most and pay the least price," Hosseini said. He also cited U.S. unilateralism and bullying as another reason behind Europe's failure to safeguard Iran's interests under the JCPOA. Hosseini stressed that by fulfilling its commitments under the JCPOA, Europeans can deepen their ties with Iran more than ever. Europeans regard the JCPOA as one of their diplomatic achievements, yet in practice, they do not take any positive step about it, he added.

<https://www.tehrantimes.com/news/437580/Ex-Foreign-Ministry-official-says-it-s-impossible-to-continue>

*P. Op-Ed*

**India**

## The Myth of Indian Strategic Restraint

*Sumit Ganguly and S. Paul Kapur, The National Interest Blog, June 18, 2019*

India Has emerged as a central partner in U.S. efforts to balance rising Chinese power. To this end, the United States has invested heavily in India, brokering an agreement to afford it access to nuclear materials and technology; enabling Indian acquisition of cutting-edge military and dual-use systems; and declaring India to

be a “major defense partner” and “lynchpin” of its strategy in Asia. These efforts to build capacity in India leave an essential question unanswered, however: even if the United States significantly augments India’s strategic capacity, will India prove willing to contribute to U.S. balancing efforts in the region?

<https://nationalinterest.org/feature/myth-indian-strategic-restraint-63232>

### Why India’s Hypersonic Missile Could Trigger A Nuclear War

*Michael Peck, National Interest Blog, June 21, 2019*

India’s test of a hypersonic missile signifies more than the advance of Indian weapons technology. It also is one step closer to triggering a nuclear war with Pakistan. Ironically, the first launch of the Hypersonic Technology Demonstrator Vehicle, or HSTDV, was a failure. The HSTDV, which is shaped almost like a sailing ship, is supposed to be a testbed for developing future hypersonic weapons such as cruise missiles. It is launched atop an Agni 1, an Indian ballistic missile.

<https://nationalinterest.org/blog/buzz/why-india%E2%80%99s-hypersonic-missile-could-trigger-nuclear-war-63627>

### Why India Doesn’t Need NSG Membership

*Shastri Ramachandaran, Outlook, June 24, 2019*

Unlike Groucho Marx, who refused to join any club that would make him a member, India is eager for membership of elite clubs where it cannot get in. The Nuclear Suppliers Group (NSG) is one such chimera that India continues to chase.

The chase provides a periodic diplomatic interlude where an NSG meeting is an explicit reminder of India being kept out of the club by China. It gives New Delhi a chance to point out that China wants to keep out India until it can admit Pakistan. This helps India to show China as a supporter of Pakistan.

<https://www.outlookindia.com/website/story/india-news-opinion-why-india-doesnt-need-nsg-membership/332880>

### Modi Needs to Realise What’s Good for the US Is Not Good for India

*Bharat Karnad, The Wire, June 24, 2019*

India has spent trillions of rupees since 1947 on education, social welfare programmes and defence. But, 70-odd years later, the country has the largest population in the world of ill-educated, unskilled, unemployable youth, certain health and socio-economic indices that are worse than those of some of the world’s poorest states, and a showy but short-legged and second-rate military dependent on imported armaments.

Tufts University political scientist Michael Beckley’s pioneering theory of international relations suggests that gross measures – such as population, GDP, defence budgets, size of armed forces, etc. – are less accurate in assessing the power of nations than “net” factors, such as how effectively national resources are converted into measurable and decisive political, economic and military capability and diplomatic leverage and clout.

<https://thewire.in/diplomacy/narendra-modi-s-jaishankar-us-india>

### 45 years since Pokhran-1 nuclear test: A page in history

*Martand Jha, DNA, June 25, 2019*

India’s first Prime Minister Jawaharlal Nehru, who considered himself a firm disciple of Gandhi, was against India taking the nuclear path. However, under the able leadership of Dr Homi Jehangir Bhabha as the chairman and father of the Indian nuclear programme, there was never any doubt about the capability of Indian scientists to turn this country into a nuclear power state, much before it did so in reality.

The question was never about the ‘capability’ but the ‘intent’ - or more like the ‘political intent’ of those in power. The involvement of public opinion in such sensitive issues related to national security was negligible, which more or less is still the case.

<https://www.dnaindia.com/analysis/column-45-years-since-pokhran-1-nuclear-test-a-page-in-history-2764582>

## Submarines are game changer in maritime warfare: How's India placed

*Commodore Anil Jai Singh, Financial Express, June 27, 2019*

In the post- Cold War world order, with bipolarity a thing of the past and a more inclusive multi-polar world order beginning to emerge, the virtues of the submarine are becoming increasingly apparent as more and more nations are investing in this capability.

Submarines have played an integral role in naval warfare ever since their potential to shape the maritime battlespace with their inherent virtues of stealth, concealment and lethal firepower became apparent. In World War 1 it was submarines, rudimentary though they were, that shaped the course of that conflict at sea. In World War 2, the legendary German U-boats almost won the war for Germany whereas the US Submarine campaign in the Pacific dealt decisive blows to the mighty Imperial Japanese Navy which accelerated the Allied victory in that theatre. However, it was in the post-World War 2 period, with the successful harnessing of nuclear power for military applications, that submarines really came into their own and were principally responsible in ensuring that the Cold War which 'raged' for over four and a half decades remained cold.

