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India

India-Pakistan nuclear war could kill more than 100 million, study warns

South China Morning Post, October 3, 2019

The year is 2025 and militants have attacked India's parliament, killing most of its leaders. New Delhi retaliates by sending tanks into the part of Kashmir controlled by Pakistan.

Nuclear Armageddon would be only the beginning. The research found that the firestorms could release 16 million to 36 million tonnes of soot (black carbon) into the upper atmosphere, spreading around the world within weeks.

The soot in turn would absorb solar radiation, heating the air up and boosting the smoke's rise.

Sunlight reaching the Earth would decline 20 to 35 per cent, cooling the surface by 2 to 5 degrees Celsius and reducing precipitation by 15 to 30 per cent.

<https://www.scmp.com/news/asia/south-asia/article/3031358/nuclear-war-between-india-and-pakistan-would-kill-more-100>

Second steam generator for Kudankulam Nuclear Plant Unit-4 shipped from Russia

The New Indian Express, October 4, 2019

The second steam generator for Unit 4 of the Kudankulam Nuclear Power Plant has been shipped from Russia to the construction site in Tamil Nadu, according to Russia's Rosatom State Atomic Energy Corporation.

The equipment will reach India using multi-modal transport from Volgodonsk by road and water transport to Saint-Petersburg port, then by water transport through Baltic and Mediterranean seas, Suez Canal, Red Sea and the Indian Ocean. The length of the route is 21,000 kilometres with complex logistics.

<http://www.newindianexpress.com/states/tamil-nadu/2019/oct/04/second-steam-generator-for-kudankulam-nuclear-plant-unit-4-shipped-from-russia-2043161.html>

Pak PM's Nuclear Threat Is "Brinkmanship": India Tells UN

NDTV, October 15, 2019

India has warned of the inherent dangers in "nuclear brinkmanship" pursued by countries as a cover for cross-border terrorism, days after Pakistan Prime Minister Imran Khan drummed up hysteria over a possible nuclear war in South Asia, after New Delhi revoked the special status of Jammu and Kashmir.

Noting that the global security situation is in a flux, Ambassador Pankaj Sharma, Permanent Representative of India to the Conference on Disarmament (CD), said that as a responsible nuclear power, India's nuclear doctrine continues to stress a policy of credible minimum deterrence with a posture of no-first use and non-use against non-nuclear weapon states.

He made the comments on Monday at the General Debate of the First Committee, which deals with disarmament, global challenges and threats to peace that affect the international community.

<https://www.ndtv.com/india-news/imran-khan-pakistan-prime-minister-nuclear-threat-does-not-qualify-as-statesmanship-pankaj-sharma-a-2117111>

Honouring APJ Abdul Kalam, UN celebrates birthday of 'People's President' on 15 Oct as World Students Day

Firstpost, October 15, 2019

To honour and mark the importance of India's 11th President APJ Abdul Kalam, in 2010 the United Nations declared his birthday on 15 October to be celebrated as World Students Day.

With a background in aerospace engineering, Kalam came to be known as the 'Missile Man of India' for his work on Pokhran-II nuclear tests, a series of five nuclear bomb test explosions conducted by India in 1998.

<https://www.firstpost.com/india/honouring-apj-abdul-kalam-un-celebrates-birthday-of-peoples-president-on-15-oct-as-world-students-day-7499681.html>

China

China's Yuanwang 3 sailing to Pacific Ocean for satellite monitoring missions

Xinhua, October 1, 2019

China's spacecraft tracking ship Yuanwang 3 is sailing to the Pacific Ocean to carry out maritime monitoring missions for the BeiDou 3 and other satellites. The ship departed Sunday from a port in East China's Jiangsu province. It is the third voyage of the ship this year. Before the voyage, crew members completed preparation of supplies, carried out examinations and tests of the facilities and received tailored training to ensure the success of the missions.

<https://www.chinadaily.com.cn/a/201909/30/WS5d91aab7a310cf3e3556e61c.html>

Biggest Military Show In Decades

Zhao Lei, China Daily, October 1, 2019

China is poised to stage a grand military parade in Beijing on Tuesday to celebrate the 70th anniversary of New China's founding. The event will be the country's 15th National Day parade and the largest of its kind in more than six decades. About 15,000 officers and soldiers from the People's Liberation Army, People's Armed Police Force, the reserve services and the militia will participate in the parade. Fifteen units of soldiers will march down Chang'an Avenue.

A total of 580 pieces of weaponry and military hardware from 32 units will showcase the nation's prowess in land and sea combat, air and missile defense, information operations, unmanned tasks, logistics support and strategic strikes.

http://www.chinadaily.com.cn/cndy/2019-10/01/content_37513462.htm

China debuts most advanced ICBM DF-41 at parade

Yang Sheng and Liu Xuanzun, Global Times, October 1, 2019

China's most advanced intercontinental ballistic missile (ICBM), the DF-41, made its

debut at the National Day parade in Beijing on Tuesday, which Chinese military experts said is a message to the world that China has sufficient and reliable strategic nuclear power to respond to any "nuclear blackmail" from any country.

16 transporter erector launchers of the DF-41 missile were inspected during the parade in Tiananmen Square on Tuesday. A DF-41 missile has an operational range of more than 14,000 kilometers and can carry about 10 independently targetable nuclear warheads, capable of hitting anywhere on Earth, according to the US think tank Center for Strategic and International Studies, and this would make DF-41 the world's longest range missile, surpassing the range of the US LGM-30 Minuteman which has a reported range of 13,000 kilometers. Yang Chengjun, a Chinese expert on missile technology and nuclear strategy and chief scientist of quantum defense, told the Global Times that the DF-41 is Chinese fourth-generation strategic nuclear weapon and has the longest operational range among all Chinese ICBMs. "This ICBM's research and development was very successful, and its technology is very mature. During testing, there was no failure record," Yang noted.

<http://www.globaltimes.cn/content/1165931.shtml>

National parade showcases nuclear-capable submarine-launched ballistic missile JL-2

Yang Sheng and Liu Xuanzun, Global Times, October 1, 2019

China showcased its JL-2 nuclear-capable submarine-launched ballistic missiles (SLBM) for the first time during the National Day parade in Beijing on Tuesday. The JL-2 is a mature SLBM, and is actually the submarine-launched type of DF-31, and the next generation JL-3 is undergoing research and development, a Chinese missile expert said. Twelve JL-2 missiles were carried by trucks and reviewed at Tiananmen Square along with

the other advanced weapons and equipment of China in active service.

Yang Chengjun, a Chinese expert on missile technology and nuclear strategy and chief scientist of quantum defense, told the Global Times that the JL-2 is a submarine-launched version of the DF-31, an advanced intercontinental ballistic missile (ICBM), and it's a very mature missile already deployed in the People's Liberation Army Navy. " Yang said that the JL-3 is actually the submarine-launched version of the DF-41, the most advanced ICBM, which also made its debut at the parade, and is undergoing research and development.

China's Type 094 nuclear-powered submarine is able to carry JL-2 missiles, Reuters reported. Equipped with the missiles, the Type 094 submarines represent China's first credible, sea-based nuclear deterrent, the US Department of Defense said in a report released in August 2018.

<http://www.globaltimes.cn/content/1165941.shtml>

China unveils new H-6N bomber with extended range, extra capabilities

Yang Sheng and Liu Xuanzun, Global Times, October 1, 2019

China's latest bomber, the H-6N with refueling capability, made its debut at the National Day parade in Beijing on Tuesday, and Chinese military analysts said that the new bomber's ability to take aerial refueling can give it a much longer operational range compared to its predecessor H-6K. Three H-6N bombers flew above Tiananmen Square during the parade. The new H-6N with refueling capability is believed to be the latest entry to the H-6 bomber family, with many improvements made to its predecessor H-6K, including an in-flight fuel-receiving probe on the nose of the aircraft, military observers said.

This probe will allow the H-6N with refueling capability to conduct aerial refueling, significantly extending its operational range and expanding weapons load, Wei Dongxu, a Beijing-based military

analyst, told the Global Times. The H-6N with refueling capability is capable of launching more powerful missiles, Yang Chengjun, a Chinese missile expert and quantum defense scientist, told the Global Times.

<http://www.globaltimes.cn/content/1165938.shtml>

Chinese military commissions GJ-11 stealth attack drone

Yang Sheng and Liu Xuanzun, Global Times, October 1, 2019

The Gongji-11 (GJ-11) stealth attack drone, capable of attacking strategic targets without being detected, was showcased at Tuesday's National Day parade, indicating it is in active Chinese military service. Boasting a flying wing aerodynamic design similar to the US B-2 strategic bomber, the GJ-11 was displayed at the parade in Beijing for the first time. All weapons on display at the parade are in active service, said Major General Tan Min, Executive Deputy Director of the Military Parade Joint Command Office, at a press conference last week prior to the parade. The drone is believed to have strong stealth capability, enabling it to sneak deep into enemy territory and launch strikes with weapons hidden in its weapons bay on key hostile targets, military analysts said.

<http://www.globaltimes.cn/content/1165939.shtml>

China's strategic deterrents on display

Zhao Lei, China Daily, October 2, 2019

China unveiled some of its most secret and mightiest missiles at the grand parade in Beijing on Tuesday, with experts saying the move was intended to display the prowess of the nation's strategic deterrent. DF-41 missile formation is reviewed during the National Day military parade. Six types of ballistic missiles featured in the ceremony at central Beijing's Tian'anmen Square that marked the 70th anniversary of the founding of the People's Republic

of China. They were the DF-17 medium-range hypersonic ballistic missile, the DF-26 intermediate-range ballistic missile, the JL-2 submarine-launched intercontinental ballistic missile, and the DF-31AG, DF-5B and DF-41 intercontinental ballistic missiles. Five of them can carry nuclear warheads, representing an unprecedented disclosure of China's nuclear force. In previous parades no more than four types of nuclear-capable missiles were displayed. Among the showcased missiles, the DF-41, DF-17 and JL-2 had never been formally shown to the public and their existence had never been officially confirmed by the People's Liberation Army.

They had long been the subjects of intense attention or speculation from military analysts and weapons fans around the world. Carried by a gigantic, 16-wheel launch vehicle, the road-mobile, solid-propellant DF-41 appeared at the end of the strategic strike group moving along Chang'an Avenue, indicating its importance in the Chinese military's arsenal. It was the largest land-based weapon showed at the parade. Military observers widely consider the DF-41 to be one of the most advanced and lethal weapons on the planet. Only three countries the United States, Russia and China possess such destructive hardware, regarded as the ultimate strategic deterrent.

https://www.chinadaily.com.cn/a/201910/02/WS5d93e15aa310cf3e3556e8f6_5.html

Missiles, drones and tanks: China shows off military prowess

Saudi Gazette, October 1, 2019

China put its growing military might on full display Tuesday with a parade of new ballistic missiles, supersonic drones and next-generation battlefield tanks that highlighted Beijing's accelerating race to match the firepower of its US rival.

The tightly choreographed procession across Tiananmen Square underscored a level of material and technological innovation that is increasingly viewed by many as a threat to US dominance in the Asia-Pacific region and beyond.

President Xi Jinping, who reviewed the troops before the parade marking 70 years of Communist Party rule, has pushed for the People's Liberation Army to become a "world-class" military by mid-century.

China's rapid military modernization comes as it faces rising diplomatic tensions with the United States, with Washington worried about Beijing's territorial claims in the South China Sea and its ambitions to reunify self-governed Taiwan with the mainland.

<http://saudigazette.com.sa/article/578680/World/Asia/Missiles-drones-and-tanks-China-shows-off-military-prowess>

China's Ballyhooed New Hypersonic Missile Isn't Exactly a Game-Changer

James M. Acton, Washington Post, October 4, 2019

In the show of military might Tuesday to celebrate the 70th anniversary of the People's Republic of China, one of the highlights among the weapons trundling through Tiananmen Square in Beijing was a hypersonic boost-glide missile. The exhibition of 16 DF-17 missiles (or possibly models of the real thing), displayed in public for the first time, will probably add to disquiet in the United States about a growing military imbalance, but that unease should be tempered by a few practical considerations.

For the past few years, scientists, Pentagon officials and uniformed military leaders have warned about China's apparent lead in hypersonic technology, which they often describe as a "game changer." Over the long term, hypersonic missiles could indeed provide China (and Russia, too) with a uniquely threatening capability, but there is time for a considered response: The DF-17 and its immediate successors are unlikely to add much, if anything, to China's already impressive military forces. To be sure, the DF-17 is a powerful weapon, even armed with a conventional warhead, as it will be, according to the parade announcer in

Beijing. The missile consists of a rocket that launches a glider, presumably at more than five times the speed of sound.

<https://www.washingtonpost.com/opinions/2019/10/04/chinas-ballyhooed-new-hypersonic-missile-isnt-exactly-game-changer/>

Ambassador: Display of China's strength not a threatening message

China Military Online, October 5, 2019

Chinese ambassador to the UK Liu Xiaoming said Beijing would continue to follow the path of peaceful development after a massive military parade in Beijing marking the PRC's founding anniversary, dismissing allegations of so-called China threats.

Marking the 70th anniversary of the founding of the People's Republic of China, the country showcased its military might and development achievements in the National Day parade on October 1, showing the world some of its "state-of-the-art" weaponry including the DF-17 conventional missiles, DF-100 cruise missiles, and DF-41 intercontinental strategic nuclear missile. Sitting in the "Sky News Night" program on Tuesday, Liu said the world doesn't need to feel threatened at all. Liu said: "China will continue to follow the path of peaceful development, and we would like to share the opportunities of China's development with the rest of the world." When asked what China wants for the next 70 years, Liu said: "China has no intention to dominate the world." He said China's priority is to consolidate its achievements and to resolve domestic challenges, not to make other countries and their people suffer the invasion and aggression as Chinese people did in the early 20th century. Speaking of the ongoing chaos in Hong Kong, Liu said the central government is not to crackdown on protests in the city. Hong Kong has seen months of violence. Such acts have severely challenged the bottom line of "One Country, Two Systems" and the rule of law, the ambassador said.

http://english.chinamil.com.cn/view/2019-10/05/content_9643832.htm

China launches HD observation satellite

Xinhua, October 5, 2019

China sent its observation satellite into space from the Taiyuan Satellite Launch Center in north China's Shanxi Province at 2:51 a.m. Saturday (Beijing Time). The satellite, Gaofen-10, was launched aboard a Long March-4C rocket and entered the planned orbit successfully. It was the 314th flight mission of the Long March carrier rocket series. As part of the country's high-definition Earth observation project, the microwave remote sensing satellite is capable of providing photographs with a resolution of less than a meter. Gaofen-10 will be used in land survey, urban planning, road network design, crop yield estimate, as well as disaster relief. It can also serve key national strategies such as the Belt and Road Initiative. The satellite and the carrier rocket were both developed by the Shanghai Academy of Spaceflight Technology under the China Aerospace Science and Technology Corporation.

http://www.xinhuanet.com/english/2019-10/05/c_138448867.htm

FAST closely monitoring unknown repetitive fast radio burst

Xinhua, October 6, 2019

Chinese scientists are paying close attention to a repeating fast radio burst by making follow-up observations during the country's National Day holiday. Scientists are not sure yet what kind of celestial body it comes from, nor do they know its distance from us, said Qian Lei, associate researcher at the National Astronomical Observatories of the Chinese Academy of Sciences. The repetitive burst, code-named FRB121102, was first discovered in September when researchers processed daily cosmic radio signal data received by the Five-hundred-meter Aperture Spherical Radio Telescope (FAST), also dubbed as the "China Sky Eye."

Rapid bursts are usually short and intense, far less numerous than pulsars, and such

a repetitive burst is even less common, according to Qian, also head of the "China Sky Eye" observation program. "We hope to find out the nature and potential laws of the repeating fast radio burst by studying its pulses statistically," he said. Chinese scientists believe more detection and research may help clarify the origins and physical mechanisms of the so-called "mysterious signals from deep space."

http://www.xinhuanet.com/english/2019-10/06/c_138451314.htm

J-15s have become navy's 'iron fist'

Zhang Zhihao, China Daily, October 8, 2019

Zhang's confidence may sound typical of any military veteran, but China's ace pilots go through regular life-threatening trials and tribulations to obtain that level of self-assurance. When landing a jet on the ground, the aircraft typically decelerates and touches down on a runway several kilometers long. However, carrier-based aircraft must accelerate when landing on a moving carrier with a runway less than 300 meters long. The added speed is meant to maintain the jet's momentum in case its tail hook fails to snare any arresting wires and it needs to take off for another landing attempt. As a result, landing on a carrier often gives pilots a sense of crashing on purpose.

