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North Korean leader says he's ready to denuclearize

February 28, 2019 Arutz Sheva 7 reported: "North Korean leader Kim Jong Un said on Thursday that he would not have come to Vietnam to meet with US President Donald Trump if he was not prepared to pursue the denuclearization of the Korean peninsula.

In answers to reporters' questions during his meeting with Trump, Kim also said he would welcome the idea of putting a US liaison office in Pyongyang.

Trump and Kim were in Hanoi for a second round of talks, after meeting on Wednesday for the second time in eight months.

Prior to the second meeting, Trump said he was in 'no rush' to secure a deal over Pyongyang's nuclear program. He added that 'speed was not that important' to him as long as the North's pause in missile and nuclear testing continued..."

India bombs Pakistani base as tensions escalate

February 27, 2019 Arutz Sheva 7 reported: "Tensions between India and Pakistan flared overnight amid the largest escalation on the subcontinent in years.

On Tuesday, Indian air force fighters carried out an airstrike on a facility in Pakistan, which the Indian government claimed was used to house and train terrorists responsible for attacks on Indian targets. The strikes are the first by Indian aircraft inside Pakistani territory since the 1971 India-Pakistan war.

India's foreign affairs secretary Vijay Gokhale said the Indian air force strikes had 'eliminated' a 'very large number' of Pakistani terrorists in the strike. Indian said the camp was run by the Jaish e-Mohammed terror group, which has been accused of carrying out the February 14th suicide bombing attack in Pulwama in the Indian Kashmir which killed 40. Four Indian soldiers were killed in fighting with Pakistani terrorists days after the bombing.

But Pakistan denied the site bombed by India was used by terrorists, castigating India for the attack.

'This action has been done for domestic consumption being in election environment, putting regional peace and stability at grave risk,' Pakistani Prime Minister Imran Khan's office said in a statement.

Pakistan vowed to retaliate for the airstrikes 'at the time and place of its choosing.'..."

'We will not give Iran a base near our border'

February 27, 2019 Arutz Sheva 7 reported: "Prime Minister Binyamin Netanyahu said Tuesday evening, ahead of his visit to Russia, 'I will go to Moscow tomorrow to meet with Russian President Vladimir Putin.'

'At the center of our talks is the Iranian establishment in Syria. We are acting against it, we are attacking its bases and we will continue to act against it – and I will talk to the president about that,' Netanyahu said.

'We will continue to act until we remove the Iranians from Syria, because Iran threatens to destroy Israel and we will not give it a base close to our border,' the prime minister added..."

After Putin's warning, Russian TV lists nuclear targets in U.S.

February 26, 2019 Reuters reported: "Russian state television has listed U.S. military facilities that Moscow would target in the event of a nuclear strike and said that a hypersonic missile Russia is developing would be able to hit them in less than five minutes.

The targets included the Pentagon and the presidential retreat in Camp David, Maryland.

The report, unusual even by the sometimes bellicose standards of Russian state TV, was broadcast on Sunday evening, days after President Vladimir Putin said Moscow was militarily ready for a 'Cuban Missile'-style crisis if the United States wanted one.

With tensions rising over Russian fears that the United States might deploy intermediate-range nuclear missiles in Europe as a Cold War-era arms-control treaty unravels, Putin has said Russia would be forced to respond by placing hypersonic nuclear missiles on submarines near U.S. waters..."

U.S. destroyer, cargo ship pass through Taiwan Strait

February 26, 2019 sinodaily.com reported: "The U.S. Navy has dispatched a guided-missile destroyer and cargo ship through the Taiwan Strait in what the Navy has referred to as a "routine" transit but opposed by China.

On Sunday and Monday, the USS Robert Stethem, an Arleigh Burke-class destroyer, and the USNS Cesar Chavez, a Lewis and Clark-class dry cargo ship, passed through the 80-mile international waterway that separates the self-ruled democratic island from the communist mainland, the U.S. Pacific Fleet and Taiwan military confirmed. The destroyer and supply ship left the Taiwan Strait early Tuesday.

"USS Stethem [DDG 63] and USNS Cesar Chavez [T-AKE-14] conducted a routine Taiwan Strait transit on Feb. 25 (local time), in accordance with international law," Pacific Fleet Spokesman Lt. Cmdr. Tim Gorman said in a statement to USNI News. "The ships' transit through the Taiwan Strait demonstrates the U.S. commitment to a free and open Indo-Pacific. The U.S. Navy will continue to fly, sail and operate anywhere international law allows."