<https://www.financialexpress.com/defence/submarines-are-game-changer-in-maritime-warfare-hows-india-placed/1620806/>

### Pakistan

## Effectiveness of Nuclear Deterrence of India and Pakistan in Pulwama incident

*Dr. Anjum Sarfraz, Modern Diplomacy, June 18, 2019*

The recent 'Pulwama crisis' were triggered by a suicide attack by Adil Ahmed Dar a 19 years old young Kashmiri from the Indian Occupied Kashmir (IoK). He was highly distraught from the brutalities committed on him and on other Kashmiris of IoK by the Indian security forces. On 14 Feb 2019, a

convoy of vehicles transporting Indian security forces from Jammu to Srinagar was attacked by a suicide bomber driving a vehicle rigged with explosives, killing at least 40 Central Reserve Police Force Reserve (CRPF) personnel. Jaish-e-Mohammad (JeM) claimed responsibility. It is generally believed that it is not possible to bring such a massive amount of explosives by infiltrating the borders. India alleged that Intelligence agencies of Pakistan had control over the perpetrators of the attack but Pakistan had strongly denied these accusations, reiterating that JeM is banned in Pakistan. Moreover, Pakistan is itself sufferer of terrorism how can it support this heinous crime elsewhere.

<https://modern diplomacy.eu/2019/06/18/effectiveness-of-nuclear-deterrence-of-india-and-pakistan-in-pulwama-incident/>

## Complex Pakistan-US relationship

*Talat Masood, The Express Tribune, June 19, 2019*

The foremost current interest of the United States in Pakistan is how it supports its policy in persuading the Taliban to accept a negotiated settlement. Among its other priorities, the US wants Pakistan to end its presumed support to the militant organisations operating from within its territory. At the strategic level, Washington remains hostile to the Pakistan-China cooperation; and as such, the China-Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC) is its major concern. In sharp contrast, for Pakistan, CPEC is the central pillar of its economic future and long-term strategic alignment with China. Not surprising that the US eyes Pakistan as an irreversible ally of China and its policies towards it testify to this reality. Pakistan's development in the missile or nuclear field is subjected to criticism despite the defensive nature of these systems. In sharp contrast, India's build-up of nuclear and missile forces is encouraged by Washington and facilitated through Israel to counter the growing Chinese military power.

<https://tribune.com.pk/story/1995285/6-complex-pakistan-us-relationship/>

## A new era in Pakistan-India relations

*Asad Hussain, Daily Times, June 21, 2019*

Following his reelection as prime minister of India, Narendra Modi has a unique opportunity. He and Prime Minister Imran Khan can start a new era of cordial relations between India and Pakistan. The two leaders can choose to repair the cracks and fissures or continue on the warpath. Before an improvement can be effected in bilateral relations, a realistic assessment of the situation is necessary. The conflict between India and Pakistan has many factors and many aspects to it. Two of the most important outstanding issues are those of Kashmir and river waters.

<https://dailytimes.com.pk/416113/a-new-era-in-pakistan-india-relations/>

## Cold start for tactical nukes

*Umair Jamal, The Daily Times, June 23, 2019*

India is likely planning to integrate three new Integrated Battle Groups (IBG) along the Pakistani border. The idea is to offer Indian military superiority when it comes to carrying out swift strikes against Pakistan. According to the available reports, the plan also includes a working strategy to capture territory before Pakistan's forces are able to muster response against the Indian forces.

It is unlikely India will go ahead with the idea of deploying IBG with the intention of seizing Pakistan's territory during a conflict situation. Such a policy on the part of New Delhi would result in grave implications, where a nuclear exchange is likely to become a part of the debate.

<https://dailytimes.com.pk/416735/cold-start-for-tactical-nukes/>

## Benefits of nuclear power

*Irteza Ahmed, The Nation, June 29, 2019*

The status of Pakistan, as a nuclear power, has a few positive results. Firstly, it has corrected the balance of power in South Asia that was tilting in Indian's favor after the latter carried out nuclear explosions. India

can no more threaten or blackmail Pakistan into a forced solution of the Kashmir problem. It cannot think of attacking (invading) Pakistan's borders as it had done in 1965. On the other hand, Pakistan's nuclear status also lent great support to the Arabs against Israel. Feared by this Islamic bomb, Israel is now indecisive about attacking Middle Eastern countries like Syria and Saudi Arabia.

<https://nation.com.pk/27-Jun-2019/benefits-of-nuclear-power>

## USA

### The US and Iran are playing nuclear roulette in the Gulf

*David Gardner, Financial Times, June 18, 2019*

Some people call the brinkmanship in the Gulf between Iran and the US a game of chicken. But with Tehran announcing this week that it will breach the uranium enrichment limits in the 2015 nuclear deal, and Washington moving another 1,000 troops to the region, the game is starting dangerously to resemble nuclear roulette. The starting point for this escalation is President Donald Trump's decision last year to withdraw the US unilaterally from the Joint Comprehensive Plan of Action. Painstakingly negotiated over years – with the US, France, Germany, the UK, China and Russia – and ratified by the UN Security Council, this diplomatic breakthrough constrained Tehran's nuclear programme into the medium term with intrusive international monitoring. In return, Iran would be released from economic quarantine, allowing it to rejoin the world.

<https://www.ft.com/content/095bdec4-91bc-11e9-b7ea-60e35ef678d2>

### Strikes on Iran Approved by Trump, Then Abruptly Pulled Back

*Michael D. Shear, Eric Schmitt, Michael Crowley and Maggie Haberman, The New York Times, June 20, 2019*

President Trump approved military strikes against Iran in retaliation for downing an

American surveillance drone, but pulled back from launching them on Thursday night after a day of escalating tensions.

As late as 7 p.m., military and diplomatic officials were expecting a strike, after intense discussions and debate at the White House among the president's top national security officials and congressional leaders, according to multiple senior administration officials involved in or briefed on the deliberations.

Officials said the president had initially approved attacks on a handful of Iranian targets, like radar and missile batteries.

<https://www.nytimes.com/2019/06/20/world/middleeast/iran-us-drone.html>

### **Trump wants a new nuclear deal with Iran. No one else does.**

*Anita Kumar, Politico, June 27, 2019*

President Donald Trump arrived at a gathering of world leaders Thursday searching for support for a new deal to curtail an increasingly aggressive Iran. He's not likely to find any.