Moreover, carrier-based aircraft take off and land on the open sea, where weather conditions can be unpredictable. The accident risk faced by carrier-based pilots is five times greater than that of astronauts, and 20 times higher than conventional pilots. Zhang said that because of the high risk, J-15 pilots were often dubbed "blade dancers".

http://www.chinadaily.com.cn/a/201910/08/WS5d9be4eaa310cf3e3556f09f_2.html

China, Pakistan to advance military ties

Xinhua, October 8, 2019

Xu Qiliang, vice chairman of the Central Military Commission, said Tuesday that

China is willing to keep advancing the ties between China and Pakistan and their militaries. Xu made the remarks when meeting with Pakistan's Chief of Army Staff Qamar Javed Bajwa in Beijing. The friendship between the two countries has weathered the changing international landscape and stayed rock-solid, he said. China is willing to implement the important consensus reached by the leaders of the two countries, strengthen pragmatic cooperation with Pakistan in various fields and deal with risks and challenges together with Pakistan, according to Xu.

Bajwa delivered his congratulations on the 70th anniversary of the founding of the People's Republic of China, and said the Pakistani military is willing to strengthen strategic communication and pragmatic cooperation with the Chinese military, so as to make contributions to safeguarding regional peace and stability.

http://www.xinhuanet.com/english/2019-10/08/c_138456191.htm

China calls for dialogue after DPRK-US nuclear talks broke down

Xinhua, October 9, 2019

China once again calls for dialogue and political consultation, stressing that it is the only feasible solution to Korean Peninsula nuclear issues, after nuclear talks between the Democratic People's Republic of Korea (DPRK) and the United States broke down in Sweden on Saturday. Geng Shuang, spokesperson for Chinese Foreign Ministry made the remarks at a press conference on Tuesday. China hopes the DPRK and the US to maintain communication and stay committed to promoting denuclearization progress, said Geng, calling on the two sides to meet each other halfway.

<http://www.globaltimes.cn/content/1166326.shtml>

Int'l arms control, disarmament in jeopardy: Chinese envoy

Global Times, October 13, 2019

A Chinese envoy warned on Friday that international arms control and disarmament has come to a crucial crossroads with a series of significant challenges. Speaking at a plenary meeting of the First Committee of the UN General Assembly, Fu Cong, head of the Department of Arms Control of the Chinese Foreign Ministry, said the world is encountering changes unseen in a century and the international security situation has become increasingly complicated and unsettling. The United States, in its desperate attempt to gain security supremacy over others, continuously lowers the threshold for the use of nuclear weapons, and turns outer space and cyberspace into new battlegrounds, said Fu. "Such acts have severely undermined global strategic stability and increased the risk of a nuclear war."

"Withdrawalism" of the United States is running rampant, he said. As the United States scrapped the Intermediate-Range Nuclear Forces (INF) Treaty, and the future of New START, the nuclear arms reduction treaty between the United States and Russia, remains uncertain, the international security situation is plagued with unprecedented uncertainties, he said. Breach of commitments and abuse of maximum pressure by the United States are constantly escalating the Iran nuclear issue, and pushing the security situation in the Middle East to a breaking point, he said. The dual effects of technological development are increasingly prominent. The military application of new and advanced technologies is having a profound impact on global security, giving rise to ethical and legal concerns, he said. Fu asked member states to firmly uphold multilateralism, maintain and further develop the multilateral arms control system.

<http://www.globaltimes.cn/content/1166619.shtml>

PLA air force eyes improving electronic warfare capabilities: spokesperson

Xinhua, October 13, 2019

The Chinese People's Liberation Army (PLA) air force has introduced a new combat exercise featuring the improvement of electronic warfare capabilities, a spokesperson said here Sunday. Electronic warfare aircraft served as important parts of the support aircraft formation in a military parade on Oct. 1, marking the 70th founding anniversary of the People's Republic of China, said Shen Jinke, a spokesperson for the PLA air force. Shen added that the new exercise, together with four other air force exercise series, will comprehensively improve the combat capabilities of the PLA air force.

http://www.xinhuanet.com/english/2019-10/13/c_138468782.htm

China-Russia missile defense cooperation needed

Yang Yucai, Global Times, October 14, 2019

Russian President Vladimir Putin on October 3 spoke of helping "Chinese partners create a missile attack warning system" at the final plenary session of the 16th meeting of the Valdai International Discussion Club in Sochi, Russia. The "big secret" has drawn attention of international media due to not only the way Putin revealed it but also the context in which it was revealed. Putin said the system is very important and "will drastically increase China's defense capability." Putin's words, which carry the weight of credibility, show Russian confidence in its military technology and strategic capability.

<http://www.globaltimes.cn/content/1166852.shtml>

Initial research on rocket ends successfully

Zhao Lei, China Daily, October 15, 2019

Report says spacecraft carrier will be bigger, stronger than Long March 5 The preliminary research on China's new generation of manned spacecraft-carrying rocket has concluded successfully, paving the way for the program's next steps, according to China Space News, the flagship newspaper in the country's space industry. The newspaper reported recently that the research results were reviewed and approved on Wednesday by the China Manned Space Agency, which governs the nation's manned space activities. Experts from the agency said the results will be adopted in the research and development of the new carrier rocket, which has yet to be named.

<https://www.chinadaily.com.cn/a/201910/15/WS5da51d41a310cf3e355707a9.html>

Pakistan

AJK president warns worsening situation in disputed Kashmir could lead to nuclear war

Pakistan Today, October 1, 2019

Azad Kashmir President Masood Khan has warned that a deteriorating security situation in the disputed Kashmir region had the potential to escalate into a nuclear conflict between India and Pakistan, and urged the U.N. and the world community to deal with the crisis.

In an interview with Nesweek, a leading American weekly magazine, he described the situation at the Line-of-Control (LoC) as "volatile."

"We have beefed up security, we remain vigilant," Masood Khan said, arguing that "India with its aggressive and aggravating steps has pushed the region to the brink of war."

<https://www.pakistantoday.com.pk/2019/10/01/ajk-president-warns-worsening-situation-in-disputed-kashmir-could-lead-to-nuclear-war/>

Pakistan's Imran Khan in Tehran to facilitate Iran-Saudi talks

Aljazeera, October 13, 2019

Imran Khan and Hassan Rouhani have held talks in the Iranian capital, Tehran, as part of a Pakistani initiative to defuse rising tensions in the Gulf and mediate between regional foes, Iran and Saudi Arabia.

Khan, Pakistan's prime minister, arrived in Tehran on Sunday - the first leg of a tour that also includes a stop in Saudi Arabia.

"The reason for this trip is that we do not want a conflict between Saudi Arabia and Iran," Khan told reporters as he stood alongside the Iranian president.

<https://www.aljazeera.com/news/2019/10/pakistan-imran-khan-tehran-facilitate-iran-saudi-talks-191013144217969.html>

Welcome peace gesture by Pakistan, says President Rouhani alongside PM Imran

Sanaullah Khan, Dawn, October 13, 2019

Prime Minister Imran Khan on Sunday met Iranian President Hassan Rouhani in Tehran during his one-day official trip, with both the leaders emphasising on the need for peace in the region.

"I told Prime Minister Imran we welcome any gesture by Pakistan for peace in the region and appreciate his visit to our country," said Rouhani at a joint press conference with the premier.

"Regional issues have to be resolved through regional means and dialogue. We also emphasised that any goodwill gesture will be responded with a goodwill gesture and good words," said the Iranian president.

<https://www.dawn.com/news/1510619>

Voting for BJP means nuking Pakistan: Indian minister

The Express Tribune, October 14, 2019

Deputy Chief Minister of India's Uttar Pradesh state Prasad Maurya has said that voting for the ruling Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) means "dropping a nuclear bomb on Pakistan".

He was addressing a public gathering in support of BJP candidate Narendra Mehta in Maharashtra's Thane district on Sunday.

<https://tribune.com.pk/story/2079332/9-voting-bjp-means-nuking-pakistan-indian-minister/>

Pakistan condemns Indian defence minister's 'provocative, highly irresponsible' statements

Naveed Siddiqui, Dawn, October 15, 2019

Pakistan on Tuesday condemned recent statements made by Indian Defence Minister Rajnath Singh during election rallies in Haryana, calling them "provocative and highly irresponsible".

"Statements from a senior Minister in the Indian government provide another insight into the Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) mindset – a mix of extremist ideology, hegemonic ambitions, and obsession with Pakistan," read a statement issued by office of the Foreign Office spokesperson.

"It is highly irresponsible of the Indian defence minister to be threatening the splitting of a sovereign country. We are sure that the world community would take cognizance. For his part, Mr Rajnath Singh should have no doubt that the security forces and people of Pakistan remain ready to resolutely defend the country against any evil design," added the statement.

<https://www.dawn.com/news/1510979/pakistan-condemns-indian-defence-ministers-provocative-highly-irresponsible-statements>

USA

US confirms nuclear talks with North Korea to resume

Morgan Ortagus, The Tribune, October 1, 2019

The United States confirmed on Tuesday that it will resume nuclear talks with North Korea in a matter of days.

"I can confirm that US and DPRK officials plan to meet within the next week," State Department spokeswoman Morgan Ortagus said. She said she had no further details on the meeting.

<https://www.tribuneindia.com/news/world/us-confirms-nuclear-talks-with-north-korea-to-resume/841062.html>

North Korea, U.S. to hold working-level talks at weekend - KCNA

Joyce Lee, Reuters, October 1, 2019

North Korea and the United States have agreed to hold working-level talks on Oct. 5, North Korea's state news agency KCNA said on Tuesday, a development that would break months of stalemate since a failed summit in February.

Talks aimed at dismantling North Korea's nuclear and missile programmes have been stalled in a holding pattern since the second summit between U.S. President Donald Trump and North Korean leader Kim Jong Un in Vietnam ended without a deal.

<https://in.reuters.com/article/uk-northkorea-usa/north-korea-u-s-to-hold-working-level-talks-at-weekend-kcna-idINKBN1WG3FY>

Republican lawmakers call for measures to spur new U.S. uranium mining

Valerie Volcovici, Reuters, October 2, 2019

Republican U.S. lawmakers this week urged President Donald Trump's administration to ease restrictions on uranium mining on federal lands, as a Cabinet-level committee prepares

recommendations this month for boosting domestic nuclear fuel production.

“We strongly encourage you to make improved access to federal lands with high-grade uranium deposits a top priority,” according to the Sept. 30 letter from 27 Western state Republican senators and Congress members to Trump’s national security and economic advisers Richard O’Brien and Larry Kudlow, both co-chairs on the uranium mining working group.

“Greater access to our own resources will help put Americans to work exploring for and responsibly producing the uranium that our country needs,” wrote the lawmakers from the western states from Alaska to Utah.

<https://www.reuters.com/article/us-usa-uranium/republican-lawmakers-call-for-measures-to-spur-new-u-s-uranium-mining-idUSKBN1WG4U2>

Puerto Rico to begin nuclear feasibility study

World Nuclear News, October 3, 2019

The Nuclear Alternative Project (NAP), founded in 2016 by Puerto Rican engineers in the US nuclear industry to inform and advocate for SMRs and microreactors in Puerto Rico, proposed the study to the DOE Office of Nuclear Energy, to evaluate the economic, safety and social impact of deploying microreactors and SMRs for the island. It has announced it will officially begin the study on 8 October, having now received receipt of a “notice to proceed” from the US DOE’s Idaho National Laboratory.

“It’s been quite a journey up to this moment - connecting with communities in Puerto Rico to understand needs and aspirations, engaging with policy makers and leadership, gathering support from the US nuclear industry, and mobilising Puerto Rican engineers with a desire to transform the island’s energy infrastructure,” NAP said.

According to *Morning Consult*, the project team, which is led by NAP and consisting primarily of lawyers and consultants in the energy sector, is to receive USD820,000 toward the first phase of the study, which is to be completed by 18 December. The

group had initially planned to perform the feasibility study in a single phase over a nine-month period, NAP’s community impact and engagement consultant Jesabel Rivera said. The first phase of the study will inform the final piece of the study next year. Rivera said the final part would explore further specifics related to site characteristics and the management and logistics of a nuclear project on the island.

<https://www.world-nuclear-news.org/Articles/Puerto-Rico-to-begin-nuclear-feasibility-study>

U.S. Energy Secretary Perry expected to announce resignation next month

Timothy Gardner, Reuters, October 4, 2019

U.S. Energy Secretary Rick Perry is expected to announce his resignation in November, Politico reported on Thursday, citing three unidentified people familiar with his plans.

A spokeswoman for the Energy Department said Perry remains a “proud member” of President Donald Trump’s Cabinet, in a statement that stopped short of denying the Politico report.

“While the beltway media has breathlessly reported on rumors of Secretary Perry’s departure for months, he is still the Secretary of Energy,” spokeswoman Shaylyn Hynes said in a statement. “One day the media will be right. Today is not that day.”

<https://in.reuters.com/article/uk-usa-energy-perry/u-s-energy-secretary-perry-expected-to-announce-resignation-next-month-politico-idINKBN1WJ04P>

N Korea, US envoys to resume nuclear talks in Stockholm

Aljazeera, October 4, 2019

Negotiators from the United States and North Korea are due to resume talks over Pyongyang’s nuclear programme this weekend in Stockholm, but it is far from clear if the two sides will find common ground after months of deadlock and increased tensions.

The meeting in Stockholm will be the first formal working-level talks since US President Donald Trump and North Korean leader Kim Jong Un met in June, vowing to restart negotiations that had stalled after their failed summit in February.

[https://www.aljazeera.com/news/2019/10/korea-
envoys-resume-nuclear-talks-stockholm-
191004033536551.html](https://www.aljazeera.com/news/2019/10/korea-envoys-resume-nuclear-talks-stockholm-191004033536551.html)

New techniques used in US legacy reactor decommissioning

World Nuclear News, October 4, 2019

US Department of Energy Office of Environmental Management (EM) contractors have used new techniques, including the use of a diamond wire saw, in a collaborative effort to demolish a legacy research reactor at the Idaho National Laboratory (INL).

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[https://www.world-nuclear-news.org/Articles/
Innovative-approach-used-in-US-legacy-reactor-
deco](https://www.world-nuclear-news.org/Articles/Innovative-approach-used-in-US-legacy-reactor-deco)

U.S. Nuclear Talks With North Korea Break Down in Hours

David E. Sanger, The New York Post, October 5, 2019

The first negotiations in eight months between the Trump administration and North Korea aimed at breaking the logjam over dismantling the North's nuclear program broke down only hours after they began in Stockholm on Saturday, the North Koreans said.

It was the latest indication that President Trump's signature diplomatic initiative has stalled.

"The negotiation did not live up to our expectations and broke down," the chief North Korean negotiator, Kim Myong-gil,

said, according to Yonhap, the South Korean news agency. Mr. Kim added that the United States had arrived "empty-handed" and had "not discarded its old stance and attitude."

[https://www.nytimes.com/2019/10/05/us/
politics/trump-north-korea-nuclear.html](https://www.nytimes.com/2019/10/05/us/politics/trump-north-korea-nuclear.html)

Centrus completes Oak Ridge D&D contract

World Nuclear News, October 10, 2019

Centrus Energy Corp has completed decontamination and decommissioning (D&D) of the US Department of Energy's (DOE's) K-1600 facility in Oak Ridge, Tennessee, one year after being awarded the contract to prepare the facility for demolition. K-1600 is one of the last remaining legacy structures on the East Tennessee Technology Park site.

Centrus had since 2002 leased K-1600 from DOE to test and demonstrate its American Centrifuge uranium enrichment technology, while carrying out centrifuge manufacturing, engineering, and design at its own Technology and Manufacturing Center (TMC) - a former Boeing plant - in south Oak Ridge. The state of Tennessee in 2018 issued a licence to Centrus to allow for future testing activities to take place at TMC, enabling the company to consolidate its future centrifuge development efforts at a single facility and removing the need for it to continue using K-1600.

