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Erdogan says Turkey should have nuclear weapons like Israel

September 5, 2019 timesofisrael.com reported: "Turkish President Tayyip Erdogan said Wednesday that it was unacceptable that Turkey was barred from having nuclear weapons while other nations in the region had them.

'Some countries have missiles with nuclear warheads, not one or two. But (they tell us) we can't have them. This, I cannot accept,' the Reuters news agency quoted him as telling his ruling AK Party members in the eastern city of Sivas.

'There is no developed nation in the world that doesn't have them,' Erdogan said, even though most developed nations do not have nuclear weapons.

Under international treaties only the US, Russia, the UK, France and China could have nuclear weapons. India, Pakistan and North Korea later developed them too. South Africa had several atomic bombs but dismantled them when it became a democracy. Israel is also believed to have nuclear weapons, a fact alluded to by Erdogan.

'We have Israel nearby, as almost neighbors. They scare (other nations) by possessing these. No one can touch them.' ..."

Experts: China Could Be 'New Road' Touted by North Korea

September 5, 2019 voanews.com reported: "China may be a 'new road' for North Korea if diplomacy with the United States fails, experts say. Chinese Foreign Minister Wang Yi met with a senior North Korean official Wednesday in Pyongyang during a three-day visit that began Monday, according to the Chinese Foreign Ministry.

Wang told Ri Su Yong, vice chairman of North Korea's ruling Workers' Party, that China's prosperity cannot be impeded by any country, apparently referring to the U.S., with which Beijing has been involved in an ongoing trade dispute. Wang said Beijing and Pyongyang should bolster cooperation and protect their mutual interests as Ri expressed hope for close ties"..."

Marijuana use by US college students up, highest in 35 years

September 5, 2019 apnews.com reported: U.S. college students are using marijuana at the highest rates in 35 years, according to a report released Thursday. About 43% of full-time college students said they used some form of pot at least once in the past year, up from 38%, a University of Michigan survey found. About 25% said they did so in the previous month, up from 21%.

The latest figures are the highest levels seen in the annual survey since 1983. About 6% of college students said they used marijuana 20 or more times in the past month. For adults the same age who weren't enrolled in college, the figure was 11%.

"It's the frequent use we're most worried about" because it's linked to poor academic performance and can be detrimental to mental health, said John Schulenberg, one of the Michigan researchers."..."

First long-distance heart surgery performed via robot

September 5, 2019 zdnet.com reported: "A doctor in India has performed a series of five percutaneous coronary intervention (PCI) procedures on patients who were 20 miles away from him. The feat was pulled off using a precision vascular robot developed by Corindus. The results of the surgeries, which were successful, have just been published in EClinicalMedicine, a spin-off of medical journal The Lancet.

The feat is an example of telemedicine, an emerging field that leverages advances in networking, robotics, mixed reality, and communications technologies to beam in medical experts to remote locations for everything from consultations to surgical procedures. Telemedicine, which could decentralize healthcare by distributing doctors into local communities virtually, could ease shortages of nurses and doctors and potentially cut healthcare costs. In France, people are already visiting Telehealth cabins for fast, convenient healthcare. During the recent Ebola crisis, the University of Virginia delivered care in parts of Africa via telemedicine."..."

Iran demands \$15 billion, end to US sanctions

September 4, 2019 Arutz Sheva 7 reported: "Iran is willing to return to the negotiating table with European powers and comply with the 2015 Iranian nuclear deal, if the US backs a French offer to give Tehran 14 billion Euros (\$15.4 billion) in credit.

Iranian Deputy Foreign Minister Abbas Araghchi, one of the architects of the Joint Comprehensive Plan of Action (JCPOA), said Wednesday morning that his government was prepared to 'return to the nuclear deal' – but only if it would be granted the line of credit and be able to spend its income 'without any limitation', a reference to Iran's demand that the US waive its sanctions on Tehran.

The Islamic republic will comply with the 2015 nuclear deal 'if and only if Iran is allowed to sell its oil and use the income earned by oil exports without any limitation then Tehran would return to the nuclear deal,' Araghchi told reporters. While Iran was prepared to return to compliance with the 2015 deal if its demands are met, Tehran will 'not renegotiate the nuclear deal'.

The Trump administration has called for changes to the nuclear deal, conditioning sanctions relief on Iran's agreement to negotiate a more comprehensive deal..."