Not only do other countries still support a 2015 nuclear pact, they're skeptical Trump can strike a better agreement within the time constraints of his fast-approaching reelection campaign, especially after Iran recently proclaimed the end of diplomacy with the U.S.

The pressure is on. Iran threatened to violate limits set under the 2015 international nuclear agreement, angry at Trump for unilaterally pulling out of the pact and for slapping harsh sanctions on the country. The move threatens to kill the deal for good, leaving the global community without any comprehensive restrictions on Iran's nuclear ambitions — let alone its funding of violent proxy groups in the region activities — activities Trump has long said he wants to pursue as part of an expansive agreement.

<https://www.politico.com/story/2019/06/27/trump-iran-nuclear-deal-1385148>

### **How Congress can strengthen US-India relations amid rising trade tensions and curb China threat**

*Mukesh Aghi, CNBC, June 28, 2019*

U.S. Secretary of State Mike Pompeo arrived in India on Wednesday amid a tense moment in U.S.-India relations. On the strategic side, India faces the threat of U.S. sanctions for buying the Russian S-400 missile defense system and has been pressured into zeroing out imports of Iranian oil.

On the economic front, Washington piled on its steel and aluminum tariffs and canceled India's preferential trade benefits on approximately \$5 billion of exports. India responded with retaliatory tariffs.

<https://www.cnbc.com/2019/06/28/congress-can-strengthen-us-india-relationship-and-curb-china-threat.html>

### **Russia**

#### **Will US elites give détente with Russia a chance? (by Stephen Cohen)**

*Russian Times, June 27, 2019*

The Trump-Putin meeting in Japan is crucial for both leaders — and for the world.

Despite determined attempts in Washington to sabotage such a "summit," as I reported previously, President Trump and Russian President Putin are still scheduled to meet at the G-20 gathering in Japan this week. Iran will be at the top of their agenda. The Trump administration seems determined to wage cold, possibly even hot, war against the Islamic Republic, while for Moscow, as emphasized by the Kremlin's national security adviser, Nikolai Patrushev, on June 25, "Iran has been and will be an ally and partner of ours."

<https://www.rt.com/op-ed/462831-trump-putin-g20-summit/>

## West Asia

### Iran

#### Why should China fully support Iran in Persian Gulf tensions?

*Payman Yazdani, Tehran Times, June 20, 2019*

According to many international thinkers creating tensions in the Persian Gulf region by the U.S. also aims at containing China and limiting Beijing's access to energy resources of the region which is driving engine of Chinese economy.

China was one of the oil exporter countries in 70s and 80s, but following its economic growth it has turned into an oil importing country since 1993 and due to continuation of its economic growth now the country is heavily dependent on importing of oil from other countries. Nowadays the country is the second energy consuming and third oil importing country in the world. Despite the Beijing's efforts to provide its energy security by diversifying its energy sources during the past years, the country is still heavily dependent on energy import.

Thanks to its efforts and hardworking people China left its global economic rivals behind and became the second biggest economy of the world after the United States. It seems that due to its plans and initiatives Beijing is also managing to leave behind the U.S. in near future and become the world's biggest economy. The White House has kept an eye the China's development and its plans and initiatives. The U.S. has never been negligent in monitoring China's achievements and ambitions.

<https://www.tehrantimes.com/news/437203/Why-should-China-fully-support-Iran-in-Persian-Gulf-tensions>

#### U.S. sanctions on Iran kill off faint hopes of diplomatic solution

*Farhad Daneshvar, Tehran Times, June 25, 2019*

The latest U.S. sanctions on Iranian Supreme Leader Ayatollah Ali Khamenei and the announcement on plans to sanction Foreign

Minister Mohammad Javad Zarif have apparently been interpreted as President Donald Trump's bad will by many in Iran. "Imposing useless sanctions on Iran's Supreme Leader and the commander of Iran's diplomacy is the permanent closure of the path of diplomacy," Iranian Foreign Ministry spokesman Abbas Mousavi stated in a tweet on Tuesday. Although the American president claims that the actions follow a series of "aggressions" by the Islamic Republic, the decision appears to substitute the last week's called off air strikes.

<https://www.tehrantimes.com/news/437438/U-S-sanctions-on-Iran-kill-off-faint-hopes-of-diplomatic-solution>

#### Escalation or Negotiation? Elisa Catalano Ewers, Ilan Goldenberg, Nicholas Heras and Kaleigh Thomas

*Centre for a New American Study, June 26, 2019*

On May 21, the Center for a New American Security (CNAS) hosted an all-day tabletop exercise (TTX) in Washington, D.C., to game out three scenarios related to the crisis surrounding U.S.-Iran tensions over Iran's nuclear enrichment program and destabilizing regional policies. The intent was to understand how key players would respond and act in these potential scenarios. The TTX included seven teams: the United States, Iran, Europe (representing primarily France, Germany, and the United Kingdom but also the European Union), China, Russia, Israel, and the Gulf Arab States (one player as Saudi Arabia/UAE and the other player as Oman). Teams featured American and foreign regional and functional experts with a deep experience in their respective areas. Players were asked to play the most realistic version of their government. The game examined three scenarios: A continuation of the (at-the-time) low level of U.S.-Iran tension four months into the future;

A more escalatory situation that plays out over the next two years; and The election of a new U.S. president in 2020 who desires

to return to the Joint Comprehensive Plan of Action (JCPOA). Given the recent escalation in tension in June 2019, this report details the findings of the second and third scenarios the TTX examined, which the authors believe are the most relevant.