[https://www.world-nuclear-news.org/Articles/
Centrus-completes-Oak-Ridge-D-D-contract](https://www.world-nuclear-news.org/Articles/Centrus-completes-Oak-Ridge-D-D-contract)

NuScale highlights multiple applications of SMRs

World Nuclear News, October 10, 2019

Nuclear power can play a major role in reducing carbon emissions beyond electricity supply to include the industrial and transportation sectors, a fact that is leading to interest in integrated energy systems (IES), José Reyes, chief technology officer at NuScale Power, said yesterday. Reyes, who is co-designer of NuScale's passively-cooled small modular reactor (SMR), spoke at the International

Conference on Climate Change and the Role of Nuclear Power being held this week at the International Atomic Energy Agency's headquarters in Vienna.

NuScale has conducted studies into the use of its SMR design for flexible power operations, hydrogen production, process heat and power for oil refineries, and water desalination. Its technology is so far the first and only SMR undergoing the US regulatory process. Reyes provided the conference with a paper summarising the results of these studies.

<https://www.world-nuclear-news.org/Articles/NuScale-highlights-multiple-applications-of-SMRs>

US Nuclear Weapons

Union of Concerned Scientists. October 2019

The United States tested the first atomic device in July of 1945. Seven years later, it exploded the first thermonuclear weapon—designed in part by Richard Garwin, who now serves on the board of the Union of Concerned Scientists.

In the following years, the United States amassed many thousands of nuclear weapons, each capable of immense destruction. At the height of the Cold War, the United States maintained roughly 30,000 nuclear bombs and warheads, though the total number of weapons has fallen, thanks in part to US-Soviet and US-Russian treaties and agreements.

<https://www.ucsusa.org/nuclear-weapons/us-weapons>

Europe

EU denounces North Korea missile, calls for fresh talks with U.S.

Reuters, October 2, 2019

The European Union denounced on Wednesday North Korea's decision to fire a ballistic missile off its east coast as "yet another provocative action" and called for fresh talks between Washington and Pyongyang. "We look forward to the resumption of working-level talks between the US and the DPRK and stand ready to

support all international efforts for finding a diplomatic solution leading to lasting peace and security on the Korean Peninsula," the EU said in a statement, referring to North Korea.

<https://www.reuters.com/article/us-northkorea-missiles-eu/eu-denounces-north-korea-missile-calls-for-fresh-talks-with-u-s-idUSKBN1WH167>

France 'extremely worried' after North Korean missile test

Reuters, October 2, 2019

Reports of new North Korean ballistic missile launches are "extremely worrying", France's Foreign Affairs ministry said on Wednesday. "Such an act cannot contribute to serious negotiations," a spokeswoman for the ministry added after North Korea fired what may have been a submarine-launched ballistic missile from off its east coast, a day after it announced the resumption of talks with the United States on ending its nuclear program.

<https://www.reuters.com/article/us-northkorea-missile-france/france-extremely-worried-after-north-korean-missile-test-idUSKBN1WH1UE>

At U.N., Europeans urge North Korea to move toward giving up nuclear weapons, missile programs

Michelle Nichols, Reuters, October 8, 2019

The five European members of the United Nations Security Council urged North Korea on Tuesday "to take concrete steps" toward giving up its nuclear weapons and ballistic missile programs in a complete, verifiable and irreversible manner. The envoys issued a joint statement following a closed-door meeting of the 15-member council on North Korea after Pyongyang said it had test-fired a new submarine-launched ballistic missile last Wednesday. The discussion was requested by Germany, Britain and France.

The European council members described these launches as undermining "regional security and stability, and they are in clear

violation of U.N. Security Council resolutions." "It is vital that the Security Council upholds its resolutions. International sanctions must remain in place and be fully and strictly enforced," the envoys, including from Belgium and Poland, said in the statement. North Korea warned the United States, Britain, France and Germany on Monday that raising the issue of Pyongyang's missile tests at the U.N. Security Council would "further urge our desire to defend our sovereignty."

<https://www.reuters.com/article/us-northkorea-missiles-un/at-u-n-europeans-urge-north-korea-to-move-toward-giving-up-nuclear-weapons-missile-programs-idUSKBN1WN241>

Arms firms fret over delays in Franco-German fighter project

Tim Hether, Reuters, October 8, 2019

France's Dassault Aviation and Europe's Airbus have stepped up pressure on France and Germany to agree the next stage of a planned fighter project, warning Europe's arms industry and long-term security could suffer from delays. The two companies are the leading industrial partners in a project to build a futuristic swarm of manned and unmanned warplanes, announced by the leaders of France and Germany two years ago and expanded earlier this year to include Spain.

Dassault and Airbus won a 65-million-euro contract in January to develop the concept for the Future Combat Air System (FCAS) but await a new contract to build demonstrators for interlinked fighters, drones and an "air combat cloud" by 2026. Dassault Aviation Chief Executive Eric Trappier told a conference of policymakers last month that the demonstrator contract should have been launched in September but this was now slipping toward end-year. He called it "indispensable" to avoid any further delays in order to maintain the 2026 deadline.

<https://www.reuters.com/article/us-europe-fighters/arms-firms-fret-over-delays-in-franco-german-fighter-project-idUSKBN1WMM22B>

Germany bans exports of arms to Turkey

Reuters, October 12, 2019

Germany has banned arms exports to Turkey over its assault against Kurdish YPG militia in Syria, a foreign ministry spokeswoman said. Turkey launched the military operation on Wednesday after U.S. President Donald Trump withdrew some U.S. troops who had been backing Kurdish forces in the fight against Islamic State. The United States and European Union have already warned Turkey of possible sanctions over the offensive.

"Against the backdrop of the Turkish military offensive... , the Federal Government will not issue any new permits for all military equipment that could be used by Turkey in Syria", Foreign Minister Heiko Maas said, according to the spokeswoman.

<https://www.reuters.com/article/us-syria-security-turkey-germany/germany-bans-exports-of-arms-to-turkey-idUSKBN1WR0EL>

Russia

Russia interested in exploring WPS but won't meddle in PH-China sea row

Argyll Cyrus Geducos, Manila Bulletin, October 3, 2019

Philippine Ambassador to Russia Carlos Sorreta said that Russia was interested in exploring the West Philippine Sea for energy cooperation but has no intention to meddle in the sea dispute between the Philippines and China.

Sorreta made the statement ahead of President Duterte's bilateral meeting with Russian President Vladimir Putin in Sochi Thursday.

In an interview here, Sorreta said that Russia has been interested in energy cooperation in many areas, including the West Philippine Sea. Sorreta said Russia expressed willingness to do the exploration within Philippine laws.

<https://news.mb.com.ph/2019/10/03/russia-interested-in-exploring-wps-but-wont-meddle-in-ph-china-sea-row/>

Russia's Putin praises Donald Trump for North Korea talks

Reuters, October 3, 2019

Russian President Vladimir Putin on Thursday praised Donald Trump for what he said was the U.S. president's historic move to enter into talks with North Korea to defuse nuclear tensions on the Korean peninsula.

Trump held a summit with North Korean leader Kim Jong-un last year and a second one in February, although the talks aimed at dismantling Pyongyang's nuclear programmes then stalled.

<https://in.reuters.com/article/uk-northkorea-missiles-putin-trump/russias-putin-praises-donald-trump-for-north-korea-talks-idINKBN1WI1QU>

Vladimir Putin says Russia is helping China build a missile early warning system

South China Morning Post, October 4, 2019

Russia is helping China to build an early warning system to counter missile attacks, Vladimir Putin said on Thursday.

Speaking at an international affairs conference in the resort town of Sochi, he said Moscow was helping China increase its missile defence capability, Russian state-owned news agency Sputnik reported.

"This is a very serious endeavour that will fundamentally and radically increase the defence capability of the People's Republic of China because only the United States and Russia have such a system at present," the Russian leader said.

<https://www.scmp.com/news/china/military/article/3031639/vladimir-putin-says-russia-helping-china-build-missile-early>

Russia's Putin says Iran's missile programme should be treated separately to nuclear programme - Arabiya

Reuters, October 13, 2019

Russian President Vladimir Putin said Iran's missile programme should be dealt with as

a separate matter to its nuclear programme.

Putin was speaking in an interview with Arab broadcasters, including Saudi-owned Al Arabiya TV, ahead of his first visit to Saudi Arabia in over a decade.

"It is possible, and we should, discuss Iran's missiles programme... but the missile programme is one thing and the nuclear program is another thing," Putin was quoted as saying. (Reporting By Aziz El Yaakoubi and Maher Chmaytelli Editing by Raissa Kasolowsky)

<https://in.reuters.com/article/saudi-russia-mideast-iran/russias-putin-says-irans-missile-programme-should-be-treated-separately-to-nuclear-programme-arabiya-idINB2N26C000>

Moscow has done its homework: Russia will be least affected if US exit from INF treaty brings back arms race, Putin says

Russian Times, October 13, 2019

A renewed arms race between the US and Russia would be bad for the world but Moscow won't be dragged into excessive military spending, as it has already developed next gen weapons of "unmatched" capabilities, Vladimir Putin said.

The Russian president discussed Washington's unilateral withdrawal from the Intermediate-Range Nuclear Forces (INF) Treaty at a joint interview with RT Arabic, UAE-based Sky News Arabia and Saudi Arabia's Al-Arabiya broadcasters.

However, Putin pointed out that "it was not worth ruining the deal," which helped the US and Russia by precluding the fielding in Europe of ground-based missiles with a range of between 500km and 5,500km, and which remained the cornerstone of security on that continent since 1987. "I believe there were other ways out of the situation," he added.

<https://www.rt.com/news/470828-russia-us-arms-race-putin/>

Russia's Rosatom may purchase controlling stake in lithium project in Chile

Reuters, October 15, 2019

Uranium One Group, a subsidiary of Russia's state nuclear company Rosatom, may purchase a controlling stake in a lithium project in Chile from Canada-listed Wealth Minerals Ltd, Wealth Minerals said in a statement on Tuesday.

Wealth Minerals signed a strategic memorandum of understanding with Uranium One which provides for the acquisition by Uranium One of up to a 51% ownership interest in Wealth Minerals's Atacama lithium project in northern Chile, it added.

<https://in.reuters.com/article/chile-lithium-russia/russias-rosatom-may-purchase-controlling-stake-in-lithium-project-in-chile-idINR4N20701Z>

West Asia

Iran

Iran to cut nuclear deal commitments until it reaches 'desired result': supreme leader

Reuters, October 2, 2019

Iran will continue reducing its commitments under its 2015 nuclear deal until it reaches the "desired result," Supreme Leader Ayatollah Ali Khamenei said on Wednesday, according to his official website.

"We will continue the reduction of commitments," Khamenei said in a meeting with commanders of the elite Revolutionary Guards. "The responsibility is with the Atomic Energy Organization and they must be carry out the reduction ...in a precise, complete and comprehensive way and continue until the time we reach a desired result."

<https://www.reuters.com/article/us-usa-iran-nuclear/iran-to-cut-nuclear-deal-commitments-until-it-reaches-desired-result-supreme-leader-idUSKBN1WH0Y9>

Rohani blames Trump for failed France bid to initiate contact

Saudi Gazette, October 2, 2019

Iran's President Hassan Rohani on Wednesday blamed his US counterpart Donald Trump for the failure of French efforts to initiate a historic phone call between them last week at the United Nations.

The Islamic republic is prepared "to hold fruitful negotiations", he told the Iranian cabinet, referring to two days of diplomatic efforts by French President Emmanuel Macron.

"From my point of view, the path (to dialogue) remains clear," he said in a speech carried on state television, thanking the French leader.

France's efforts at the UN General Assembly in New York "could have been acceptable, in a certain way", he said. "If anyone tried to prevent (contact taking place), it was the White House and nobody else".

While diplomatic efforts were in full swing, "the American president on two occasions" in the space of 24 hours "clearly announced an intensification of sanctions against Iran", said Rohani.

<http://saudigazette.com.sa/article/578833/World/Mena/Rohani-blames-Trump-for-failed-France-bid-to-initiate-contact>

Iran's Rouhani says French plan for talks broadly is acceptable

Reuters, October 2, 2019

A plan for talks presented to the United States and Iran by French President Emmanuel Macron is broadly acceptable to the Islamic Republic, President Hassan Rouhani said on Wednesday during a cabinet meeting that was broadcast live on state TV.

He said some wording needed to be changed in the plan, which would require Iran not to pursue nuclear weapons and to help the security of the region and its

waterways, while Washington would have to remove all sanctions. It would also allow Iran to immediately resume oil sales. But Rouhani also told the cabinet that mixed messages about sanctions received from the United States while he was attending the United Nations General Assembly in New York last week had undermined the possibility of talks.

He said it was unacceptable for U.S. President Donald Trump to say publicly that he would intensify sanctions while European powers told Iran in private that he was willing to negotiate. "The American president on two occasions ... said explicitly that we want to intensify sanctions. I told these European friends, so which part should we accept? Should we accept your word that you say America is ready?" Rouhani said.

<https://www.reuters.com/article/us-usa-iran-rouhani/irans-rouhani-says-french-plan-for-talks-broadly-is-acceptable-idUSKBN1WH0RA>

France gives one month to get Iran-U.S. to negotiating table

Reuters, October 3, 2019

Iran and the United States have one month to get to the negotiating table, France's foreign minister warned, suggesting that Tehran's plan to increase its nuclear activities in November would spark renewed tension in the region.

French President Emmanuel Macron attempted, but failed to broker talks between U.S. President Donald Trump and Iranian President Hassan Rouhani in New York last week.

"We consider that these initiatives, which didn't succeed, are still on the table and it is up to Iran and the United States to seize (them) in a relatively short amount of time because Iran has announced new measures to reduce its commitments to the Vienna accord in November," Jean-Yves Le Drian told parliament's foreign affairs committee. Iran is breaching the restrictions of its 2015 nuclear deal with major powers step-by-step in response to U.S. sanctions imposed since

Washington pulled out of the agreement in May of last year.

It has said its next reductions would be at the start of November and diplomats fear the next move could force European powers who are trying to salvage the accord to respond, unlike after previous breaches.

<https://www.reuters.com/article/us-usa-iran-france/france-gives-one-month-to-get-iran-u-s-to-negotiating-table-idUSKBN1WI20C>

Iran nuclear deal can be saved by goodwill not sanctions: Slovakia's IAEA hopeful says

Reuters, October 3, 2019

The 2015 nuclear deal between Iran and the remaining signatories can still be saved after the U.S. withdrawal but Iran must return to the full implementation of its commitments and in return be offered some goodwill instead of sanctions, the Slovak candidate to head the United Nation's nuclear agency said on Thursday.

"The remaining parties, so-called E3+2 countries including China, France, Germany, Russia and the United Kingdom, that are still committed to the deal should find a way to help Iran in this difficult situation (to show) that deals should be honored," Marta Ziakova, who is running for the post of International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA) chief, told Reuters. "Iran hasn't got much for keeping its part of the deal so far but it has to return to the full implementation of its commitments under the deal," she added.

<https://www.reuters.com/article/us-iran-usa-nuclear-talks/iran-nuclear-deal-can-be-saved-by-goodwill-not-sanctions-slovakias-iaea-hopeful-says-idUSKBN1WI10T>

After pressing Iran for answers, IAEA reports improved cooperation

Reuters, October 4, 2019

The International Atomic Energy Agency, which polices Iran's nuclear deal with

major powers, told Tehran last month that “time is of the essence” in addressing what it describes in its jargon as concerns about the completeness of Iran’s safeguards declarations to the agency.

Diplomats say Iran has been stonewalling the agency over the uranium particles found in environmental samples taken at what Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu called a “secret atomic warehouse” in Tehran. Iran has said was a carpet-cleaning facility. Acting IAEA Director General Cornel Feruta, who is heading the agency provisionally after the death in July of its longtime chief Yukiya Amano, reported progress on Friday.

<https://www.reuters.com/article/us-iran-nuclear-iaea/after-pressing-iran-for-answers-iaea-reports-improved-cooperation-idUSKBN1WJ0XO>

Iran will use every possible way to export its oils-Shana

Reuters, October 6, 2019

Iran will not succumb to U.S. pressure and will use every possible way to export its oil, Iranian Oil Ministry’s website SHANA quoted Oil Minister Bijan Zanganeh as saying on Sunday.

