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Chinese bombers likely training for US strikes: Pentagon

August 16, 2018 AFP reported: "Chinese bombers are likely training for strikes against US and allied targets in the Pacific, according to a new Pentagon report that also details how Beijing is transforming its ground forces to "fight and win."

The annual report to Congress, released Thursday, highlights China's growing military, economic and diplomatic clout and how Beijing is leveraging this to rapidly build its international footprint and establish regional dominance.

In the case of China's air power, the report states that Chinese bombers are developing capabilities to hit targets as far from China as possible.

"Over the last three years, the PLA (People's Liberation Army) has rapidly expanded its overwater bomber operating areas, gaining experience in critical maritime regions and likely training for strikes against US and allied targets," the document states, noting how China is pushing its operations out into the Pacific.

In August 2017, six Chinese H-6K bombers flew through the Miyako Strait in the southwest of the Japanese islands, and then for the first time turned north to fly east of Okinawa, where 47,000 US troops are based. The PLA may demonstrate the "capability to strike US and allied forces and military bases in the western Pacific Ocean, including Guam," the report says."..."



Swamped in Inflation, Venezuela Will Cut Five Zeros from Currency

August 16, 2018 WRAL.com reported: "Faced with nearly incomprehensible inflation — 32,714 percent as of Wednesday — Venezuelan officials thought they had a solution: They changed the color of the bank notes and increased their denomination. Then they said they would lop off three zeros. And when that didn't seem enough, they announced they would cut off two more.

The tactics have left Venezuelans like Yosmar Nowak, the owner of a coffee shop in Caracas, convinced that there is no solution in sight and that the government cannot even bring down the price of a cup of coffee, an eye-watering 2 million bolivars.

"I imagine if we keep like this we're going to have to do the same thing in December," said Nowak, who has been forced to raise prices in her cafe at least 40 times this year.

Slashing zeros from Venezuela's inflation-cursed currency, the bolivar, is the tent-pole of a set of economic changes by President Nicolás Maduro as he tries to right his country's capsized economy. The five-digit inflation has earned Venezuela comparisons to the hyperinflation of Zimbabwe and Weimar Germany from the International Monetary Fund."..."

Britain's RAF intercepts six Russian bombers over Black Sea

August 16, 2018 spacedaily.com reported: "Britain's Royal Air Force said Wednesday it had intercepted six Russian bomber planes flying close to NATO air space over the Black Sea.

The Eurofighter Typhoons launched early Monday from their base in Romania after the Russian Su-24 Fencer planes were spotted, the RAF said in a statement.

It said there had been 'significant Russian air activity through most of the night'.

The Russian aircraft eventually turned towards Crimea, the RAF said..."

Mattis: U.S. Needs Space Force to Counter Russia, China

August 15, 2018 voanews.com reported: "A U.S. Space Force is necessary to protect American satellites from being targeted by attack weapons in the hands of China and Russia, Defense Secretary Jim Mattis said Tuesday.

Mattis' comments came days after Vice President Mike Pence announced ambitious plans to create a sixth, separate U.S. military war-fighting service by 2020 to ensure American dominance in space...

He recalled China's use of a ground-based missile to destroy one of its own nonfunctional weather satellites in January 2007, which he suggested was a calculated demonstration to the United States of Chinese capabilities..."

Putin ready to meet North Korea's Kim at 'early date'

August 15, 2018 timesofisrael.com reported: "Russian President Vladimir Putin is ready to meet with North Korean leader Kim Jong Un "at an early date," the North's state media reported Wednesday, amid a rapid diplomatic thaw on the peninsula.

Putin invited Kim and the South's President Moon Jae-in in June to an economic forum in Vladivostok next month, although it is not known whether the North Korean leader responded to the invitation...

US dismisses 'hypocritical' draft space weapons treaty

August 14, 2018 spacedaily.com reported: "The United States voiced strong opposition Tuesday to a treaty proposed by Russia and China explicitly aimed at preventing an arms race in space, calling it "hollow and hypocritical".

A top US official told the global disarmament body in Geneva that Washington had no confidence in the draft Treaty on the Prevention of the Placement of Weapons in Outer Space and of the Threat or Use of Force against Outer Space Objects, or PPWT.

US Assistant Secretary of State for Arms Control, Yleem D. S Poblete, said the US was committed to strengthening the safety, stability and sustainability of space.