<https://www.cnas.org/publications/reports/escalation-or-negotiation>

### **Iran's Nuclear Ambitions Could Be Stamped Out by a Crafty Trump Strategy**

*Paul R. Pillar, The National Interest Blog, June 27, 2019*

"No nuclear weapons," declares President Donald Trump, identifying that objective as his top priority regarding Iran. The contradiction with Trump's own policy toward Iran is jarring. The starting point and a continuing leitmotif of that policy has been the administration's reneging on, and effort to destroy, the Joint Comprehensive Plan of Action (JCPOA). The multilateral agreement was designed to prevent Iran from developing a nuclear weapon and closed all possible paths that led to the creation of such a weapon. Among several counterproductive aspects of Trump's Iran policy, this is probably the most glaring one.

Accompanying the administration's obfuscation of other elements of the current standoff with Iran has been the promotion of the notion that the JCPOA somehow advanced Iran's nuclear program rather than constrained it. The receptivity for that notion, especially within Trump's political base, was nurtured by Republican opposition to the JCPOA before Trump entered office. Now the nurturing of that false notion continues with assertions by bellicose supporters of the administration's path that the JCPOA was "smoothing Iran's path to a nuclear weapon." If disposing of fissile material, tearing out enrichment centrifuges, filling nuclear reactors with concrete, and all the other things Iran had to do to fulfill its up-front obligations under the JCPOA constitute smoothing, then one wonders what roughing it would look like.

<https://nationalinterest.org/blog/paul-pillar/irans-nuclear-ambitions-could-be-stamped-out-crafty-trump-strategy-64566>

### **Attack on Iran would be an unmitigated disaster for all**

*Tehran Times, June 29, 2019*

We, the undersigned scholars of the Middle East and North Africa and broader Muslim world, call on President Trump immediately to pull back from the brink of a war with the Islamic Republic of Iran. It is clear to us that the human, diplomatic, legal, political, and economic costs to both countries, the Persian Gulf and larger Middle East, the global economy and the global system of international humanitarian law of a US attack would be even more devastating than was the US invasion of Iraq sixteen years ago. We call upon the political leadership of the country, with a sense of urgency, not only to refrain from any further threats and uses of force against Iran, but also to put forward a new American diplomacy that takes steps to achieve a sustainable peace between our two countries and within the larger region.

<https://www.tehrantimes.com/news/437548/Attack-on-Iran-would-be-an-unmitigated-disaster-for-all>

### **Kushner behind Trump's withdrawal from Iran nuclear deal: writer**

*Tehran Times, June 29, 2019*

E Michael Jones, the current editor of Culture Wars magazine, made the remarks in an interview with Press TV on Friday while commenting on a statement by former U.S. Secretary of State Rex Tillerson who said that Kushner conducted diplomacy without his knowledge when he was in the administration, leading to several embarrassing incidents.

Tillerson, who was fired by Trump in March 2018, recounted the incidents during a testimony last month at the U.S. House of Representatives Foreign Affairs Committee, according to a transcript of a congressional hearing released on Thursday. The former top U.S. diplomat and CEO of ExxonMobil described his frustration with Kushner conducting his

own diplomacy from the White House, at times without informing the U.S. State Department and the Pentagon.

<https://www.tehrantimes.com/news/437549/Kushner-behind-Trump-s-withdrawal-from-Iran-nuclear-deal-writer>

## Why Pompeo is travelling to Middle East?

*Hanif Ghaffari, Tehran Times, June 29, 2019*

It seems that the intention behind this trip, like the previous trips of U.S. officials to Middle East, is to shake down Arab tycoons. In fact, Trump had recently said that Saudi Arabia must financially support U.S. actions and now Pompeo is making this trip to reap the benefits. In fact, with muddying the waters, U.S. is only trying to downplay his recent failures against Iran, especially after Iran downed U.S. super modern Global Hawk drone that had intruded into Iran's airspace.

<https://www.tehrantimes.com/news/437516/Why-Pompeo-is-travelling-to-Middle-East>

## East Asia

### The best-case scenario vs. the worst-case scenario

*Kim Seong-kon, Korea Herald, June 18, 2019*

We still remember that in the past our military dictators vastly exaggerated the threat from North Korea to justify tyranny, intimidating people with the fear of imminent war. Ex-military generals frequently triggered that fear so they could suppress the general public. At that time, the right-wing dictators bragged, "We are the only ones who can prevent war from breaking out on this peninsula."

Today, the situation is reversed. Now, the left-wing politicians who fought against the military tyranny have seized political power in South Korea. Interestingly, however, they too seem to be using North Korea to gain popularity and votes. The difference is that our left-wing politicians use the word "peace" for political gain, instead of "war." They play on the people's wish for peace so they can win the upcoming election.

Positioning themselves as peacemakers, our left-wing political leaders boast, "We are the only one who can prevent war from breaking out on this peninsula."

[http://www.koreaherald.com/view.php?ud=20190617000825&ACE\\_SEARCH=1](http://www.koreaherald.com/view.php?ud=20190617000825&ACE_SEARCH=1)

## Falling nuclear industry

*Korea Herald, June 26, 2019*

The government policy to phase out nuclear energy is acting as a drag on national interests. South Korea failed to win an exclusive long-term maintenance service contract for a nuclear power station in the United Arab Emirates. As it has been building reactors of the Barakah nuclear power plant with its proprietary technology, Korea looked forward to a 10- or 15-year contract, but the UAE awarded only a five-year deal. Government must keep alive industry ecology at the least to export reactors

The leadership of maintenance work will be retained by Nawah Energy, a UAE company, which will operate the Barakah plant. Korean maintenance companies will have to provide services only at Nawah's request as its subcontractors. Because Nawah selected the Korean consortium as one of multiple partners, it may award parts of the maintenance work to other partners. The Barakah plant was the first nuclear power plant exported by Korea. The project covers many stages including construction, operation and maintenance. Maintenance and repair are as important as construction.