Iran’s crude oil exports were reduced by more than 80% when the United States re-imposed sanctions on the country last November after President Donald Trump pulled out of Iran’s 2015 nuclear deal with world powers.

“We will use every possible way to export our oil and we will not succumb to America’s pressure because exporting oil is Iran’s legitimate right,” Zanganeh said.

In response, Iran has gradually scaled back its commitments to the 2015 nuclear deal, under which Tehran accepted to curb its nuclear activities in return for lifting most international sanctions.

The increasing U.S. pressure on Iran has scared away foreign investors from doing business in the country.

<https://www.reuters.com/article/us-iran-oil-zanganeh/iran-will-use-every-means-possible-to-export-its-oil-shana-idUSKCN1WL037>

Turkey

Erdogan’s Ambitions Go Beyond Syria. He Says He Wants Nuclear Weapons.

David E. Sanger and William J. Broad, The New York Times, October 20, 2019

Turkey’s president, Recep Tayyip Erdogan, wants more than control over a wide swath of Syria along his country’s border. He says he wants the Bomb.

In the weeks leading up to his order to launch the military across the border to clear Kurdish areas, Mr. Erdogan made no secret of his larger ambition. “Some countries have missiles with nuclear warheads,” he told a meeting of his governing party in September. But the West insists “we can’t have them,” he said. “This, I cannot accept.”

<https://www.nytimes.com/2019/10/20/world/middleeast/erdogan-turkey-nuclear-weapons-trump.html?smid=nytcore-ios-share>

Saudi Arabia

Workshop discussing feasibility studies on uranium production

Saudi Gazette report, October 8, 2019

A three-day national workshop on feasibility studies for uranium production is underway in Riyadh. Dr. Khalid Al-Sultan, president of King Abdullah City for Atomic and Renewable Energy (K.A.CARE), inaugurated the event on Monday at K.A.CARE headquarters. The workshop is organized by K.A.CARE in cooperation with the Ministry of Industry and Mineral Resources and the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA). Deputy Minister of Industry and Mineral Resources for Mining Khaled Al-Modaifer addressed the inaugural session of the workshop in which several national and international officials and experts are attending, Saudi Press Agency (SPA) said.

The workshop focuses on the mechanisms and methods of uranium production, economic factors, social and environmental impacts and project management focusing

on exploration, extraction and concentration of uranium from its ores in Saudi Arabia. It also hosts a panel discussion on nuclear responsibilities. The workshop aims to strengthen cooperation with national and international business partners under the umbrella of technical cooperation with IAEA to highlight the most important challenges during the work of a feasibility study for the production of uranium in the Kingdom.

<http://saudigazette.com.sa/article/579348/SAUDI-ARABIA/Workshop-discussing-feasibilitystudies-on-uranium-production>

Russia ready to work with US to build Saudi nuclear power plant- Rosatom

Reuters, October 14, 2019

Russia's state nuclear corporation Rosatom would be ready to cooperate with partners from the United States, Europe and Asia to build a nuclear power plant in Saudi Arabia, Rosatom's CEO Alexey Likhachev said on Monday.

<https://www.reuters.com/article/us-saudi-russia-nuclear/russia-ready-to-work-with-u-s-to-build-saudi-nuclear-power-plant-rosatom-idUSKBN1WT1KZ>

Israel

Israel should focus more on Iran's Nuclear Weapons than on Hezbollah's Missiles

Jerusalem Post, October 6, 2019

A senior Israeli official recently said that Israel's top priorities are to prevent Iran from producing a nuclear weapon and to thwart Hezbollah's precision missile project. Those are the biggest security challenges Israel faces but there is a huge difference between them. An Iranian nuclear attack might annihilate Israel and cause hundreds of thousands of casualties. Hezbollah's precision missiles present a major problem, but on a much smaller scale than the nuclear one. The gap between the two issues is so vast that it requires putting each one of them in its own category.

Iran has been taking steps to breach the agreement about its nuclear program, the

Joint Comprehensive Plan of Action (JCPOA), signed in July 2015. If Iran actually tries to produce a nuclear weapon, then Israel must stop it, almost at any cost. Iran with a nuclear arsenal will be an existential threat to Israel. Therefore Israel must focus on that, at the expense of other major issues, such as Hezbollah's precision missile project. Israel should not neglect, let alone underestimate, Hezbollah's missiles but it is much less of a danger compared with Iran's nuclear project. Nevertheless it often seems that Israel concentrates too much on Hezbollah's missiles, instead of zeroing in on Iran's nuclear project.

<https://www.jpost.com/Opinion/Israel-should-focus-more-on-Irans-nuclear-weapons-than-on-Hezbollahs-missiles-603796>

Israel to construct first waste to energy power plant

Jerusalem Post, October 15, 2019

The Finance Ministry and Ministry of Environmental Protection have announced plans to construct Israel's first waste-to-energy power plant, estimated to cost NIS 1 billion. An inter-ministerial committee for the treatment of waste, estimated at 5 million tons annually, published Thursday a pre-qualification document ahead of the public-private-partnership (PPP) tender to plan, fund, construct and operate the facility.

Incinerating waste to produce electricity, the plant will be built at the "Good Samaritan" recycling park near Ma'aleh Adumim. The plant is expected to serve as the primary waste treatment facility for the Jerusalem metropolitan area and surrounding towns.

According to the ministries, the new site – which is estimated to commence operations in another six years – will be home to an innovative waste sorting facility and the most advanced energy recovery facility worldwide, producing electricity from waste under stringent environmentally-friendly conditions.

<https://www.jpost.com/Israel-News/Israel-to-construct-first-waste-to-energy-power-plant-604380>

UAE

UAE cooperating with Russia to buy Russian Nuclear Fuel, Minister

Reuters, October 14, 2019

The United Arab Emirates is cooperating with Russia to buy Russian nuclear fuel, state-run news agency (WAM) quoted the UAE's Minister of Energy and Industry as saying on Monday.

"There is cooperation between the two countries to buy Russian nuclear fuel in relation to the UAE's peaceful program for nuclear energy," Energy Minister Suhail al-Mazrouei said.

<https://www.reuters.com/article/us-emirates-russia-nuclear-fuel/uae-cooperating-with-russia-to-buy-russian-nuclear-fuel-minister-idUSKBN1WT0VI>

East Asia

North Korea

North Korea blames U.S. for failure to restart talks

Michelle Nichols, Reuters, October 1, 2019

North Korea blamed the United States on Monday for a failure to restart stalled talks, more than a year after President Donald Trump's first meeting with North Korean leader Kim Jong Un. In a speech at the U.N. General Assembly, Pyongyang's U.N. ambassador Kim Song said it was time for Washington to share proposals for talks. "Assuming that the U.S. has had enough time to find out a calculation method that can be shared with us, we expressed our willingness to sit with the U.S. for comprehensive discussion of the issues we have deliberated so far."

On the final day of the annual gathering of world leaders at the United Nations, he called for the full implementation of a statement issued by Trump and North Korean leader Kim after their first meeting in Singapore in June last year. The pair agreed in the statement to foster new relations and work towards the denuclearisation of the Korean peninsula.

<https://www.reuters.com/article/us-un-assembly-northkorea/north-korea-blames-u-s-for-failure-to-restart-talks-idUSKBN1WF1WY>

North Korea may have tested submarine-launched ballistic missile: South Korea

Reuters, October 2, 2019

South Korea is reviewing North Korea's missile launch on Wednesday as a possible test of a submarine-launched ballistic missile (SLBM), the presidential Blue House said. South Korea's National Security Council expressed strong concern over the North Korean launch before the restart of talks between Pyongyang and Washington on Oct. 5, the Blue House said in a statement.

<https://www.reuters.com/article/us-northkorea-missiles-southkorea/north-korea-may-have-tested-submarine-launched-ballistic-missile-south-korea-idUSKBN1WH038>

U.S. urges restraint after North Korea fires ballistic missile

Reuters, October 2, 2019

The United States called on Pyongyang on Wednesday to "refrain from provocations" and remain committed to nuclear negotiations after North Korea fired a ballistic missile off its east coast. "We call on (North Korea) to refrain from provocations, abide by their obligations under U.N. Security Council Resolutions, and remain engaged in substantive and sustained negotiations to do their part to ensure peace and stability on the Korean Peninsula and achieve denuclearization," a state department spokeswoman said in Rome.

<https://www.reuters.com/article/us-northkorea-missiles-usa/u-s-urges-restraint-after-north-korea-fires-ballistic-missile-idUSKBN1WH0QW>

North Korea fires ballistic missile, possibly from submarine, days before talks

Joyce Lee, Chang-Ran Kim, Reuters, October 2, 2019

North Korea fired what may have been a submarine-launched ballistic missile from off its east coast on Wednesday, a day after it announced the resumption of talks with

the United States on ending its nuclear program. If confirmed, it would be the most provocative test by North Korea since it started the talks with the United States in 2018. Analysts said it was likely a reminder by Pyongyang of the weapons capability it had been aggressively developing as it gears up for the new round of talks. A State Department spokeswoman called on Pyongyang to “refrain from provocations” and remain committed to the nuclear negotiations.

<https://www.reuters.com/article/us-northkorea-missiles/north-korea-fires-ballistic-missile-possibly-from-submarine-days-before-talks-idUSKBN1WG4Y5>

Explainer: North Korea’s suspected submarine missile ‘pushes the envelope’

Jack Kim, Reuters, October 2, 2019

North Korea fired what may be a submarine-launched ballistic missile (SLBM) on Wednesday, which would be the first test in three years of what had been a relatively young but rapidly progressing program to deliver nuclear weapons. The launch comes hours after the North announced it would resume nuclear talks with the United States this weekend, potentially ending a months-long deadlock that followed a vow by North Korea leader Kim Jong Un and U.S. President Donald Trump to make progress. The exact type of the missile and the launch platform remain unclear, but it appears to be a step that “pushes the envelope,” said Joshua Pollack, a leading expert on nuclear and missile proliferation and editor of *Nonproliferation Review*.

North Korea’s state news agency KCNA said on Thursday the missile was a Pukgukson-3 test-fired at a high angle in the waters off Wonsan designed to contain external threat and bolster self-defense, but gave no other details. Photos released in the North’s official *Rodong Sinmun* newspaper showed a black-and-white painted missile emerging and clearing the surface of the water, then the booster rocket igniting to propel it into the sky.

<https://www.reuters.com/article/us-northkorea-missiles-explainer/explainer-north-koreas-suspected-submarine-missile-pushes-the-envelope-idUSKBN1WH0XJ>

A North Korean delegation has landed in Sweden for talks with U.S.: source

Reuters, October 3, 2019

A North Korean delegation headed by the country’s chief nuclear negotiator Kim Myong Gil has landed in Stockholm, Sweden for denuclearization talks with the U.S., a source familiar with the matter said on Thursday. Earlier on Thursday Kim, speaking to Yonhap news agency at Beijing airport, said he and other officials were heading to Sweden. “We’re going for the DPRK-U.S. working-level negotiations,” Kim told reporters in Beijing, according to Yonhap. “There’s been a new signal from the U.S. side, so we’re going with great expectations and optimism about the outcome.”

<https://www.reuters.com/article/us-northkorea-missiles-sweden/a-north-korean-delegation-has-landed-in-sweden-for-talks-with-u-s-source-idUSKBN1WI1VO>

U.N. Security Council likely to meet next week over North Korea missile launch: diplomats

Reuters, October 3, 2019

The U.N. Security Council will likely meet behind closed doors on North Korea next week, diplomats said on Thursday, after Pyongyang said it had successfully test-fired a new submarine-launched ballistic missile ahead of fresh nuclear talks with Washington. The council discussion was requested by Germany with the support of Britain and France, the diplomats said. The launch on Wednesday was the most provocative by North Korea since it resumed a dialogue with the United States in 2018. U.N. Security Council resolutions ban Pyongyang from using ballistic missile technology.

<https://www.reuters.com/article/us-northkorea-missiles-unitednations/u-n-security-council-likely-to-meet-next-week-over-north-korea-missile-launch-diplomats-idUSKBN1WI1MQ>

North Korea says it successfully tested new submarine-launched ballistic missile

Joyce Lee, Reuters, October 3, 2019

North Korea said on Thursday it had successfully test-fired a new submarine-launched ballistic missile (SLBM) from the sea to contain external threats and bolster self-defense, ahead of fresh nuclear talks with the United States. The launch on Wednesday was the most provocative by North Korea since it resumed dialogue with the United States in 2018 and a reminder by Pyongyang of the weapons capability it has been aggressively developing, including intercontinental ballistic missiles, analysts said.

North Korean leader Kim Jong Un “sent warm congratulations” to the defense scientists who conducted the test, state news agency KCNA said, indicating he did not attend the launch as he has during previous tests of new weapons systems.

<https://www.reuters.com/article/us-northkorea-missiles/north-korea-says-it-successfully-tested-new-submarine-launched-ballistic-missile-idUSKBN1WH2GS>

North Korea, U.S. envoys to resume high-stakes nuclear talks over weekend

Josh Smith, Reuters, October 3, 2019

As negotiators for the United States and North Korea resume talks over Pyongyang’s nuclear program this weekend, analysts say that the leaders of both countries face increased incentives to strike a deal, but that it is far from clear they will find common ground after months of deadlock and increased tensions. The meeting in Stockholm will be the first formal working-level talks since U.S. President Donald Trump and North Korean leader Kim Jong Un met in June, vowing to restart negotiations that had stalled after their failed summit in February.

<https://www.reuters.com/article/us-northkorea-usa-analysis/north-korea-u-s-envoys-to-resume-high-stakes-nuclear-talks-over-weekend-idUSKBN1WJ0AU>

Japan PM seeks meet with North Korea’s Kim despite missile launch

Kiyoshi Takenaka, Linda Sieg, Reuters, October 4, 2019

Japanese Prime Minister Shinzo Abe said on Friday he was determined to meet North Korea’s leader to resolve the issue of Japanese nationals abducted by North Korean agents, maintaining an offer to talk despite the country’s missile launches. North Korea said this week it had successfully test-fired a new submarine-launched ballistic missile from the sea, to contain external threats and bolster self-defense, ahead of fresh nuclear talks with the United States.

“I am determined to meet with Chairman Kim Jong Un face-to-face, with no preconditions, to resolve the all-important abduction issue,” Abe said in a policy speech at the beginning of a parliamentary session.

<https://www.reuters.com/article/us-northkorea-japan-abe/japan-pm-seeks-meet-with-north-koreas-kim-despite-missile-launch-idUSKBN1WJ0FW>

Pompeo says hopes for progress in talks with North Korea

Reuters, October 5, 2019

The United States Secretary of State Mike Pompeo said on Saturday that he was hopeful of progress in nuclear talks with North Korea which started in Stockholm. U.S. and North Korean officials gathered in Sweden on Saturday to begin nuclear talks in an attempt to end months of stalemate. “I’m hopeful that we will (make progress). We came with a set of ideas, we hope the North Koreans came with a good spirit and a willingness to try to move forward and implement what President Trump and Chairman Kim agreed to back in Singapore,” Pompeo told a news conference in Athens.

<https://www.reuters.com/article/us-northkorea-usa-pompeo/pompeo-says-hopes-for-progress-in-talks-with-north-korea-idUSKCN1WK0A1>

North Korea breaks off nuclear talks with U.S. in Sweden

Johan Ahlander, Philip O'Connor, Reuters, October 5, 2019

Working-level nuclear talks in Sweden between officials from Pyongyang and Washington have broken off, North Korea's top negotiator said late on Saturday, dashing prospects for an end to months of stalemate. The talks, at an isolated conference center on the outskirts of Stockholm, were the first such formal discussion since U.S. President Donald Trump and North Korean leader Kim Jong Un met in June and agreed to restart negotiations that stalled after a failed summit in Vietnam in February.

The North's chief nuclear negotiator, Kim Myong Gil, who spent much of the day in talks with an American delegation, cast the blame on what he portrayed as U.S. inflexibility, saying the other side's negotiators would not "give up their old viewpoint and attitude." "The negotiations have not fulfilled our expectation and finally broke off," Kim told reporters outside the North Korean embassy, speaking through an interpreter.