China's People's Liberation Army Navy dispatched warships to monitor the U.S. ships, Business Insider reported.



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In January, the Chinese Ministry of Foreign Affairs called the passage of guided missile destroyer USS McCampbell alongside the USNS Walter S. Diehl fleet oiler "provocative behavior" and "threatening the safety" of those nearby." ..."

NYC Muslim cleric: Don't befriend Christians, Jews

February 25, 2019 WND.com reported: "A New York City Muslim cleric told his congregants in a sermon they must not befriend or engage in any alliances with Christians and Jews.

The exhortation by Abul Baraa Muhammad Abdullah Amreeki was based directly on verses from the Quran, pointed out Jihad Watch Director Robert Spencer in a post Wednesday.

The imam cited Quran 5:51 in a sermon posted to YouTube on Jan. 25, according to the Middle East Media Research Institute, or MEMRI.

'O you who have believed, do not take the Jews and the Christians as allies,' the verse reads, according to an English interpretation of the original Arabic. 'They are allies of one another. And whoever is an ally to them among you – then indeed, he is of them. Indeed, Allah guides not the wrongdoing people.' ..."

Report: Iran Launches Cruise Missile from Submarine

February 25, 2019 Breitbart.com reported: "Iran successfully test fired what it claimed is a cruise missile on Sunday during naval exercises near the contested Strait of Hormuz, according to state media.

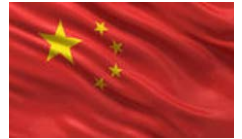
'On the third day of the ... exercises, a Ghadir-class Iranian navy submarine successfully launched a cruise missile,' the official news agency IRNA reported.

Iran's other submarines, the Tareq and the new domestically built Fateh (Conqueror) have the same anti-ship capability, IRNA quoted a military statement as saying.

Iran is currently running a major naval exercise in the strategic Strait of Hormuz as the re-imposed United States sanctions against the Islamic republic, targeting its vital oil sector, begin to bite..."

Report: Beijing Runs Unannounced South China Sea Military Drills

February 22, 2019 Breitbart.com reported: "The Chinese military this week concluded a month of unannounced exercises in the South China Sea and the Pacific aimed at testing its 'wartime command system' and enhancing its missile defenses, the South China Morning Post (SCMP) revealed on Thursday.



'Military observers said the exercises indicated the People's Liberation Army [PLA] wanted to put its wartime command system to the test and also strengthen its missile defenses in the South China Sea,' SCMP reports.

'This training enabled us to deepen our knowledge of a systematic combat situation at sea and improve our capabilities,' a statement from the PLA Navy's South Sea Fleet declared, according to the newspaper.

Beginning on January 16, the PLA reportedly carried out 20 drills over 34 days involving its navy, air force, and missile unit.

'This exercise was to put to the test the so-called combined force command, with all these capabilities,' Song Zhongping, a Hong Kong-based military analyst, told SCMP, noting that the latest drills were an attempt by the PLA enhance its ability to monitor the South China Sea..."

U.S. military conducts observation flight over Russia

February 22, 2019 spacedaily.com reported: "The US military is conducting a surveillance flight over Russia as part of an international agreement, the Pentagon said Thursday.

The flight falls under the Open Skies Treaty, an international accord aimed at promoting military transparency through reciprocal, unarmed observation flights over each of the 34 signatory countries' terrains.

Due to tensions with Russia, this is the first Open Skies flight there since November 2017, Pentagon spokesman Lieutenant Colonel Jamie Davis said.

'Russia is aware of the flight,' he said.

'Six Russian Federation observers are on board the US aircraft to monitor all phases of the flight.' ..."

Xi: China Determined to Develop 'Strategic Partnership' with Iran

February 22, 2019 Breitbart.com reported: "Chinese Communist Party leader Xi Jinping declared on Wednesday that Beijing remains committed to developing a 'strategic partnership' with Iran, which the United States has designated as the world's leading state-sponsor of terrorism.

'No matter how the international and regional situation changes, China's resolve to develop a comprehensive strategic partnership with Iran will remain unchanged,' Xi proclaimed during a meeting in Beijing with an Iranian delegation headed by the Middle Eastern country's Parliament Speaker Ali Larijani, according to Turkey's state-run Anadolu Agency (AA).

Xi claimed his support for Tehran is intended to help bring peace and stability in the Middle East.

'The two countries need to further deepen strategic mutual trust and continue to extend mutual understanding and support on issues involving each other's core interests and major concerns,' China's communist leader said..."

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