But she insisted "the draft PPWT is not the right mechanism for accomplishing that".

"Hollow and hypocritical efforts are not the answer," she said, maintaining that the PPWT, first presented by Russia and China in 2008, was "a flawed document".

The accusation came as the US eyes creating a Space Force as a new military branch, something President Donald Trump has said would give his country dominance over its rivals."..."

Iran unveils new short-range missile

August 14, 2018 Arutz Sheva 7 reported: "Iran on Monday unveiled its newest short-range ballistic missile, the country's state-run IRIB reported.

According to IRIB, the missile 'successfully passed its tests' and is capable of striking both land and sea targets.

'We will not spare any effort to increase the missile capabilities of the country and we will certainly increase our missile power every day,' Iranian Defense Minister Amir Hatami told Tasnim..."

Right to read Bible in public hits Britain

August 13, 2018 World Net Daily reported: "A British religious-rights organization that has focused on relief of persecuted Christians in Muslim lands has a new fight on its hands – fighting for the right to read the Bible in public in England.

Last month, the Barnabas Fund highlighted a video showing London police arresting Allan Coote for reading the Bible in public outside St. Paul's Cathedral. Police officers claimed that cathedral staff had asked them to do so.

Later, an older video emerged from several months ago of a similar event showing police stopping Coote from reading the Bible in public outside St. Paul's, with what appears to be member of the cathedral management standing close behind the police officers..."

'The Palestinians' goal is to wipe Israel off the map'

August 13, 2018 Arutz Sheva 7 reported: "Deputy Minister Michael Oren (Kulanu) on Sunday responded to a demand by the Palestinian Authority (PA) to expel Israel from the United Nations in the wake of the approval of the Nationality Law.

'The 137 countries that recognized a Palestinian state did so with the intention of advancing peace, and what are the Palestinians doing in response? They are appealing to the United Nations to demand that Israel be expelled from all international organizations. This time, the excuse is the enactment of the Nationality Law,' he said.

'Even without the Nationality Law, the goal of the Palestinians was and remains the same – to wipe Israel off the map,' the Deputy Minister said. 'Unfortunately, those 137 countries that recognized 'Palestine' are wrong to think that the PA's activity is meant for peace.'..."

Hamas cleric: Jews were 'transformed' into apes and pigs

August 13, 2018 Arutz Sheva 7 reported: "During a recent parliamentary session in Gaza, Hamas MP and cleric Yunis Al-Astal recited at length quotes from the Quran, vilifying the Jews and comparing them to apes and pigs.

The Gaza parliamentary session aired on the Lebanon-based Al-Quds TV and was translated by the Middle East Media Research Institute (MEMRI).

'We do not have time to list their abominations, which merited their transformation into apes and pigs,' said Al-Astal, adding that due to these faults, Jewish scholars were described as 'dogs,' and the simple people were described as 'donkeys', meaning the Jews..."

Iran to bring back enriched uranium from Russia

August 12, 2018 Arutz Sheva 7 reported: "Iran announced on Saturday that it will bring back a second batch of the 20%-enriched uranium which it sent to Russia in 2015 as part of its commitments under the nuclear deal signed with world powers.

The uranium that is return is to be used in the Tehran Research Reactor, according to a report in the semiofficial Fars news agency.

'When we were inking the nuclear deal, we stopped production of 20% fuel and deposited the excessive fuel in Russia in nearly 10 batches. We received the first batch nearly seven months ago and the second batch is about to be transferred back to Iran. Any of these batches can be used for nearly one year and therefore, we have 20% fuel for Tehran Reactor for at least 7 to 8 years,' said a spokesman for the Atomic Energy Organization of Iran (AEOI), Behrouz Kamalvandi..."

Top U.S. Gen. Warns: Islamic State in Afghanistan 'Harboring Intentions' to Attack West

August 12, 2018 Breitbart.com reported: "The Islamic State (ISIS/ISIL) branch in Afghanistan has become a significant menace against the West despite the fall of the group's caliphate in Iraq and Syria, a top American commander warned this week.

In June, Brig. Gen. Lance R. Bunch, the top U.S. air commander in Afghanistan, noted that the ISIS wing has attempted to 'establish' its own 'caliphate' twice this year alone in the eastern Afghan province of Nangarhar along the Pakistan border, considered the group's primary stronghold in the region..."



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