<https://www.reuters.com/article/us-northkorea-usa-sweden/north-korea-breaks-off-nuclear-talks-with-u-s-in-sweden-idUSKCN1WK074>

North Korea doubts U.S. will have alternative plans inside two weeks

Ju-min Park, Josh Smith, Reuters, October 6, 2019

North Korea said on Sunday there was no way the United States would bring alternative plans for their stalled nuclear talks to a meeting proposed by Stockholm in two weeks after weekend negotiations in Sweden broke down. The working-level talks between U.S. and North Korean envoys were broken off on Saturday. The U.S. State Department said it had accepted Sweden's invitation to return for more discussions with Pyongyang in two weeks.

North Korea said the ball was now in Washington's court, and warned Washington that it would wait only until

the end of the year for the United States to change course. "We have no intention to hold such sickening negotiations as ... happened this time (in Sweden) before the U.S. takes a substantial step to make complete and irreversible withdrawal of the hostile policy toward the DPRK," KCNA state news agency cited a spokesperson for North Korea's foreign ministry as saying, referring to the official name of North Korea.

<https://www.reuters.com/article/us-northkorea-usa/north-korea-doubts-u-s-will-have-alternative-plans-inside-two-weeks-idUSKCN1WL089>

North Korea warns U.S., Europeans against raising its missile tests at U.N.

Michelle Nichols, Reuters, October 7, 2019

North Korea warned the United States, Britain, France and Germany on Monday that raising the issue of Pyongyang's missile tests at the United Nations Security Council would "further urge our desire to defend our sovereignty." The 15-member council is due to meet behind closed doors on Tuesday after North Korea said it had test-fired a new submarine-launched ballistic missile last week. The discussion was requested by Germany with the support of Britain and France. "We know well that the United States is behind impure moves of the UK, France and Germany," North Korea's U.N. Ambassador Kim Song told a small group of reporters at Pyongyang's U.N. mission.

<https://www.reuters.com/article/us-northkorea-missiles-un/north-korea-warns-u-s-europeans-against-raising-its-missile-tests-at-u-n-idUSKBN1WM1SK>

North Korea warns on test freeze in denouncing European move at U.N.

Joyce Lee, David Brunnstrom, Reuters, October 10, 2019

North Korea issued a veiled warning on Thursday that it could eventually end a freeze in long-range missile testing as it criticized a call by U.N. Security Council

members for it to give up its nuclear weapons and denounced a recent U.S. missile test. Five European members of the U.N. Security Council met on Tuesday to urge North Korea to take “concrete steps” toward giving up its nuclear weapon and ballistic missile programs in a complete, verifiable and irreversible manner.

That call came days after North Korea said it had test-fired a new submarine-launched ballistic missile, the latest in a series of missile tests since it resumed dialogue with the United States in 2018, and the break-off over the weekend of a round of talks in Sweden.

<https://www.reuters.com/article/us-northkorea-usa/north-korea-warns-on-test-freeze-in-denouncing-european-move-at-u-n-idUSKBN1WP0SR>

‘N. Korea poses one of biggest ballistic missile threats to US’

Yonhap, Korea Herald, October 11, 2019

North Korea’s short- and medium-range ballistic missiles represent one of the “ballistic missile threats of most concern” to the United States, along with those from Iran and China, a U.S. congressional report has said. North Korea has an arsenal of hundreds of short-range ballistic missiles (SRBMs) that can reach all of South Korea and perhaps dozens of medium-range ballistic missiles (MRBMs) capable of reaching Japan and U.S. bases in the region, according to the Congressional Research Service’s “Defense Primer: Ballistic Missile Defense” updated Wednesday.

“North Korea is in the process of developing an intercontinental ballistic missile capability that could strike the U.S. homeland with a nuclear warhead,” it said, though adding that it is yet unclear “whether any of their ballistic missiles are armed with a nuclear warhead.”

http://www.koreaherald.com/view.php?ud=20191011000208&ACE_SEARCH=1

U.S. wants China to press North Korea to be more constructive in talks-Pentagon official

Reuters, October 15, 2019

The senior U.S. defense official for Asia said on Tuesday the United States wants China

to improve its enforcement of sanctions on North Korea and take other steps to press Pyongyang to be more constructive in talks with the United States.

Randall Schriver, the U.S. assistant secretary of defense for Indo-Pacific Security Affairs, told a Washington conference there had been some slippage in sanctions enforcement by China, particularly when it came to controlling ship-to-ship transfers of banned goods in its waters. “We want them to do better,” Schriver said. “At a minimum, sanctions enforcement, but I think there are other ways China could help pressure Pyongyang into being a more constructive participant in the talks, should they resume, and we are just not seeing this right now.”

<https://www.reuters.com/article/us-northkorea-usa/north-korea-warns-on-test-freeze-in-denouncing-european-move-at-u-n-idUSKBN1WP0SR>

South Korea

S. Korea paying close attention to US-NK nuke talks: ambassador

Yonhap, Korea Herald, October 5, 2019

South Korea is paying close attention to the outcome of this weekend’s denuclearization negotiations between the United States and North Korea, while maintaining communication with Washington, Seoul’s top envoy here said. Ambassador Cho Yoon-je made the remark at an annual parliamentary audit of the South Korean Embassy in Washington, noting that the U.S. and North Korea are scheduled to resume working-level denuclearization talks in Sweden Saturday. “(We are) paying close attention to the outcome,” he said, adding that South Korea and the US “are continuing strategic communication for meaningful progress in the working-level negotiations.”

http://www.koreaherald.com/view.php?ud=20191005000030&ACE_SEARCH=1

Nuclear power plants 'vulnerable to drone attacks'

Baek Byung-yeul, Korea Times, October 6, 2019

National infrastructure sites are vulnerable to possible drone strikes, with a growing number of intrusions at nuclear power plants here using the small unmanned aircraft being confirmed, according to a lawmaker. Lee Sang-min of the ruling Democratic Party of Korea (DPK) said the Nuclear Safety and Security Commission (NSSC) reported 13 cases of the illegal flying of drones near the power plants from 2015 to 19. Ten of the 13 cases occurred just in 2019 — and six took place near the Kori Nuclear Power Plant in northern Busan in August.

Referring to the recent drone attack on oil facilities in Saudi Arabia, the lawmaker said the Aviation Safety Act needed to be revised to counter possible terrorist attacks using drones. "According to the Aviation Safety Act, fines of up to 2 million won can be imposed on a drone pilot who attempts to breach a prohibited airspace, but only 250,000 won in fines were issued against some drone pilots and other cases were just dismissed for lack of evidence," Lee said. "As there's a chance that the airspace near nuclear power plants could become a target of terrorist attacks, there should be tougher sanctions against the intrusions."

http://www.koreatimes.co.kr/www/tech/2019/10/129_276717.html

Seoul still preparing for Kim Jong-un's Busan visit in November

Lee Min-hyung, Kim Yoo-chul, Korea Times, October 7, 2019

While North Korea said its working-level nuclear disarmament talks with the United States in Sweden over the weekend failed to meet expectations, the government here is still hoping to invite North Korean leader Kim Jong-un to Busan. Diplomatic sources told The Korea Times, Monday, that preparatory work was still underway for Kim's possible visit to Busan in November, though the chances of it actually happening are considered low.

"We were hoping for Washington and Pyongyang to see progress in their denuclearization talks as Kim's visit to Busan depends somewhat on the negotiations," an official at Cheong Wa Dae said. The government has yet to send an official invitation to the North, as it is basing this on results from the nuclear dialogue between Washington and Pyongyang.

http://www.koreatimes.co.kr/www/nation/2019/10/113_276759.html

Nuclear plant operator remains vulnerable to cyberattack: lawmaker

Yeo Jun-suk, Korea Herald, October 7, 2019

Cyberattacks targeting South Korea's nuclear plant operators have occurred constantly over the past decade, with the number of hacking attempts during the period reaching more than 1,300, a lawmaker said Monday. According to Rep. Shin Yong-hyeon from the minor Bareunmirae Party, there have been 1,366 hacking attempts against Korea Hydro & Nuclear Power since 2012. KHNP is the country's largest electric power company, managing nuclear and hydro plants across the country.

By category, a malware-based attack topped the list with 835 cases. It was followed by 329 homepage attacks from unauthorized entities targeting websites and 111 cases of denial of service attacks.

http://www.koreaherald.com/view.php?ud=20191007000676&ACE_SEARCH=1

S. Korea's top nuke envoy returns from US trip

Yonhap, Korea Herald, October 10, 2019

South Korea's top nuclear negotiator returned home Thursday after talks with his US and Japanese counterparts in Washington over how to make progress in denuclearization negotiations with North Korea. Lee Do-hoon had bilateral and trilateral meetings with his US and Japanese counterparts, Stephen Biegun

and Shigeki Takizaki, on Tuesday, after the unfruitful working-level talks between the US and the North in Sweden on Saturday last week.

When asked whether the talks between Washington and Pyongyang would resume in the coming weeks, Lee said, "We may have to wait and see." "We had deep discussions regarding how the South and the US work together to move forward. We plan to handle it through continued contact depending on the situation," he added.

http://www.koreaherald.com/view.php?ud=20191010000893&ACE_SEARCH=1

Navy seeking to secure nuclear-powered submarines for self-defense capabilities

Yonhap, Korea Herald, October 10, 2019

The Navy said Thursday it has been running a task force on the potential construction of nuclear-powered submarines as part of efforts to bolster its nuclear deterrent and boost defense capabilities. "With longer-term perspectives to have nuclear-powered submarines, we have been running a task force of our own," the Navy said in a report presented to lawmakers for a parliamentary audit. "As the matter will be decided in accordance with national policy, the Navy will work closely with the defense ministry and the Joint Chiefs of Staff," it added.

http://www.koreaherald.com/view.php?ud=20191010000668&ACE_SEARCH=1

Moon takes cautious approach as 'facilitator'

Lee Min-hyung, Korea Times, October 10, 2019

President Moon Jae-in is taking a cautious approach to responding to the working-level denuclearization talks between the U.S. and North Korea in Sweden. Cheong Wa Dae has eyed the resumption of the talks as a strong impetus for accelerating the President's "peace process," which has been put on hold due to prolonged deadlock in nuclear negotiations between the foes of the Korean War.

In a weekly meeting with senior presidential secretaries, Tuesday, Moon refrained from commenting on the one day of negotiations, and instead shifted his focus to the local economy, saying the government was placing "special attention" on revving this up by securing new growth engines. Moon's silence has raised doubts about his role as a "facilitator" in the nuclear talks between Washington and Pyongyang. Cheong Wa Dae has instead stressed that it was not appropriate for the South to make any rash judgment on the matter that would create room for misunderstanding.

http://www.koreatimes.co.kr/www/nation/2019/10/113_276939.html

S. Korea seeks Russia's support for N. Korea's denuclearization

Yonhap, Korea Herald, October 15, 2019

South Korean National Assembly Speaker Moon Hee-sang has asked Russia to persuade North Korea to rid itself of nuclear weapons and promote economic projects with Seoul and Moscow. Moon made the request to Valentina Matviyenko, chairwoman of the Russian Federation Council, on Monday as they met after attending the 141st assembly of the Inter-Parliamentary Union in Belgrade, Serbia.

He referred to a visit to Russia on Oct. 23-24 by a delegation of North Korea's parliament, known as the Presidium of the Supreme People's Assembly. The North Korean delegation will make the visit at the invitation of Matviyenko. During his talks with the leader of the Russian upper house, Moon sought Russia's support for Seoul's policy for complete denuclearization and lasting peace on the Korean Peninsula.

http://www.koreaherald.com/view.php?ud=20191015000304&ACE_SEARCH=1

Japan

Lawyers appeal TEPCO acquittals over Fukushima nuclear disaster

The Asahi Shimbun, October 1, 2019

Lawyers appealed a court ruling that absolved three former executives of Tokyo Electric Power Co. of criminal responsibility for the 2011 nuclear disaster, saying the acquittals deny justice for the victims. The appeal of the Tokyo District Court's ruling was submitted to the Tokyo High Court on Sept. 30. The lawyers, who are serving as prosecutors in the case, said in the appeal, "The ruling not only evaded judgment on the defendants' important duties and responsibilities to prevent foreseeable damage (to the nuclear plant), but it even denied the possibility that they could foresee the disaster. "To allow the ruling to be finalized at this stage would significantly go against justice," their statement said.

<http://www.asahi.com/ajw/articles/AJ201910010047.html>

Robotic explorer to orbit Ryugu asteroid in final mission for Japan's Hayabusa2

Japan Times, October 3, 2019

The Hayabusa2 on Thursday released a robotic explorer bound for the surface of an asteroid in the probe's final task before returning to earth, the Japan Aerospace Exploration Agency (JAXA) said.

<https://www.japantimes.co.jp/news/2019/10/03/national/science-health/robot-explorer-ryugu-asteroid-japan-hayabusa2/#.Xa2otVQza01>

Kyushu Electric to halt reactors over delay in anti-terror plans

Yasuyuki Onaya, The Asahi Shimbun, October 4, 2019

In a blow to its financial situation, Kyushu Electric Power Co. said it will suspend operations of its Sendai nuclear power plant after falling behind schedule on establishing mandatory anti-terrorism measures. The company said Oct. 3 that it will be unable to meet the construction deadlines for the

measures and will halt two reactors at the plant in Kagoshima Prefecture on the day before their respective deadlines. That means the No. 1 reactor will be offline for nine months from March to December next year, while the No. 2 reactor will be suspended for eight months from May to January 2021.

Under safety standards of the Nuclear Regulation Authority (NRA), utilities must build facilities that can respond to emergencies triggered by terrorist attacks against their reactors. The NRA's policy is to order a suspension of operations from the day after a construction deadline is missed.

<http://www.asahi.com/ajw/articles/AJ201910040031.html>

JAXA and NASA agree to collaborate more on lunar exploration

Japan Times, October 5, 2019

The Japanese and U.S. space agencies have agreed to step up collaboration on advancing human activities on the moon as a way of realizing the eventual exploration of Mars. Hiroshi Yamakawa, president of the Japan Aerospace Exploration Agency (JAXA), and James Bridenstine, administrator of NASA, reached the agreement at a recent meeting in Tokyo.

JAXA will extend technical cooperation for NASA's Gateway project to build a lunar orbiting space station and for its Artemis program to return astronauts to the moon by 2024, according to a joint statement signed by Yamakawa and Bridenstine. Bridenstine welcomed JAXA's proposal to extend habitation and logistics missions with the use of Japan's HTV-X spacecraft and H3 launch vehicles for the Gateway project.

<https://www.japantimes.co.jp/news/2019/10/05/national/jaxa-nasa-collaborate-lunar-exploration/#.Xa2owlQza01>

Chairman, four execs resign at Kansai Electric over gift scandal

The Asahi Shimbun, October 9, 2019

The chairman, executive vice president and three executive directors of Kansai Electric Power Co. resigned on Oct. 9 amid mounting criticism over the lucrative gifts that they and other bigwigs received from a former town official. Makoto Yagi conveyed his intention to step down as chairman at a special board meeting held by the utility to discuss the scandal.

Just a week earlier, on Oct. 2, Yagi said at a news conference that he would remain as Kansai Electric chairman as well as vice chairman of the Kansai Economic Federation. He is now also expected to leave the local business lobby. Executive Vice President Ikuo Morinaka resigned from the board, as did the three executive directors: Nozomu Ushiro, Shigeki Otsuka and Satoshi Suzuki.

<http://www.asahi.com/ajw/articles/AJ201910090073.html>

Miscellaneous

The most experienced newcomer to nuclear power

World Nuclear News, October 3, 2019

“As our president has said, Uzbekistan is 10-15 years late in having a nuclear power plant. In fact, our archive material confirms that the matter was first brought up as long ago as the 1970s, during Soviet times,” Energy Minister Alisher Sultanov said. Sultanov and his deputy ministers spoke to a group of foreign journalists invited to Tashkent on 20-21 September to learn about the government’s energy sector reform.

“The decision to build a nuclear power plant was not made overnight,” Sultanov said, but reached after 18 months of deliberation by a specially appointed task force. “We know this is a sensitive matter but globally most power sector professionals understand that nuclear is green energy.”

<https://www.world-nuclear-news.org/Articles/The-most-experienced-newcomer-to-nuclear-power>

After PH inks nuclear energy deal with Russia, Duterte says it may be unconstitutional

CNN Philippines, October 6, 2019

After the Philippines signed a deal with Russia on the possible construction of nuclear power plants, President Rodrigo Duterte said this may not be constitutional after all.