The contract seems to signal the start of the fall of Korea as one of a handful of nuclear power plant exporters. Nawah Energy said its decision-making process to select multiple maintenance partners is unrelated to Korea's nuclear policy. But the current anti-nuclear policy could not have added much credibility to Korea's maintenance ability. Under the influence of the nuclear phase-out policy, the ecology of Korea's nuclear industry is showing signs of collapse, with manpower dwindling fast. It is unclear how many competent engineers will be left in the

Korean nuclear industry in just five or 10 years.

[http://www.koreaherald.com/view.php?ud=20190626000465&ACE\\_SEARCH=1](http://www.koreaherald.com/view.php?ud=20190626000465&ACE_SEARCH=1)

### **Q. Think Tanks**

#### **The future of global nuclear power through the eyes of young Russian and American professionals**

*Siegfried S. Hecker, Alla A. Kassianova, Bulletin of the Atomic Scientists, June 20, 2019*

As we witness the increasingly detrimental effects of global climate change, the role that nuclear power could play globally to mitigate its effects continues to be debated. The series of articles featured in the Bulletin in December 2016 aired a broad spectrum of opinions, ranging in assessment of the role of nuclear power from insignificant to mandatory. In this series, we present the perspective of a new crop of nuclear professionals who collectively represent two of the world leaders in nuclear power—the United States and Russia.

These young professionals work together to exchange views and ideas as part of the U.S.-Russia Young Professionals Nuclear Forum that we created in May 2016 to encourage dialogue on critical nuclear issues of concern to both countries. As most official avenues of US-Russia cooperation on nuclear issues were being shut down in pace with the deteriorating political relations between Washington and Moscow, our objective was to turn to the younger generation, because those in it will have to live with the consequences of a world in which their countries no longer cooperate to mitigate global nuclear dangers.

<https://thebulletin.org/2019/06/the-future-of-global-nuclear-power-through-the-eyes-of-young-russian-and-american-professionals/>

#### **Should nuclear power be expanded significantly into developing countries?**

*Yulia Katsenko, Oksana Mironchuk, Evgenii A. Veretennikov, Kristin Ven Bruusgaard, Bulletin of the Atomic Scientist, June 20, 2019*

As demand for energy rises in the developing world, nuclear power could provide one

partial solution to the global climate crisis. Large countries such as Russia and China are both investing in nuclear power and positioning themselves to export technology and expertise. But whether developing countries should incorporate nuclear energy depends on a range of factors such as local energy demand and the availability of other energy sources. They should also consider how competitive nuclear energy would be. Most important, countries that go nuclear should have sufficient technological, industrial, and political stability.

<https://thebulletin.org/2019/06/should-nuclear-power-be-expanded-significantly-into-developing-countries/>

#### **What countries will be the most important in leading a significant expansion of global nuclear power – both from the perspective of the supplier and the user?**

*Vladislav Kostikov, Anna Kudriavtseva and Cameron Tracy, Bulletin of the Atomic Scientists, June 20, 2019*

Any global expansion of nuclear energy will be governed by the economics of energy—including demand and pricing—but also by larger geopolitical forces such as domestic politics or the relations between countries that are users of nuclear power and nuclear technology supplier countries. Because the reduction of carbon dioxide emissions is a major impetus for nuclear expansion, population size and density will also play a major part. This means that the geographic distribution of nuclear energy generation could change dramatically.

<https://thebulletin.org/2019/06/what-countries-will-be-the-most-important-in-leading-a-significant-expansion-of-global-nuclear-power-both-from-the-perspective-of-the-supplier-and-the-user/>

#### **Signaling and Catalysis in Future Nuclear Crises in South Asia: Two Questions after the Balakot Episode**

*Toby Dalton, Carnegie, June 25, 2019*

The February 2019 Balakot episode in South Asia started with a familiar

predicate: an attack in Indian Kashmir, purportedly claimed by the Pakistan-based militant group Jaish-e-Mohammed (JeM), that killed scores of Indian security personnel. In the following days, amidst the typical overheated political rhetoric compounded by proximity to Indian general elections, India conducted a limited cross-border air strike on what it called a JeM training facility. Pakistan then carried out its own cross-border air strikes “in open space,” which begat an aerial duel that downed an Indian jet and led to Pakistan’s capture of the pilot. And, in the heat of the moment, Pakistan convened a meeting of its nuclear commanders amidst rumors of Indian threats to escalate with a missile attack. As the dust has settled in the weeks since, analysts are debating whether the limited escalations witnessed during the Balakot episode have meaning for future crises and the risk that they may, as Balakot did not, escalate to use of nuclear weapons. This analysis focuses narrowly on two relevant questions: First, does the Balakot episode change views in Delhi and Islamabad about what is required to generate deterrence and about thresholds for conflict escalation? And second, what does the limited nuclear dimension of the episode indicate about catalytic signaling?

<https://carnegieendowment.org/2019/06/25/signaling-and-catalysis-in-future-nuclear-crisis-in-south-asia-two-questions-after-balakot-episode-pub-79373>

### **A not so modest proposal: Maintain the INF, extend New START, and involve new actors in arms control**

*Pierce S. Corden, Bulletin of Atomic Scientist, June 26, 2019*

For the United States and the Russian Federation to avoid withdrawal from the Intermediate-range Nuclear Forces Treaty on August 2, 2019, both parties must resolve claims that the other is in noncompliance. The Treaty prohibits deployment of missiles with a range between 500 and 5500 kilometers and their launchers. The United States cites intelligence that the Russian Federation tested a cruise missile within the prohibited range, and has deployed several battalions of these missiles. Russia takes issue with the US ballistic missile defense system,

Aegis Ashore, as being capable of launching INF-range cruise missiles. Aegis Ashore systems are currently deployed in Romania and are headed to Poland.

