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President Hassan Rouhani

Iran says UAE, Bahrain will bear 'consequences' of Israel deals

September 17, 2020 ynetnews.com reported: "Iran's President Hassan Rouhani said on Wednesday that the United Arab Emirates and Bahrain will be responsible for any 'consequences' resulting from their normalization of relations with Tehran's arch-foe Israel.

The remarks came a day after Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu and the foreign ministers of Bahrain and the United Arab Emirates signed agreements establishing full diplomatic ties at a ceremony at the White House.

Speaking at a cabinet meeting, Rouhani said Israel was 'committing more crimes in Palestine every day'.

'Some of the region's countries, their people are pious Muslims but their rulers neither understand religion nor (their) debt... to the nation of Palestine, to their brothers speaking their language,' he said in televised remarks.

'How could you reach out your hands to Israel? And then you want to give them bases in the region? All the severe consequences that would arise from this are on you.'

U.S. President Donald Trump said similar Washington-brokered deals were close between Israel and several Arab countries, including Iran's regional rival Saudi Arabia..."

Eyeing China, Pentagon plans larger, 'more lethal' navy

September 17, 2020 spacewar.com reported: "Secretary of Defense Mark Esper announced Wednesday an ambitious plan to expand the US Navy with a range of unmanned and autonomous ships, submarines and aircraft to confront the growing maritime challenge from China.

The Pentagon chief said a sweeping review of US naval power dubbed 'Future Forward' had laid out a 'game-changer' plan that would expand the US sea fleet to more than 355 ships, from the current 293.

The plan, which requires adding tens of billions of dollars to the US Navy's budget between now and 2045, is aimed at maintaining superiority over Chinese naval forces, seen as the primary threat to the United States.

'The future fleet will be more balanced in its ability to deliver lethal effects from the air, from the sea, and from under the sea,' Esper said in a speech at the Rand Corp. in California.

The expansion will add 'more and smaller' surface ships; more submarines; surface and subsurface vessels that are optionally manned, unmanned and autonomous; and a broad range of unmanned carrier-based aircraft.

The plan is for a fleet of ships more able to survive a high-intensity conflict, to project US power and presence, and to deliver precision strikes at very long distances, he said..."

Air Force destroys surrogate cruise missile in hypervelocity projectile test

September 16, 2020 spacedaily.com reported: "The Pentagon on Tuesday released video showing the rapid detection and destruction of surrogate Russian cruise missiles as part of a test of a new weapons system.

The Air Force ran its second test of the Advanced Battle Management System earlier this month. The system is meant to streamline the collection, analysis and sharing of information so that joint forces can make decisions faster in the battlefield.

The test included detecting and destroying the surrogate cruise missile using artificial intelligence-driven software systems that might help commanders make decisions about battle with China or Russia.

According to Will Roper, assistant secretary of the Air Force for acquisition, technology and logistics, a novel hypervelocity projectile successfully shot down one of the surrogate cruise missiles used in the test.

'Future battlefields will be characterized by information saturation. One of the key objectives of this onramp was to present a dizzying array of information for participants to synthesize, just like they would see in a real operation,' Roper said..."

Palestinian Authority calls for Arab state boycott of signing ceremony

September 15, 2020 jpost.com reported: “Palestinian Authority Prime Minister Mohammad Shtayyeh on Monday called on the Arab states to boycott the signing ceremony of the normalization agreements between Israel and the United Arab Emirates and Bahrain, scheduled to take place at the White House on Tuesday.

Shtayyeh described the signing ceremony as ‘a black day in the history of the Arab nation.’ This day ‘will be added to the Palestinian calendar of pain,’ he said.

Shtayyeh’s appeal for boycotting Tuesday’s ceremony came as several Palestinian factions, including Fatah and Hamas, urged Palestinians to protest against the peace deals.

Shtayyeh urged the Arabs states to reject the agreements...”

Russia to stage huge ‘Caucasus’ drills in September

September 14, 2020 spacewar.com reported: “Russia said on Friday it would stage massive military drills in the Caucasus in late September with troops from countries including China, Iran and Pakistan invited to participate.

More than 12,000 troops will take part in the ‘Caucasus-2020’ war games, which will take place in southern Russia from September 21 to 26 and include land and naval exercises, Deputy Defence Minister Alexander Fomin told a briefing.

‘The Caucasus-2020 drills are not aimed against other countries,’ the defence ministry said in a statement.

China, Iran, Pakistan and Myanmar have been invited to take part in the drills, along with ex-Soviet Armenia, Azerbaijan and Belarus, the defence ministry said...”

Japan’s Abe urges stronger defences to face missiles

September 14, 2020 spacewar.com reported: “Japan must strengthen its ballistic missile defences, Prime Minister Shinzo Abe said Friday, a potentially controversial proposition given the country’s pacifist constitution, which limits its military capabilities.

Abe made the call despite being in the final days of his tenure, after deciding to resign for health reasons — a sign, analysts said, of the importance he attaches to the issue.

In a statement he warned that the country’s security environment is becoming more testing, citing the ballistic missile threat posed by North Korea, and questioned whether Japan could protect itself sufficiently with interception systems alone.

‘I believe it is necessary to enhance deterrence and thereby further reduce the possibility of an attack against Japan by ballistic missiles and others,’ Abe said...”

Chinese military calls US biggest threat to world peace

September 13, 2020 apnews.com reported: “China’s Defense Ministry on Sunday blasted a critical U.S. report on the country’s military ambitions, saying it is the U.S. instead that poses the biggest threat to the international order and world peace.

The statement follows the Sept. 2 release of the annual Defense Department report to Congress on Chinese military developments and goals that it said would have “serious implications for U.S. national interests and the security of the international rules-based order.”

Defense Ministry spokesman Col. Wu Qian called the report a “wanton distortion” of China’s aims and the relationship between the People’s Liberation Army and China’s 1.4 billion people.

“Many years of evidence shows that it is the U.S. that is the fomenter of regional unrest, the violator of the international order and the destroyer of world peace,” he said.

U.S. actions in Iraq, Syria, Libya and other countries over the past two decades have resulted in the deaths of more than 800,000 people and displacement of millions, Qian said.

“Rather than reflecting on itself, the U.S. issued a so-called report that made false comments about China’s normal defense and military construction,” he said in the statement. “We call on the U.S. to view China’s national defense and military construction objectively and rationally, cease making false statements and related reports, and take concrete actions to safeguard the healthy development of bilateral military relations.”

Running to more than 150 pages, the Defense Department report examined the PLA’s technical capabilities, doctrines and the ultimate aims of China’s military buildup.” ...”



Prime Minister Shinzo Abe

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