“The Constitution would not like it. That is why I have to talk to the Cabinet. I cannot affirm or deny that because that’s part of the proposals,” Duterte told reporters Sunday upon returning to the Philippines from his five-day official visit to Russia.

He added that he has to consult his Cabinet to see if anything in the deal would need the consent of Congress.

An agreement to explore the possible construction of nuclear power plants in the country was among the 10 business agreements with Russia, estimated to be worth \$12.57 million or around ± 650 million.

The Constitution does not ban the use of nuclear energy, but it does “adopts and pursues a policy of freedom from nuclear weapons in its territory.”

<https://cnnphilippines.com/news/2019/10/6/Rodrigo-Duterte-nuclear-power-plant-unconstitutional.html>

Brazil to restart uranium mining this year, minister tells newspaper

Reuters, October 7, 2019

Brazil plans to restart domestic uranium mining in 2019 for the first time in five years, the mines and energy minister told a newspaper in an interview published on Monday.

Operations would begin this year at a mine in the city of Caetite in the northeastern state of Bahia, Minister Bento Albuquerque told Estado de S. Paulo newspaper. A ministry spokesman confirmed Albuquerque’s comments.

<https://in.reuters.com/article/brazil-mining/brazil-to-restart-uranium-mining-this-year-minister-tells-newspaper-idINL2N26S0B0>

Op-Ed

India

India- Pakistan nuclear war may kill up to 125 million people: Study

India Today, October 3, 2019

A nuclear war between India and Pakistan could, in less than a week, kill 50-125 million people – more than the death toll during all six years of World War II, and lead to global climate catastrophe, according to researchers in the US.

A study by researchers from the University of Colorado Boulder and Rutgers University examined how such a hypothetical future conflict would have consequences that could ripple across the globe.

Today, India and Pakistan each have about 150 nuclear warheads at their disposal, and that number is expected to climb to more than 200 by 2025, the researchers said amid recent tensions between the nuclear-armed neighbours over Kashmir after India revoked J&K's special status. "An India-Pakistan war could double the normal death rate in the world," said Brian Toon, a professor at the University of Colorado Boulder.

"This is a war that would have no precedent in human experience," Toon said.

"Such a war would threaten not only the locations where bombs might be targeted but the entire world," said co-author Alan Robock of Rutgers University-New Brunswick. The study, published in the journal *Science Advances*, looked at a war scenario that may occur between India and Pakistan in 2025.

<https://www.indiatoday.in/india/story/india-pakistan-nuclear-war-kill-million-people-brian-toon-1605967-2019-10-03>

India-Pakistan nuclear war could kill 125 million

Ben Farmer, Telegraph UK, October 3, 2019

A nuclear war between India and Pakistan could kill up to 125 million people and then tip the world into a decade of starvation as smoke blocks sunlight, researchers have estimated. If the neighbours attacked each

other with a significant proportion of their growing nuclear arsenals, millions would die instantly from the blast and then firestorms would rage through cities.

The fires would send huge quantities of smoke into the atmosphere, devastating agriculture as it blocked sunlight and cut temperatures. Escalating tension between the countries because of their rivalry over Kashmir has this year underlined the threat the threat of war between the nuclear-armed states. They have fought two wars over the disputed Himalayan territory and fought air clashes in February.

<https://www.telegraph.co.uk/news/2019/10/03/india-pakistan-nuclear-war-could-kill-125-million/>

Where Trump and Modi Should Take U.S.-India Space Cooperation

Peter Garretson and Namrata Goswami, National Interest Blog, October 6, 2019

During Indian Prime Minister Narendra Modi's visit to Houston, Texas for the September 2 forum organized by the U.S-India Security Forum, at which President Donald Trump was present, the issue of U.S-India space cooperation figured prominently. Texas Senator Ted Cruz highlighted the significance of such bilateral collaboration, and House Majority Leader Steny Hoyer made similar statements. Most critically, U.S-India space cooperation was brought up multiple times by President Trump himself, who stated, "Here in America, we are creating the United States Space Force, and we're working closely with India to enhance space cooperation... We will pioneer new frontiers in space, working together, raising the sights of humanity. We will uphold our values, defend our liberty, and control our destiny."

But the context in which bilateral space cooperation is taking place has changed. What is the logic pushing U.S. and India closer on space? How exactly should the two nations seek to cooperate on the issue? And how should they work to move forward on civil, commercial, and military space? The answers to these questions will

help shape the complexion of the bilateral U.S.-Indian cooperation in what is fast emerging as a vital domain.

<https://nationalinterest.org/blog/buzz/where-trump-and-modi-should-take-us-india-space-cooperation-85896>

Study: a nuclear war between India and Pakistan could lead to a mini-nuclear winter

Kelsey Piper, Vox, October 9, 2019

More than 90 percent of the world's nuclear weapons are held by the United States and Russia. The world's other nuclear powers – Britain, China, France, Israel, India, and Pakistan – are believed to maintain much smaller arsenals, probably 100 to 300 warheads each. But in the past few years, India and Pakistan are believed to have expanded their nuclear capabilities.

And that, argues a new paper, is a recipe for disaster. In the paper, "Rapidly expanding nuclear arsenals in Pakistan and India portend regional and global catastrophe," published last week in *Science Advances*, Owen Toon of the University of Colorado and co-authors analyze the effects of a nuclear war between India and Pakistan in 2025, if both countries continue to expand their nuclear capabilities as they reportedly currently are. Unsurprisingly, the expanded capabilities would make a nuclear exchange between the two countries deadlier and more devastating.

<https://www.vox.com/future-perfect/2019/10/9/20903418/study-nuclear-war-india-pakistan-could-lead-to-mini-nuclear-winter>

During War Games, an Indian Diesel Submarine Sank a U.S. Nuclear Submarine

The National Interest Blog, October 9, 2019

The Indian submarine INS Sindhudhvaj (S56) allegedly "killed" USS City of Corpus Christi (SSN 705) during an exercise called Malabar that is held annually between India, Japan and the United States. According to the Indians, the submarines were assigned to track each other down in the Bay of Bengal. "The way it happens is that the Sindhudhvaj recorded the Hydrophonic Effect (HE) -

simply put, underwater noise - of the nuclear powered submarine and managed to positively identify it before locking on to it. Being an exercise what did not happen was the firing," an Indian naval officer told India Today. The Indian vessel then "sank" USS City of Corpus Christi using 533mm torpedoes.

If the Indian description of the events is correct, it would be a bright spot in an otherwise dismal record for New Delhi's undersea force. In recent years, the woefully neglected Indian submarine fleet has suffered numerous calamities. Submarines have run aground, caught fire and even sunk due to a combination of underinvestment, negligence and corruption. Perhaps the worst incident was when INS Sindhurakshak sank when at harbor in Mumbai after a series of explosions in the forward torpedo bay, killing eighteen sailors. Nonetheless, it's not a huge surprise that a Russian-built Kilo would be able to defeat a Los Angeles-class attack boat. The Los Angeles-class is a dated design that is slowly being replaced by the newer and exponentially quieter Virginia-class submarine.

<https://nationalinterest.org/blog/buzz/during-war-games-indian-diesel-submarine-sank-us-nuclear-submarine-86736>

In Mamallapuram, seeking the true north in ties

Sujan R. Chinoy, The Hindu, October 11, 2019

Ties have experienced some turbulence of late. China's position on issues such as Masood Azhar, India's Nuclear Suppliers Group membership, the yawning trade gap and inroads into South Asia, have all played a role. Mr. Modi's vision of an inclusive Indo-Pacific region, outlined at the Shangri La event in Singapore in June last year, has helped allay some concerns over America's Free and Open Indo-Pacific strategy. China's public support for Pakistan on Jammu and Kashmir has created a new stress point.

<https://www.thehindu.com/opinion/op-ed/in-mamallapuram-seeking-the-true-north-in-ties/article29649936.ece>

A Nuclear War Between India and Pakistan Could Happen (And Would Change The World)

Kyle Mizokami, The National Interest Blog, October 11, 2019

Sandwiched between Iran, China, India and Afghanistan, Pakistan lives in a complicated neighborhood with a variety of security issues. One of the nine known states known to have nuclear weapons, Pakistan's nuclear arsenal and doctrine are continually evolving to match perceived threats. A nuclear power for decades, Pakistan is now attempting to construct a nuclear triad of its own, making its nuclear arsenal resilient and capable of devastating retaliatory strikes.

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<https://nationalinterest.org/blog/buzz/nuclear-war-between-india-and-pakistan-could-happen-and-would-change-world-87251>

A War Between Pakistan And India Could Kill Billions (If It Went Nuclear)

Kyle Mizokami, The National Interest Blog, October 13, 2019

It's distinctly possible that any future war between India and Pakistan would involve limited action on the ground and full-scale fighting at sea and in the air. India has the upper hand in both, particularly at sea where it would have the ability to blockade Pakistani ports. Pakistan imports 83% of its gasoline consumption, and without sizable reserves the economy would feel the effects of war very quickly. An economic victory, not a purely military one might be the best way to decisively end a war without the use of nuclear weapons.

With that scenario in mind, let's look at several Indian weapons Pakistan would fear most in a war.

INS Vikramaditya Aircraft Carrier: Commissioned in November 2013, INS Vikramaditya is the newer and more modern of India's two aircraft carriers. In the event of war, Vikramaditya would lead an offensive at sea designed to sweep the Pakistani Navy from the field. The nightmare scenario for Pakistan would be Vikramaditya parked off the coast of Karachi, Pakistan's largest port, enforcing a naval blockade.

<https://nationalinterest.org/blog/buzz/war-between-pakistan-and-india-could-kill-billions-if-it-went-nuclear-87431>

China

Missiles, drones and tanks: China shows off military prowess

Saudi Gazette, October 1, 2019

China put its growing military might on full display Tuesday with a parade of new ballistic missiles, supersonic drones and next-generation battlefield tanks that highlighted Beijing's accelerating race to match the firepower of its US rival.

The tightly choreographed procession across Tiananmen Square underscored a level of material and technological innovation that is increasingly viewed by many as a threat to US dominance in the Asia-Pacific region and beyond.

President Xi Jinping, who reviewed the troops before the parade marking 70 years of Communist Party rule, has pushed for the People's Liberation Army to become a "world-class" military by mid-century.

China's rapid military modernization comes as it faces rising diplomatic tensions with the United States, with Washington worried about Beijing's territorial claims in the South China Sea and its ambitions to reunify self-governed Taiwan with the mainland.

<http://saudigazette.com.sa/article/578680/World/Asia/Missiles-drones-and-tanks-China-shows-off-military-prowess>

China's Ballyhooed New Hypersonic Missile Isn't Exactly a Game-Changer

James M. Acton, Washington Post, October 4, 2019

In the show of military might Tuesday to celebrate the 70th anniversary of the People's Republic of China, one of the highlights among the weapons trundling through Tiananmen Square in Beijing was a hypersonic boost-glide missile. The exhibition of 16 DF-17 missiles (or possibly models of the real thing), displayed in public for the first time, will probably add to disquiet in the United States about a growing military imbalance, but that unease should be tempered by a few practical considerations.

For the past few years, scientists, Pentagon officials and uniformed military leaders have warned about China's apparent lead in hypersonic technology, which they often describe as a "game changer." Over the long term, hypersonic missiles could indeed provide China (and Russia, too) with a uniquely threatening capability, but there is time for a considered response: The DF-17 and its immediate successors are unlikely to add much, if anything, to China's already impressive military forces. To be sure, the DF-17 is a powerful weapon, even armed with a conventional warhead, as it will be, according to the parade announcer in Beijing. The missile consists of a rocket that launches a glider, presumably at more than five times the speed of sound.

<https://www.washingtonpost.com/opinions/2019/10/04/chinas-ballyhooed-new-hypersonic-missile-isnt-exactly-game-changer/>

China's military posturing during its National Day parade won't win it any friends

South China Morning Post, October 7, 2019

Looking at all the military hardware on display for the October 1 celebration of the 70th anniversary of the People's Republic of

China, and reflecting on the Chinese occupation of the South China Sea and its Belt and Road Initiative, one can't get away from the incongruity of it all, with respect to the challenges facing China today. Whom or what is China up against militarily and to what end? Are its neighbours such a huge threat? "Belt and road" to where? To extend China's influence? Billions of renminbi have been spent on militarising the South China Sea, and many millions more are being spent on its maintenance. Meanwhile, hypersonic weaponry is being developed. What for? If the US is the target, is China going to destroy what is arguably its biggest customer?

https://www.scmp.com/comment/letters/article/3031573/chinas-military-posturing-during-its-national-day-parade-wont-win?source=US&utm_medium=homepage_int&utm_campaign=ipids_for_you

The role of the PLA in the new era

China Military Online, October 5, 2019

As part of China's National Day celebrations on October 1, a grand military parade was held in Beijing to showcase the country's achievements in building a modern and strong national defense and armed forces over the past decades since the founding of the People's Republic of China. While many are impressed by China's advanced defense capabilities, some still revert to the cliché that China is a security threat. So what is China's military role in global affairs? How does the People's Liberation Army (PLA) defend the country against domestic and international security challenges? According to Senior Colonel Zhou Bo from China's Ministry of National Defense, the role of the PLA is not just limited to defending territories. "It's not only territorial defense you got to do, you have two things more, one is the ever-growing national interests overseas and accompanying national responsibilities."

http://english.chinamil.com.cn/view/2019-10/05/content_9643831.htm

China's National Day parade highlights its commitment to peace

Zhang Junshe, China Military Online, October 5, 2019

With a total of 59 formations including 15,000 military personnel, 160 aircraft and 580 pieces of equipment, the massive military parade on China's National Day is of the largest scale in recent years. What signal did the impressive march send? To begin with, the event highlighted the People's Liberation Army's firm political faith. The parade began with an air flag guard formation of 20 helicopters flying in the shape of number 70. This implies the historic achievements the PLA has gained in the past 70 years under the leadership of the Communist Party of China (CPC). The military review and the PLA's solemn salute to Chinese President Xi Jinping, also general secretary of the CPC Central Committee and chairman of the Central Military Commission, demonstrate the PLA's adherence to the CPC's absolute control and determination to submit itself to Xi's command.

At present, more than 2,500 Chinese peacekeepers are on duty in the UN and have been praised as "key factor" in peacekeeping operations. The parade is, by no means, flexing China's military muscle. China is proving its adherence to peaceful rise and its determination to safeguard world peace and stability with concrete actions. Time is needed for the world to dispel all misunderstandings against China.

http://english.chinamil.com.cn/view/2019-10/05/content_9643835.htm

A Partial North Korean Nuclear Agreement Is Better Than None at All

Rod Lyon, The National Interest, October 10, 2019

Last Friday, after a long hiatus, US and North Korean officials resumed their negotiations on denuclearisation of the Korean peninsula. Later that same day, the North Koreans walked out, citing the Americans' 'outdated viewpoint and attitude'. Not an ideal start. But don't

despair: the prospects for some sort of limited accord emerging in the coming months are good. Both sides want a deal – not the same deal, true, but they might yet find enough common ground to make a start on what can only be a long-term task. Two issues will be prominent in North Korean leader Kim Jong-un's thoughts. First, the sterling work done by his rocket scientists since the test flight of the Hwasong-15 ICBM in late 2017 has materially strengthened Pyongyang's hand at the negotiating table. Some of the North's short-range missiles have been redesigned, apparently to allow them to fly lower and flatter trajectories – complicating the tracking and interception missions of regional ballistic-missile defences. And a recently tested solid-fuelled submarine-launched ballistic missile – although tested from a sub-surface platform rather than an actual submarine – performed well, suggesting North Korea's making progress on adding a sea-based leg to its nuclear arsenal. All of that makes for a happy Kim. But in another area, Kim is much less happy. The sanctions-hit North Korean economy is struggling: Seoul's Bank of Korea estimates the economy shrank by 4.1% in 2018, on top of a 3.5% slump in 2017. Even the weather's being unkind.