The back and forth accusations of INF Treaty violations are not new. The United States has accused the Russian Federation of violating the agreement, first by its testing and now by deployment. These accusations were met with denials, requests for details, and counter-accusations. When the United States identified which cruise missile they judged was in violation, Russia offered to display the 9M729 cruise missile to US inspectors but, bilateral discussions earlier this year failed to resolve the situation.

<https://thebulletin.org/2019/06/a-not-so-modest-proposal-maintain-the-inf-extend-new-start-and-involve-new-actors-in-arms-control/>

### **Bolton’s Attempt to Sabotage New START**

*Arms Control Association, July/August, 2019*

Last year, President Donald Trump told reporters that he wanted to work with Russian President Vladimir Putin “to discuss the arms race, which is getting out of control.” Unfortunately, Trump’s national security adviser, John Bolton, stiff-armed a proposal supported by the Defense and State departments to engage in strategic stability talks with Moscow. Bolton also persuaded Trump, without a viable plan B, to terminate the 1987 Intermediate-Range Nuclear Forces Treaty in response to alleged Russian violations of the treaty.

<https://www.armscontrol.org/act/2019-07/focus/boltons-attempt-sabotage-new-start>

## **R. Statements, Reports and Interviews**

### **Nuclear Operations**

Department of Army, United States of America and Department of the Navy, United States Marine Corps, June 11, 2019 This publication provides fundamental principles and guidance to plan, execute, and assess nuclear operations. This

publication has been prepared under the direction of the Chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff (CJCS). It sets forth joint doctrine to govern the activities and performance of the Armed Forces of the United States in joint operations, and it provides considerations for military interaction with governmental and nongovernmental agencies, multinational forces, and other interorganizational partners. It provides military guidance for the exercise of authority by combatant commanders and other joint force commanders (JFCs), and prescribes joint doctrine for operations and training. It provides military guidance for use by the Armed Forces in preparing and executing their plans and orders. It is not the intent of this publication to restrict the authority of the JFC from organizing the force and executing the mission in a manner the JFC deems most appropriate to ensure unity of effort in the accomplishment of objectives.

[https://fas.org/irp/doddir/dod/jp3\\_72.pdf](https://fas.org/irp/doddir/dod/jp3_72.pdf)

## Will Europe Get Its Own Bomb?

*Bruno Tertrais, The Washington Quarterly, June 2019*

The idea of a European nuclear deterrent has been a regular feature of the security debate on the continent for more than 50 years, to the point of sometimes being called an “elephant in the room.” In the early 1960s, as Europeans demanded a greater say in North Atlantic Treaty Organization (NATO) strategy, there were plans for a nuclear multilateral force under European control. Later in the decade, questions were raised by several countries about the possibility that the forthcoming Nuclear Nonproliferation Treaty (NPT) would preserve a European nuclear option.

The debate revolves around two arguments. One is that the reliability of the U.S. nuclear guarantee to NATO members on the continent should not be taken for granted. Washington provides a nuclear umbrella to Europe, materialized by nuclear “stationing” (there are U.S. bombs in Europe) and nuclear “sharing” (several European air forces are trained to carry those bombs in wartime) in NATO. A separate—though not disconnected—argument is that

the EU should be more independent from Washington and build its own separate security identity

<https://cpb-us-e1.wpmucdn.com/blogs.gwu.edu/dist/1/2181/files/2019/06/Tertrais.pdf>

## Nuclear Risk Reduction : A Framework For Analysis

*Wilfred Wan, UNIDIR Report*

Addressing the risks that could lead to any use of nuclear weapons is in the security interests of all States. Yet there remains disagreement on the means through which this might be achieved. Such contestation over risk reduction measures exists because perspectives of risk concepts differ. For instance, decreasing the operational readiness of nuclear weapons for some would help lessen the likelihood for inadvertent launch, especially in crisis. For others, taking such action detracts from the predictability of force postures, while also upending the credibility of deterrence and increasing the risk of an adversarial first strike. Policy discussion of nuclear weapon risk reduction is often invoked from national perspectives, and focused on individual and isolated State ideas and proposals.

Is the pursuit of nuclear weapons risk reduction then a hopeless endeavour, built on empty rhetoric? No, it is not. Exploring the gamut of risk reduction-relevant possibilities in a full and systematic manner can facilitate the identification of areas of common interest among States and the development of practical, feasible, and contextually appropriate measures. To this end, this study presents an analytical framework that establishes initial parameters for exploring risk and risk reduction in particular contexts, including at the regional level. It identifies four pathways to potential nuclear use—doctrinal, escalatory, unauthorized, and accidental—and examines the sources and underlying conditions driving these scenarios. It then posits an approach to addressing each.

<http://unidir.org/files/publications/pdfs/nuclear-risk-reduction-a-framework-for-analysis-en-809.pdf>

## **Averting Orbital Apocalypse : Crucial new satellite-tracking technology relies on perceiving the nearly imperceptible.**

*Los Alamos National Laboratory. June 2019*

Low earth orbit is dangerously crowded. There are about 5000 satellites, some operational and some defunct. There are another 15,000 or so chunks of retired space-vehicle components, or “space junk,” such as jettisoned spent rocket stages, disabled satellites, detached solar panels, metal fragments, and other pieces of debris. And with the increasing popularity of small satellites called CubeSats, sometimes launched in batches of 100 or more, the proliferation of objects in orbit is rapidly accelerating.