'No one has illusions': Roscosmos head comments on US space militarization

September 3, 2019 spacedaily.com reported: "Dmitry Rogozin, the chief of Russia's space agency Roscosmos, commented on US President Donald Trump's statement that space is becoming the next 'warfighting domain', saying that everything is headed in that direction.

'Slowly but steadily [we are] moving to this. In Roscosmos, no one has illusions about this. Everyone is busy', Rogozin wrote on Twitter. The Russian military has said that by creating the space command, the United States is also creating preconditions for militarizing space. Russia has vowed to respond to these actions in kind..."

Coming Soon to a Battlefield: Robots That Can Kill

September 3, 2019 theatlantic.com reported: "Wallops Island—a remote, marshy spit of land along the eastern shore of Virginia, near a famed national refuge for horses—is mostly known as a launch site for government and private rockets. But it also makes for a perfect, quiet spot to test a revolutionary weapons technology.

If a fishing vessel had steamed past the area last October, the crew might have glimpsed half a dozen or so 35-foot-long inflatable boats darting through the shallows, and thought little of it. But if crew members had looked closer, they would have seen that no one was aboard: The engine throttle levers were shifting up and down as if controlled by ghosts. The boats were using high-tech gear to sense their surroundings, communicate with one another, and automatically position themselves so, in theory, .50-caliber machine guns that can be strapped to their bows could fire a steady stream of bullets to protect troops landing on a beach.

The secretive effort—part of a Marine Corps program called Sea Mob—was meant to demonstrate that vessels equipped with cutting-edge technology could soon undertake lethal assaults without a direct human hand at the helm. It was successful: Sources familiar with the test described it as a major milestone in the development of a new wave of artificially intelligent weapons systems soon to make their way to the battlefield.

Lethal, largely autonomous weaponry isn't entirely new: A handful of such systems have been deployed for decades, though only in limited, defensive roles, such as shooting down missiles hurtling toward ships. But with the development of AI-infused systems, the military is now on the verge of fielding machines capable of going on the offensive, picking out targets and taking lethal action without direct human input.

So far, U.S. military officials haven't given machines full control, and they say there are no firm plans to do so. Many officers—schooled for years in the importance of controlling the battlefield—remain deeply skeptical about handing such authority to a robot. Critics, both inside and outside of the military, worry about not being able to predict or understand decisions made by artificially intelligent machines, about computer instructions that are badly written or hacked, and about machines somehow straying outside the parameters created by their inventors. Some also argue that allowing weapons to decide to kill violates the ethical and legal norms governing the use of force on the battlefield since the horrors of World War II."..."

Lebanon urges US, France to intervene after Hezbollah attack

September 2, 2019 Arutz Sheva 7 reported: "Lebanon has reached out to both the US and France, urging the two countries to intervene following a major escalation between Israel and the Lebanese terrorist group Hezbollah Sunday.

Prime Minister Sa'ad Hariri spoke with an advisor to French President Emmanuel Macron and US Secretary of State Mike Pompeo Sunday after Hezbollah terrorists operating out of southern Lebanon fired a barrage of anti-tank missiles into northern Israel.

Israel said multiple anti-tank missiles had been fired at IDF vehicles and an army base near the northern Israeli town of Avivim Sunday. According to the IDF, the terrorists scored multiple hits, which Hezbollah claimed destroyed an IDF tank, killing and injuring the crew inside. Following the attack, Israeli aircraft struck targets in southern Lebanon, while IDF artillery opened fire on Hezbollah positions.

Prime Minister Hariri appealed to France and the US to intervene following the escalation, Reuters reported. During his talks with US and French officials, Hariri requested assistance from the two countries 'and the international community in facing the developments on the southern border,' AFP reported..."

Trump launches new Pentagon command for space warfare

August 30, 2019 spacedaily.com reported: "President Donald Trump launched a new Pentagon command dedicated to warfare in space Thursday, as American armed forces chiefs see China and Russia pressing hard to erode the US advantage in the newest military frontier.

'This is a landmark day, one that recognizes the centrality of space to America's security and defense,' Trump said in a White House ceremony. 'SpaceCom will ensure that America's dominance in space is never threatened.'

The new command will elevate space — largely the satellites and high-altitude aircraft essential to modern-day warfare — to a focused theater of combat, the equal of the US Central Command governing the Middle East and the Pacific Command, which manages defenses in the Western Pacific and Asia. While the US Air Force already has a dedicated space warfare operation, SpaceCom will heighten its importance and foster specialized systems and training for space showdowns.

'The dangers to our country constantly evolve and so must we,' said Trump..."



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