<https://nationalinterest.org/blog/buzz/partial-north-korean-nuclear-agreement-better-none-all-87841>

Yes, North Korea Is Building Submarine-Launched Nuclear Missiles

Sebastien Roblin, The National Interest, October 11, 2019

In the summer of 2018 a flurry of reports confirmed that North Korea has continued construction of a second ballistic-missile submarine, designated the Sinpo-C by intelligence analysts after the shipyard in eastern North Korea. South Korean representative Kim Hack-yong told the Wall Street Journal that South Korean intelligence officials had reported activity and new materials around the construction site of the submarine. For

context, Kim is a member of a conservative party which is skeptical of President Moon Jae-in's diplomatic outreach to Pyongyang. The Sinpo-C is estimated to displace more than 2,000 tons and have a beam of 11 meters, making it the largest vessel in the Korean People's Navy. The KPN operates roughly 70 submarines, technically giving it one of the largest submarine fleets on the planet – but most of the submarines are very small types incapable of sailing far from the Korean Peninsula.

The existence of the new submarine had first been publicized in October 2017 by Ankit Panda of the *The Diplomat* based on U.S. military intelligence reports passed on by government sources. Then in November the website 38North published detailed satellite photos showing new construction and testing activity at Sinpo, including 7-meter diameter components which may be segments of the pressure hull. Multiple submarine ejections tests were observed earlier that year, including a failed launch in September that reportedly killed one Korean according to Japanese newspaper *Asahi Simbun*.

<https://nationalinterest.org/blog/buzz/yes-north-korea-building-submarine-launched-nuclear-missiles-87301>

Pakistan

New York 2019: A watershed in Pakistan's diplomatic history

Umair Malik, The Express Tribune, October 1, 2019

With the odds heavily stacked against him, Khan started his Mission Kashmir with intent and poise. In the week leading up to his address to the United Nations General Assembly (UNGA) he spoke at the Council on Foreign Relations and Asia Society New York. He also met world leaders including President Trump; spoke to CNN, and to secretary generals of the UN and Amnesty International.

During all these interactions, he paid great attention to building a coherent narrative highlighting Indian atrocities in Kashmir, the mindset driving these brutalities and the

potential for an all-out war between two nuclear armed countries.

<https://blogs.tribune.com.pk/story/88501/new-york-2019-a-watershed-in-pakistans-diplomatic-history/>

India's thermonuclear bomb

Rizwana Abbasi, The Express Tribune, October 3, 2019

A thermonuclear bomb has become India's necessity to exert broader influence at a global level. Today, India enjoys a strategically advantageous position in order to achieve nuclear efficiency and sufficiency to prove its scientific proficiency.

India, from the outset, has been ambitious to achieve technological supremacy inspired by its "Greater India vision". In June 1946, Nehru declared, "I have no doubt India will develop its scientific researches and I hope Indian scientists will use the atomic force for constructive purposes." Domestic politics and scientists' lobbying always remained a crucial factor in Indian nuclear politics. After China's nuclear test, it was domestic politics, more than the security factor, that played a role in India's nuclear acquisition. It was driven by the desire of its scientists to prove that Indian science was as good as anyone else's. In 1963, Nehru convinced the Indian Parliament to develop nuclear weapons. Homi J Bhabha declared in 1964 that India is capable of developing nuclear weapons within 18 months if it wished to do so. Bhabha got approval from then prime minister Shastri to carry out an underground nuclear explosion in 1964. In July 1971, it was confirmed that India was to carry out an underground nuclear explosion under Indira Gandhi's administration.

<https://tribune.com.pk/story/2070720/6-indias-thermonuclear-bomb/>

Imran Khan's UN Speech Was Aimed at Helping Pakistan's Army, Not the Kashmiris

Mohammad Taqi, The Wire, October 4, 2019

Pakistan Prime Minister Imran Khan's speech at the United Nations General

Assembly (UNGA) won him kudos from his domestic political base, drew criticism from his opponents and continues to be fiercely debated upon back home.

Akram's claim to fame, or notoriety to be precise, is two-fold: First, he was charged with assaulting his girlfriend by smashing her head into a wall, while he was Pakistan's representative at the UN. The US had asked Pakistan to strip him of his diplomatic immunity so that he could be prosecuted but nothing came of it. Secondly, the man is known for threatening nuclear Armageddon at the drop of a hat. Akram's diplomatic success, if there ever was any, pales against his nuclear war-mongering and alleged domestic abuse. He is perhaps the most jingoistic Pakistani diplomat to have served at the UN. He continued to raise the spectre of a nuclear war between India and Pakistan in his writings after that stint. So why him, why now?

<https://thewire.in/south-asia/imran-khan-un-speech-pakistan-army-kashmir>

Potential aftermath of a nuclear war

Kamran Yousaf, The Express Tribune, October 7, 2019

At a time when there is a total breakdown in the relationship between Pakistan and India, there was a story last week that should give some glimmer of hope. Amidst war rhetoric and continued tensions, Pakistan military's media wing released a handout regarding the handing over the body of an Indian soldier. The Indian border security official had drowned in a nullah and swept away to the Pakistani side. Pakistan Army recovered his body after India had requested for help. The handout also accompanied an image showing Pakistani soldiers carrying the coffin of the Indian soldier while their Indian counterparts looked on. The way Pakistani and Indian soldiers were standing together in a sombre mood, for once you forgot if there was any hostility between the two neighbours. In the current charged atmosphere, the story did not get much traction.

The reason, perhaps, is that the years of tensions and the recent row over Kashmir

have poisoned the minds of the two peoples so much that a few are willing to listen to positive stories.

<https://tribune.com.pk/story/2073634/6-potential-aftermath-nuclear-war/>

Internal strength of country that matters

Talat Masood, The Express Tribune, October 9, 2019

In his impassioned speech at the United Nations General Assembly, Prime Minister Imran Khan, apart from presenting the gross human rights violations by India in Kashmir, raised the specter of a nuclear conflict. He maintained that India could attack Pakistan to divert attention from its inhuman clampdown.

Pakistan's international image will have a significant bearing in garnering international support to counter India's hostile posture. Prime Minister Khan has contributed to improving the country's image. But his attitude towards opposition parties and the lack of interest in strengthening state institutions goes against building a firm political foundation for the country. There are short and long term effects of whittling down opposition leaders. The JUI's protest movement and the prospect of the two major political parties joining arek unnerving the government and casting a shadow on how these developments will unfold. The government has threatened with the strategy of intimidation that will result in raids and arrests. Clearly, these happenings create uncertainty, affect economic growth and dampen prospects of foreign investment that Pakistan so desperately needs. Prime Minister Khan and the cabinet should realise that security; development issues and political stability are closely interlinked and need to be tackled simultaneously. Moreover, if our leaders want to build Pakistan into a modern state it has to be peaceful and not as chaotic and weak administratively. There is no space for authoritarianism and populist governance or for a chaotic opposition.

<https://tribune.com.pk/story/2075121/6-internal-strength-country-matters/>

USA

Why Are U.S. Nuclear Bombs Still in Turkey?

Ankit Panda, New Republican, October 15, 2019

The American relationship with Recep Tayyip Erdoğan's Turkey has been fraught for half a decade, but never this bad. Last week, American troops were intentionally targeted by Turkish artillery units in Northern Syria as Erdoğan's forces advanced and President Donald Trump ordered the U.S. into a unilateral withdrawal. The Pentagon sternly warned that Turkey's troops would face "immediate defensive action" from American forces if such an encounter were to be repeated.

This was a doubly unprecedented targeting of the United States military. As a member of the North Atlantic Treaty Organization, Turkey is a capital-A ally, treaty-bound to defend the collective security of all its 28 nation members, including the United States. Turkey is also part of a select group of five NATO members – along with Belgium, the Netherlands, Germany, and Italy – whose territory hosts American nuclear weapons, too.

<https://newrepublic.com/article/155381/us-nuclear-bombs-still-turkey>

Russia

Did China's Missiles Kill the INF Treaty with Russia? The Experts Don't Agree.

David Axe, National Interest Blog, October 2, 2019

China's lead over the United States in the field of super-fast missiles is one reason why Washington was wise to withdraw from a key arms-control treaty, one American expert argued.

China's lead over the United States in the field of super-fast missiles is one reason why Washington was wise to withdraw from a key arms-control treaty, one American expert argued.

While other countries also are working on hypersonic weapons – meaning powered or gliding precision-guided munitions that can travel faster than five times the speed of sound – the DF-17 could be the first hypersonic glide vehicle in the regular inventory of any military. HGVs in theory can carry conventional or nuclear payloads.

<https://nationalinterest.org/blog/buzz/did-chinas-missiles-kill-inf-treaty-russia-experts-dont-agree-84951>

Russian strategic nuclear forces' drills not aimed against third countries – top brass

TASS News Agency, October 14, 2019

The Russian strategic nuclear forces' drills Thunder 2019 are defensive and are not aimed against other states, acting Head of the Defense Ministry's Main Department for International Military Cooperation Major General Yevgeny Ilyin said at a news briefing for foreign attaches on Monday.

"The strategic command and staff drills Thunder 2019 are aimed at practicing the issues of training and employing strategic forces amid a threat of an aggression <...> I would like to emphasize that the drills' scenario does not stipulate measures to counter any specific state or a group of countries," the Russian general stated.

<https://tass.com/defense/1083017>

Russia Will Hold Major Test of Its Strategic Missile Forces

The Moscow Times, October 14, 2019

Russia announced on Monday it would hold a large test of its Strategic Missile Forces that will see it fire ballistic and cruise missiles from the land, sea and air this week.

The exercise, from Oct. 15-17, will involve around 12,000 military personnel, as well as aircraft, including strategic nuclear bombers, surface ships and submarines, Russia's Defense Ministry said in a statement.

The drills come at a time when President Vladimir Putin is warning of a burgeoning arms race spurred by the unraveling of a key arms control treaty, something he blames on the United States. Washington rejects that and says Russia is the one who has flouted its arms control commitments.

<https://www.themoscowtimes.com/2019/10/14/russia-will-hold-major-test-of-its-strategic-missile-forces-a67730>

The One Reason Why Russia Might Not Get Its Advanced Stealth Submarines

Mark Episkopos, National Interest Blog, October 15, 2019

Moscow might not have the funding to build and maintain its envisioned submarines. Russia's ambitious submarine modernization program is spearheaded by two flagship projects: Borei, a heavy ballistic-missile submarine meant to replace the aging Delta and Typhoon lines in Russia's nuclear triad; and Yasen, a nuclear-powered cruise missile attack submarine. Yasen's current development incarnation is known as Yasen-M, an upgrade package that is meant to account for the sixteen-year gap between the first commissioned Yasen vessel—*Severodvinsk*— and the upcoming *Kazan*.

<https://nationalinterest.org/blog/buzz/one-reason-why-russia-might-not-get-its-advanced-stealth-submarines-88201>

West Asia

Iran

Are We Nearing a Stage Where Iran and Saudi Arabia Are Liable to Begin Negotiating

Michael Young, Carnegie endowment of International Peace, October 10, 2019

The U.S. embargo and the biting sanctions against Iran have created severe economic hardships for the country. There is always a concern that such economic hardship may lead to popular unrest. Therefore, Iranian leaders would welcome a deescalation on different fronts.

In Saudi Arabia, Crown Prince Mohammed bin Salman is one of the few princes who did not pursue a higher education abroad. That is why most likely his perspective has been shaped only through the authoritarian Saudi domestic prism. The issue with absolutist rulers is that they never have to face pushback at home, hence don't develop a good sense for negotiations. But the kingdom's strategic initiatives have not led to victory. Saudi policies in Yemen, Syria, and Qatar, plus the current low price of oil, not to mention the bombshell that was Jamal Khashoggi's assassination, may have changed minds in Riyadh.

<https://carnegie-mec.org/diwan/80011>

It's Time to Talk to Iran

William J. Burns, Jake Sullivan, New York Times, October 14, 2019

This month, six years ago, we were in the midst of secret talks with Iran that led to the comprehensive nuclear agreement. It was a moment when diplomacy carried considerable risk, and considerable promise. Today, the promise has faded, and the risk is accelerating. The consequences of the Trump administration's foolish decision to abandon that nuclear deal last year, with no evidence of Iranian noncompliance, were predictable — and predicted.

We are now at a very dangerous point. The story of how we got here is one of faulty expectations on both sides.

Iran thought it could wait out President Trump, and the United States would simply return to the deal under a new president in 2021. But the pressure of economic sanctions, unilaterally reimposed by the United States, has been more formidable than Iran anticipated. Inflation is at 50 percent, and oil exports, the lifeblood of Iran's economy, have declined from 2.5 million barrels per day to as little as a couple of hundred thousand this past summer. The European signatories to the nuclear deal proved incapable of offering much relief.

<https://www.nytimes.com/2019/10/14/opinion/iran-nuclear-deal.html>

Turkey

Erdogan's nuclear dream may be nightmare for US ties

Ömer Taopinar, Asia Times, October 3, 2019

As if Turkey's current problems with NATO – sparked by its purchase of a Russian missile-defense system – were not troubling enough, now its strongman president, Recep Tayyip Erdogan, wants to adopt nuclear weapons.

Erdogan made his first public reference in this regard in a speech last month marking the 100th anniversary of Turkey's War of Independence. After praising the country's progress in creating a defense industry, he said: "We came a long way. This is great. Yet some countries have missiles with nuclear warheads.... I don't have missiles with nuclear warheads. This, I cannot accept. Almost all developed countries have nuclear capabilities. Look at Israel. Do they have nuclear weapons? They do. They bully other nations by possessing these. No one can touch them."

<https://www.asiatimes.com/2019/10/opinion/erdogans-nuclear-dream-may-be-nightmare-for-us-ties/>

Turkey Shows Nuclear Weapons Interest

Shannon Bugos, Arms Control Today, October 2019

Complaining that nuclear-armed nations retain an unacceptable monopoly on nuclear weapons, Turkish President Recep Tayyip Erdogan used a recent Turkish holiday to seemingly suggest that his nation acquire its own nuclear arsenal. Earlier in the month, he suggested that Turkey may be interested in acquiring nuclear weapons. Earlier in the month, he suggested that Turkey may be interested in acquiring nuclear weapons.

"Several countries have missiles with nuclear warheads, not one or two. But [they tell us that] we can't have them. This I cannot accept," Erdogan said on the centennial of the Turkish independence movement. "There is no developed nation in the world that doesn't have them." In fact, many

developed countries do not have nuclear weapons. Only nine countries – the United States, Russia, the United Kingdom, France, China, India, Pakistan, North Korea, and Israel – possess nuclear weapons, with Washington and Moscow owning 93 percent of them.

<https://www.armscontrol.org/act/2019-10/news/turkey-shows-nuclear-weapons-interest>

Syria

Syria Israel Military Technology World Nuclear Weapons

Reuters, October 8, 2019

On September 6, 2007, Israeli fighter-bombers destroyed a mysterious installation near the Euphrates River in the Deir-ez-Zor region. The strike incurred curiously little response from Damascus. A cyber-attack reportedly pre-empted a defensive Syrian military mobilization, and even the diplomatic outcry was muted. No other Arab governments commented on the attack, and even the Israelis did not acknowledge the operation for quite some time. Destroying the facility was not regarded as a slam-dunk decision, either in Israel or the United States. Anxiety over the strength of the intelligence in the wake of the Iraq debacle stayed the hand of the latter, while concern about international blowback, not to mention a Syrian military response, worried the former.

What if cooler heads had carried the day, and Israel had never undertaken the strike? Nuclear Progress It's difficult to assess how far Syria would have been from developing a nuclear weapon if its efforts had gone unhindered. Although we may never have the complete story regarding Syria's interest in a nuclear program, it probably stemmed from the growing gap in conventional capabilities between Syria and Israel, as well as the U.S. invasion of Iraq. Although Syria has always denied that the installation was part of a nuclear program, the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA) later confirmed that the site appeared to be a nuclear reactor.

<https://nationalinterest.org/blog/buzz/syria-wanted-nuclear-bomb-2007-israels-air-force-destroyed-their-reactor-86486>

Israel

Israel May Have 300 Nuclear Weapons (Including Submarine-Launched Missiles) A powerful, but unofficial, force.