Additionally, large “constellations” of new satellites are being planned; last year SpaceX received government approval to launch nearly 12,000 wireless-internet satellites over the next nine years. The trouble is, there are too many objects up there already, as evidenced in 2009 when two communications satellites with a combined mass of nearly two tons collided in spectacular fashion. All these objects move at speeds typical of low earth orbit, around 8 kilometers per second – roughly ten times the speed of a bullet. It’s only a matter of time before they start ripping into valuable spa

[https://www.lanl.gov/discover/publications/1663/2019-july/\\_assets/docs/1663-34-AvertingOrbitalApocalypse.pdf](https://www.lanl.gov/discover/publications/1663/2019-july/_assets/docs/1663-34-AvertingOrbitalApocalypse.pdf)

## **Comment by the Deputy Director of the Information and Press Department of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Russian Federation A. A. Kozhin in connection with the statements of the American General**

*Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Russian Federation, June 22, 2019*

Drew attention to appearing in the media references to the statements of the Deputy Chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff (ICS) of the US Armed Forces , General P. Selva.

He tried to justify plans to equip part of the American ballistic missiles of the Trident-P submarines with nuclear warheads of reduced power with the mythical threat of Russia launching a limited nuclear strike on the US territory. In the filing of the aforementioned commander, such low-power warheads are needed for waging “limited nuclear war” as part of the “escalation for de-escalation” strategy that Russia allegedly adheres to.

The general is openly disingenuous not only when he is trying to ascribe to Russia an approach that is absent in her military doctrine. An obvious deception is also the thesis that in a clash between nuclear powers it is possible to “limit” the use of nuclear weapons.

In the US, they are well aware that it is impossible to remotely determine the power of a flying enemy warhead until the moment of its detonation. The same rocket, in principle, can carry different “stuffing”. Accordingly, any launch by the Russian missile warning system of a strategic carrier of nuclear weapons, regardless of the capacity of the warhead placed on it, will be regarded as aggression with the use of nuclear weapons with all the ensuing consequences in terms of response.

Such statements by US officials are clearly intended to justify expanding the range of nuclear weapons in the Pentagon’s arsenal in order to support the projection of military force around the world. In Washington, it seems, they would not mind making low-power warheads a means of blackmailing those countries who oppose American dictatorship. In fact, there is a decrease in the use of nuclear weapons, their transformation into a “battlefield weapon”. It turns out that it is the Americans who are betting on the notorious concept of “escalation for de-escalation”.

This is indicated, in particular, by the document of the JRCSH, which is in public access, which develops the content of the US nuclear doctrine. It says, among other things, that the use of nuclear weapons

can help the US military in “creating the conditions that influence the achievement of victory in a conflict.” Very disturbing symptom. It is with great concern to reiterate that the United States is returning in its approach to nuclear planning during the 60 years ago, when the “limited nuclear war” between superpowers seemed acceptable to them and leaves a chance of victory. This is apparently connected with the growing signs of Washington’s desire to refuse obligations under the Comprehensive Nuclear- Test- Ban Treaty.

Back in October last year, Russia handed over to the United States a draft joint statement on the inadmissibility of nuclear war and the strengthening of strategic stability. The lack of agreement on its adoption speaks very eloquently about American intentions.

Washington should remember that possessing nuclear potential imposes a special responsibility. Lightweight handling of nuclear weapons, the destruction of the international arms control system is fraught with disastrous consequences.

[http://www.mid.ru/ru/foreign\\_policy/news/-/asset\\_publisher/cKNonkJE02Bw/content/id/3696567](http://www.mid.ru/ru/foreign_policy/news/-/asset_publisher/cKNonkJE02Bw/content/id/3696567)

### **Impossible to predict where Trump will go with Iran policy: Falk**

*Javad Heirannia, Tehran Times, June 29, 2019*

Former United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights says “The American people seem opposed at this time to any kind of military undertaking that risks war with Iran.”

Following is the full text of the interview:

**Q: Do you think that the maximum pressure campaign on Iran will have an outcome for the Trump government?**

A: We have learned that it is impossible to predict where Trump will go with Iran policy. Judging from relations with other leaders, he is likely to be more forthcoming if the foreign government and its leaders are receptive to his diplomatic initiatives and face to face meetings.

Whether this pattern would be followed in relation to Iran is unlikely for several reasons. First of all, Trump has himself taken a number of unilateral provocative steps for which there was no justification, starting with the withdrawal from the Nuclear Program Agreement followed by the imposition of a harsh sanctions regime that seeks to coerce other countries from not trading with Iran, which itself is an instance of economic aggression in violation of international law. Secondly, Trump’s chief advisors seem determined to push the US Government to escalate tensions and threaten military action. Thirdly, U.S. military capabilities have been increased with the obvious goal of posing a threat to and exerting pressure on Iran, or some in the US claim for deterrent purposes. Fourthly, the anti-Iran policy has been pushed by Israel and Saudi Arabia, which exert excessive influence on American foreign policy in the Middle East.

At the same time Trump’s unpredictability may suggest that a more hopeful future. Trump has indicated a willingness to talk, and has seemed reluctant to initiate wars as distinct from making threats. He was critical of Democrats for the regime-changing wars in the Middle East, especially Iraq, and may believe that a military confrontation with Iran would hurt his reelection prospects in 2020. The American people seem opposed at this time to any kind of military undertaking that risks war with Iran.

**Q: It looks as though we are approaching the date of the American presidential election, Trump’s willingness is increasing to talk with Iranian authorities. Some believe that this tendency is more for electoral advertising than as his foreign policy achievement. What is your opinion?**

A: As my prior response suggests, it is always difficult to grasp Trump’s political motivations accurately, and he is quite capable of thinking that peace talks with Iran will help his reelection plans one day and think the opposite way the next day. His positions are adopted and abandoned

that reflects his calculations of advantage at a particular moment in time.

Trump knows very little about the substantive issues relating to Iran. All he seems to know is that his friends in Tel Aviv and Riyadh dislike Iran and that his nemesis, Obama, reached a normalizing relationship with Iran that he has repudiated.

It is quite likely that if Trump thinks he could achieve a new agreement on Iran's nuclear program that he could promote as his personal diplomatic victory, and claim as a reward for his hard line approach allowing him to proclaim a great political victory. He might believe that such an outcome would bring him victory and a second term in the White House, and he could be right about this.

**Q: If the maximum pressure against Iran does not reach the result, would you imagine a change in Trump's warring team, including the expulsion of John Bolton and Mike Pompeo?**

A: As with the earlier questions, we cannot confidently predict how Trump will handle high officials in his own government whom he thinks disagree or obstruct his policies. It seems that most often such officials resign or are fired, but not always. Yet if he claims victory with respect to his Iran policies he may not break with Bolton & Pompeo.

We cannot know at this point whether the hard line advocated by Bolton and Pompeo is seeking results by exerting maximum pressure via threat diplomacy or is a prelude to war if Iran does not give in or retaliates in some way. These tanker attacks in the Gulf of Oman can be understood either as a possible effort by the intelligence agencies and Bolton/Pompeo to induce Trump to authorize a 'decisive response' or maybe just an effort to mobilize public opinion in the US and Europe to become more supportive of the current Washington approach based on hostility and provocation. We do know that the evidence increasingly points to false flag operations in these tanker attacks, and thus clearly intended to raise tensions and set the stage for a further escalation of the conflict.

**Q: Given that China's trade war with**

**China will have unfavorable effects on the US economy in the coming months and the economy is also the card winner for the Trump. Reelection campaign, how do you assess the results of the US elections in 2020 in the shadow of the continuation of the trade war with China?**

A: As far as we now know, the Trump trade policies are producing a trade war with China that will not end soon, but whether its negative effects will alter the 2020 national elections is highly uncertain at this time. As long as the American stock market remains high and the unemployment levels remain low it is not likely to be a major factor as compared to health, immigration, security, and most of all, a test of Trump's degree of popularity with the American voting public.

**Q: A poll was recently held by Fox News, Media sponsor of Trump, that shows that Trump has less voter support than five Democrats, including Bernie Sanders and Joe Biden. Given the fact that the poll was held by Fox News, How do you evaluate it? (Of course, there were some differences between Trump and Fox News recently)**

A: Fox News continues to be mainly supportive of Trump, and this presidential popularity poll may have been released to energize Trump support groups to work harder, warning of a strong challenge from a candidate of the Democratic Party.

There is a broad American consensus that China had been acting unfairly in international trade, which justified some efforts to resurface the playing field in relation to trade and intellectual property rights, but among economists there seems wide agreement that raising tariffs on Chinese imports are not an effective tool for reaching this goal, but are counterproductive to the extent that they drag down the world economy, and end up hurting the United States. As your question suggests over time a trade war will produce a downturn in the American economy that then drags down the world economy.

These early polls are not reliable. I do not

expect that either Sanders or Biden to end up as the choice of the Democratic Party to oppose Trump in 2020. I believe Biden will be seen as too weak a candidate that would self-destruct if facing Trump, while Sanders is seen as too divisive, old, and narrow in his focus. What is true is that Trump remains a historically unpopular president, and is definitely vulnerable to defeat if the Democratic Party puts forward a candidate that unifies its moderate and progressive factions while offering positive programs on the main domestic issues and proposing a more constructive foreign policy. Such Democratic candidate would certainly act to restore the nuclear agreement with Iran and reinstitute a suspension of sanctions in accord with the agreement, which would also achieve a restored consensus with Europe, Russia, China. If such an eventuality occurs, Iran would be expected to renew its commitment as to an agreed level and quantity of enriched uranium and an acceptance of limits on the annual production of heavy water. Such a positive expectation would be reason enough for me to vote in favor of whomever the Democratic Party ends of nominating. I hope it will be Elizabeth Warren, but several others would be acceptable to me.

<https://www.tehrantimes.com/news/437517/Impossible-to-predict-where-Trump-will-go-with-Iran-policy-Falk>

### **Trump's willingness to talk with Iran is "Not a serious": Robert Hunter**

*Javad Heirannia, Tehran Times, June 29, 2019*

"It is designed to try showing the allies that he is not just "pressure" without efforts to talk," Hunter tells the Tehran Times.

Following is the full text of the exclusive interview with Hunter:

**Q: Do you think that the maximum pressure campaign on Iran will have an outcome for the Trump government?**

A: If it goes to war, negative with most US public opinion; if not, most Americans are not paying attention; but allies will continue to fret.

**Q: It looks as though we are approaching the date of the American presidential election, Trump's willingness is increasing to talk with Iranian authorities. Some believe that this tendency is more for electoral advertising than as his foreign policy achievement. What is your opinion?**

A: Not a serious proposal; it is designed to try showing the allies that he is not just "pressure" without efforts to talk.

**Q: If the maximum pressure against Iran does not reach the result, would you imagine a change in Trump's warring team, including the expulsion of John Bolton and Mike Pompeo?**

A: No. They are doing what he wants in terms of rhetoric against Iran. The issue is whether they will help start a war by accident or miscalculation. The same is the risk with actions by Iran. The situation is very dangerous. (Iran would be the biggest loser in a war, no matter how it is fought.

**Q: Given that China's trade war with China will have unfavorable effects on the US economy in the coming months and the economy is also the card winner for the trump, how do you assess the results of the US elections in 2020 in the shadow of the continuation of the trade war with China?**

A: To the extent that Trump has control over the trade war, it will be settled, one way or another, long before the election.

**Q: The poll was recently held by Fox News, Media sponsor Trump, that it show Trump has less votes than five Democrats, including Bernice Sanders and Joe Biden. Given the fact that the poll was held by Fox News, How do you evaluate it? (Of course, there were some differences between Trump and Fox News recently)**

A: At this point in the election cycle, polls are meaningless. That has been proved over and over.

<https://www.tehrantimes.com/news/437515/Trump-s-willingness-to-talk-with-Iran-is-Not-a-serious-Robert>

## 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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