Reuters, Sebastien Roblin, October 8 2019

Unofficially, Tel Aviv wants everyone to know it has them, and doesn't hesitate to make thinly-veiled references to its willingness to use them if confronted by an existential threat. Estimates on the size of Tel Aviv's nuclear stockpile range from 80 to 300 nuclear weapons, the latter number exceeding China's arsenal. Originally, Israel's nuclear forces relied on air-dropped nuclear bombs and Jericho ballistic missiles. For example, when Egyptian and Syrian armies attacked Israel during the 1973 Yom Kippur War, a squadron of eight Israeli F-4 Phantom jets loaded with nuclear bombs was placed on alert by Prime Minister Golda Meir, ready to unleash nuclear bombs on Cairo and Damascus should the Arab armies break through. Though Israel is the only nuclear-armed state in the Middle East, Tel Aviv is preoccupied by the fear that an adversary might one day attempt a first strike to destroy its nuclear missiles and strike planes on the ground before they can retaliate. Currently, the only hostile states likely to acquire such a capability are Iran or Syria.

East Asia

North Korea

Product of political profiteers' coalition

Choe Yong Nam, Pyongyang Times, October 13, 2019

Shortly ago, the south Korean national assembly cooked up a resolution on the "denunciation of the north's nuclear buildup and missile provocation and the prevention of recurrence". The resolution described the DPRK's successive measures for self-defensive military buildup as an "act of posing threat to peace and stability of the international community" and a "violation of the spirit of north-south agreement in the

military field". It is an outcome of desperate measure of ruling and opposition forces to get out of the political crisis and difficulties.

The south Korean authorities have often paid lip service to "peace" and "dialogue" in the front, and sharpened a knife of confrontation behind the scene. Last year, they committed itself to turning the hot spot in the West Sea of Korea into peace waters at the negotiating table, but later conducted a drill of repulsing the "north's provocation" in simulation of an armed conflict in the waters in collusion with outside forces. This clearly shows who is the real provoker and breaker of the inter-Korean agreement in the military field.

<http://www.pyongyangtimes.com.kp/?bbs=31724>

Four contentious nuclear issues

Jun Bong-geun, Korea Times, October 15, 2019

In order to hold a new summit, four contentious nuclear issues should be negotiated and agreed upon, as both leaders have learned from the Hanoi summit that a "no-deal" summit is not an option anymore. Then what are those four issues? First, the U.S. presented three demands to North Korea: the so-called "Yongbyon plus" initial denuclearization measures, the definition (or end-state) of denuclearization and a denuclearization roadmap.

Second, initial first-step denuclearization measures by North Korea will be the most critical and controversial issue, as was the case at the Hanoi summit. North Korea had offered to dismantle its Yongbyon nuclear facility, whereas the U.S. wants a "Yongbyon plus alpha." Third, verification is another difficult problem. Of course, North Korea's denuclearization measures should be verified, but the question is how and to what extent. The most desirable verification method would be full-scope and intrusive safeguards by the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA) that members of the Nuclear Nonproliferation Treaty (NPT) are

obligated to accept. But Pyongyang has long refused inspections at all costs.

Lastly, what kinds of corresponding measures do we need to provide to North Korea? In Hanoi, North Korea allegedly demanded the lifting of most sanctions against its economy in exchange for a partial, Yongbyon-only denuclearization.

http://www.koreatimes.co.kr/www/opinion/2019/10/137_277141.html

Missile for dialogue

Korea Times, October 2, 2019

North Korea launched yet another missile Wednesday, only a day after it announced that it had agreed with the United States to resume working-level denuclearization talks this coming Saturday. The missile, which flew about 450 kilometers at a maximum altitude of 910 kilometers, is presumed to have been launched from a submarine in waters off the North's east coast, according to the South Korean military.

It is a typical North Korean tactic to raise tensions ahead of crucial talks to increase its leverage. What is more significant that it fired a ballistic missile from a submarine, which represents an evolving threat. It is apparently making significant progress in developing technology needed to carry out a nuclear strike from the sea.

http://www.koreatimes.co.kr/www/opinion/2019/10/137_276514.html

North Korea needs to back down for nuke talks to yield results: experts

Park Han-na, Korea Herald, October 8, 2019

Neither North Korea nor the US adopted a new stance at their recent working-level denuclearization talks, and the road ahead appears rough unless the North comes to the table with substantial concessions, experts said. North Korea said Sunday's talks with US counterparts in Sweden had "not fulfilled our expectations and broke down," blaming Washington for not coming up with a new approach to negotiations.

The US State Department called the talks, meant to end a stalemate on the

denuclearization of North Korea, "good discussions" and said it hoped the two sides would meet again in the coming weeks.

http://www.koreaherald.com/view.php?ud=20191008000762&ACE_SEARCH=1

Why a Series of Small Nuclear Deals with North Korea Could Work

The National Interest, October 8, 2019

This week's most recent talks between the US and North Korea have failed again. When U.S. President Donald Trump met North Korean supreme leader Kim Jong Un in Hanoi earlier this year, Trump walked out abruptly. This time it appears the North Koreans did. Perhaps it was turnabout as the North Koreans were apparently surprised and embarrassed that Hanoi collapsed so badly. Certainly the North Korean statement that these newest talks were 'sickening' and their refusal to return to another suggests the meeting went badly. SPONSORED CONTENT Recommended by This was not that difficult to foresee.

The U.S. keeps approaching negotiations with the North in search of a big-bang, all-or-nothing deal. But North Korea has repeatedly said that there is not enough trust between it and the U.S. for a mega-deal which would dramatically reduce its nuclear and missile arsenal, and that the U.S. offer of sanctions relief for large North Korean cuts is not enough. The North Koreans seem to want a smaller starter deal, or at least to avoid one final, end-all-be-all resolution. The focus on a one-shot agreement seems to flow from Trump's personal hang-up with winning a Nobel Peace Prize. His opening to North Korea is the argument he makes most for the prize. But to actually justify it, Trump would have to bring home a serious breakthrough, a deal which sustainably shifts the peninsula away from its long, heavily militarized stalemate. This prize-seeking, in turn, has provoked blowback from U.S. analyst community and media that Trump would give away a lot in order to secure any deal he could get. That deal

could then be pitched as a foreign policy success for his re-election campaign and the Nobel Committee. This blowback has constrained how much Trump can offer the North. In Hanoi, he complained that the media and expert community would have criticized him if he had struck a soft deal with Kim.

The collapse of this weekend's talks, on top of the failure of all the high-profile, empty symbolism summitry of the last eighteen months, once again strongly suggests this middling approach. The reasons for big bang's failure are not that difficult to figure out. The strategic and ideological gaps between the U.S. and North Korea are enormous. North Korea explicitly built nuclear weapons to deter the United States. The U.S. has long supported South Korea's sovereign claim to rule the peninsula.

<https://nationalinterest.org/blog/korea-watch/why-series-small-nuclear-deals-north-korea-could-work-86491>

Japan

Scandal shows nuclear power immune from proper oversight

The Asahi Shimbun, October 3, 2019

Kansai Electric Power Co. on Oct. 2 disclosed a report on an in-house investigation into allegations that its executives received cash and other gifts from an influential town government official. In its second news conference on the issue, the utility unveiled findings of the probe it had previously refused to publish. The list of gifts from the late Eiji Moriyama, a former deputy mayor of Takahama, Fukui Prefecture, where one of the company's nuclear power plants is located, included cash, gift certificates, coupons for custom-tailored suits and gold coins.

Two senior executives each received gifts worth more than 100 million yen (\$933,600). Some received 10 million yen in cash at a time. Kansai Electric earlier said 20 executives received gifts worth about 320 million yen in total, but details represent jaw-dropping revelations.

<http://www.asahi.com/ajw/articles/AJ201910030035.html>

Think Tanks

India

India Considers No-First-Use Changes

Arms Control Association, October, 2019

India may be considering repudiating its long-standing no-first-use nuclear doctrine, according to an Aug. 16 tweet by Indian Defense Minister Rajnath Singh. "India has strictly adhered to this doctrine," Singh wrote, but "what happens in the future depends on the circumstances."

Like China, India currently vows to use nuclear weapons only in retaliation for a first-strike attack. If there is a change, it would not be the first time that India has modified its nuclear posture. India adopted a no-first-use policy in 1998 but stipulated that the promise extended only to states that did not have nuclear weapons and were not aligned with a nuclear-armed state

<https://www.armscontrol.org/act/2019-10/news-briefs/india-considers-first-use-changes>

Air Power: Theory and Practice

John Andreas Olsen, Arjun Subramaniam, Carnegie Endowment of International Peace, October 4, 2019

Knowledge Transfer Carnegie India is an initiative that aims to provide a platform to facilitate the genuine exchange of ideas and knowledge among students, practitioners, subject-matter experts, and other interested audiences.

The advent of air power has significantly altered the nature of warfare. In the words of the political scientist Eliot A. Cohen, air power offered states the unique advantage of "gratification without commitment," wherein the speed and agility of the air forces could be leveraged to strike an enemy at lesser risk of being hit compared to territorial and naval armies.

Even with the development of anti-aircraft technology, and maxims like "no war was

won by airpower alone,” instances like the Persian Gulf War of 1991 demonstrated the effectiveness of air power and the advantages that belligerents can reap through its use. Ever since its first major foray into warfare during World War I, air power has undergone a significant military-technological revolution, with implications for strategic theory that underpins the application of airpower. How have these changes impacted the way in which leaders employ air power? What does the future hold for the theory and practice of air power?

<https://carnegieindia.org/2019/10/04/air-power-theory-and-practice-event-7192>

North Korea

Denuclearising North Korea Through a Broader Security Framework

Cristina Varriale, RUSI UK, 4 October 2019

For months, the US and North Korea were engaged in ‘working-level’ talks on denuclearisation. For months, the resumption of these talks was supposedly ‘just weeks away’. Finally, the two sides have announced that a meeting will take place on 5 October. Close to 24 hours after this was confirmed, North Korea tested what is assumed to be a submarine-launched ballistic missile (SLBM) from a location near Wonsan. Although this will be unlikely to damage diplomatic efforts in the short term, the episode should serve as a reminder that security and military confidence-building measures need to remain a central part of the peace and denuclearisation process.

From early assessments of North Korea’s most recent missile test, the missile is presumed to be a modified variation of North Korea’s SLBM, with state media declaring it a Pukguksong-3. Although North Korea already broke their 18-month missile testing hiatus in May this year, this test is the first since 2017 that could involve a nuclear-capable missile. Given that scheduled talks with the US are just days away, why did North Korea decide to conduct this test now?

<https://rusi.org/commentary/denuclearising-north-korea-through-broader-security-framework>

Staying in Sync on North Korea’s Nuclear Program

Evans J.R Revere, Mataka Kamiya, Carnegie Endowment of International Peace, October 10, 2019

North Korean leader Kim Jong Un sent U.S. President Donald Trump a powerful message at their February 2019 summit in Hanoi: Pyongyang is determined to keep its nuclear weapons. Faced with Kim’s attempt to exclude parts of his nuclear weapons program and other weapons of mass destruction from any agreement, Trump walked away from the negotiating table, surprising many critics and supporters alike.

The future of diplomacy between the United States and the Democratic People’s Republic of Korea (DPRK) is now unclear, particularly as North Korea has threatened to go its own way if the United States does not meet its demands by the end of 2019. At the same time, Pyongyang’s ongoing test firing of new short-range ballistic missiles suggests North Korea could use launches and other provocations to pressure the United States to change its negotiating position. The breakdown of the Hanoi summit left Pyongyang still able to manufacture and deploy nuclear weapons and ballistic missiles. Meanwhile, the international sanctions regime is fraying, giving North Korea some respite from economic pressure, despite its inability to convince the United States to ease sanctions. Kim may find this status quo palatable for now.

<https://carnegieendowment.org/2019/10/10/staying-in-sync-on-north-korea-s-nuclear-program-pub-80022>

UK

Nuclear Energy in a Post-Brexit Europe

Tim Yeo, Chatham House, October 11, 2019

Brexit will significantly change the balance within the EU in relation to nuclear energy. Apart from France and Finland, both of whose nuclear development programmes

are behind schedule, the UK is the only member state in northern or western Europe currently investing in new nuclear capacity. Brexit will therefore leave the supporters of nuclear energy within the EU27 and the European Commission in a weaker position. The speaker will argue that at a time when the energy industry needs to accelerate its shift away from fossil fuels, and when the electricity generation industry must cut its carbon emissions faster than it has ever managed to do in the past, this change is unhelpful.

<https://www.chathamhouse.org/event/nuclear-energy-post-brexiteurope>

Miscellaneous

Nuclear Hedging and Latency: History, Concepts, and Issues

Ariel (Eli) Levite, Carnegie endowment of International Peace, October 10, 2019

The point of departure in this assessment of nuclear hedging and latency is why and how numerous states that embarked on the path of developing nuclear weapons, or at least seriously toyed with the idea, never ultimately acquired them. By some estimates there seem to have been in total roughly 30 such states, approximately 20 by some other experts' accounts. Regardless which of these estimates one adopts, it is clear that at the end of the day only a small fraction of those have crossed or even come close to the finish line. Why is this the case? What explains the considerable contrast between the number of states that embarked on the nuclear-weapon path and those that ended up with nuclear weapons? This chapter is a further effort to look systematically at the nuclear hedging phenomenon in the early 2000s.

<https://carnegieendowment.org/2019/10/10/nuclear-hedging-and-latency-history-concepts-and-issues-pub-80048>

Partnerships are at the Core of Modern Deterrence

Giedrimas Jeglinskas, RUSI UK, 15 October 2019

How does a state achieve effective deterrence? Lithuania provides an example.

Deterrence has always been a crucial element in ensuring one's security. In classic international relations literature, punishment and denial are described as drivers of effective deterrence. Yet, the intent of this article is not to delve into theories but to offer a practical view on deterrence as a reflection of the author's time as deputy defence minister of Lithuania and as an incentive to reimagine the concept.

In simple words, effective deterrence allows people to feel safe to conduct their social, economic and cultural activities undisturbed and allows institutions to work towards reaching their goals. The fast-changing economic and geopolitical scene, augmented by technological innovation, contributes to a whirlwind state of mind where it becomes difficult to separate noise from a signal. In such a world, a focus on building effective deterrence can serve as a true north, a clear objective to be achieved on the way to a more secure and prosperous world.

The fundamental question is how to achieve effective deterrence.

<https://rusi.org/commentary/partnerships-are-core-modern-deterrence>

Interviews

INSTEX has a limited scope: Finaud

Javad Heirannia, Tehran Times, October 14, 2019

Marc Finaud, the former French Foreign Ministry spokesman, says that the INSTEX mechanism is operational but has a limited scope.

A senior member of Geneva Centre for Security Policy also says that "Regarding U.S. sanctions in other areas, European companies may be deterred by the impact of secondary sanctions and will most likely not sacrifice their interests on the American market if they have less stakes in Iran. Unfortunately, the EU can offer some legal protection, but the ultimate decisions will be made by the companies."

Following is the full text of the interview:

Q: French Foreign Minister Jean-Yves Le Drian warned that the United States and Iran have only one month to implement the Paris plan to keep JCPOA alive. Is France in a position to warn against keeping things that the Europeans themselves failed to fulfill?

A: It is always difficult and it takes time to convince all the EU member states but since there is so far no alternative to the French proposals for mediation to salvage the JCPOA, it is likely that the French initiative will be supported by the EU.

Q: Does this warning mean a defeat in French diplomatic efforts to mediate between Iran and the United States?

A: French efforts are continuing, so it may be premature to call them a defeat. But the opposition from the United States does make such efforts a hard challenge.

Q: Iran has announced that by early November it will take new measures to reduce its obligations in JCPOA. Why doesn't Europe make a serious effort to preserve the JCPOA and just announce daily that the country has joined INSTEX but nothing actually happens?

A: The INSTEX mechanism was always considered as a limited step to facilitate trade in humanitarian goods. The EU and its member states until now have complied with all their commitments in the JCPOA and regret the resumption of U.S. sanctions that also affect their companies wishing to trade with Iran.

Q: Do you think that the INSTEX mechanism will be operational in light of U.S. warnings about sanctions on the companies that work with them and meet Iran's needs?

A: The INSTEX mechanism is operational but has a limited scope. Regarding U.S. sanctions in other areas, European companies may be deterred by the impact of secondary sanctions and will most likely not sacrifice their interests on the American market if they have less stakes in Iran. Unfortunately, the EU can offer some legal protection, but the ultimate decisions will be made by the companies.

<https://www.tehrantimes.com/news/441122/INSTEX-has-a-limited-scope-Finaud>

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