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Iran starts work on uranium metal-based fuel

January 14, 2021 Arutz Sheva 7 reported: "Iran has started work on uranium metal-based fuel for a research reactor, the UN nuclear watchdog and Tehran said on Wednesday, according to *Reuters*. The move marks Iran's latest breach of the nuclear deal it signed with six major powers in 2015.

'(International Atomic Energy Agency) Director General Rafael Mariano Grossi today informed IAEA Member States about recent developments regarding Iran's plans to conduct R&D activities on uranium metal production as part of its declared aim to design an improved type of fuel for the Tehran Research Reactor,' the IAEA said in a statement..."

Report: Iran has 'suicide drones,' capable of hitting Israeli targets, in Yemen

January 14, 2021 Arutz Sheva 7 reported: "Iran has apparently sent deadly 'suicide drones' to Yemen capable of hitting Israeli targets, *Newsweek* reported.

Imagery seen by *Newsweek* and confirmed by an expert on Iranian activities showed the existence of Iranian Shahed-136 loitering munitions in the northern Yemeni Houthi-controlled province of Al-Jawf. According to the expert, 'The Iranians have delivered to their Houthi proxies in Yemen advanced UAVs.'

'They are forward deploying or prepositioning these drones in order to stage an attack against a variety of targets they have within range.'

The UAVs are thought to have an effective range of 2,000 to 2,200 kilometers..."

Israeli Warplanes Strike Eastern Syria

January 13, 2021 Arutz Sheva 7 reported: "Israeli warplanes carried out airstrikes in eastern Syria early Wednesday. *The Associated Press* cited a senior U.S. intelligence official with knowledge of the attacks as saying the strikes targeted warehouses being used to store and stage Iranian weapons, and that they were done with intelligence provided by the United States.

Israel rarely comments on strikes in Syria, which it has conducted numerous times in recent years as part of a campaign to counter Iran-linked military presence in the country. Syria's state-run SANA news agency reported strikes hitting the towns of Deir el-Zour, Mayadeen and Boukamal..."



Iran launches missile drill amid rising tensions with US

January 13, 2021 jpost.com reported: "Iran's military launched a short-range naval missile drill on Wednesday, Iranian state TV reported, at a time of high tension between arch foes Tehran and Washington.

Iran has one of the biggest missile programs in the Middle East, regarding such weapons as an important deterrent and retaliatory force against US and other adversaries in the event of war

The West sees Iran's missiles both as a conventional military threat to regional stability and a possible delivery mechanism for nuclear weapons should Tehran develop them.

The Iranian-made warship Makran, which state media described as Iran's biggest warship with a helicopter pad, and a missile-launching ship called Zereh (armor) were taking part in the two-day exercise in the Gulf of Oman..."

U.S. Navy releases 10-year plan to compete with China, Russia

January 13, 2021 spacewar.com reported: "A 10-year 'navigation plan' by the U.S. Navy's chief of naval operations to counter Russian and Chinese threats was released on Monday.

The 18-page 'CNO NavPlan' by Adm. Michael Gilday cites four priorities for the Navy: investing in the training and education of sailors and eliminating bias and prejudice; readiness through on-time ship maintenance; capability investment in areas including cyberwarfare, intelligence and laser weapons, and improved capacity with a fleet of manned and unmanned ships.

The plan is a supplement to the Tri-Service Maritime Strategy, released in December, and calls for a need to prioritize alliances and partnerships in light of the Chinese Navy's growth and the Russian Navy's recent aggressive behavior..."

Report: Pompeo to accuse Iran of ties to Al-Qaeda

January 12, 2021 Arutz Sheva 7 reported: "US Secretary of State Mike Pompeo plans to use newly declassified US intelligence on Tuesday to publicly accuse Iran of ties to the Al-Qaeda terrorist organization, two people familiar with the matter told *Reuters* on Monday.

Pompeo is expected to offer details on allegations that Iran has given safe haven to Al-Qaeda leaders and support for the group, the sources said.

It was not immediately clear how much Pompeo intends to reveal in his speech to the National Press Club in Washington on Tuesday. He could cite declassified information on the killing of al Qaeda's suspected second-in-command in Tehran in August, said the sources..."

Chinese Study: Wuhan Infections Were at Least Triple the Reported Figures

January 11, 2021 breitbart.com reported: "Chinese researchers published a paper Thursday that concluded, based on analyzing blood samples for their antibody counts, that coronavirus infections in the city of Wuhan were at least three times as numerous as the official count of 50,340 cases.

Reuters noted the study, conducted by the virology laboratory at Wuhan University and published in the *PLOS Neglected Tropical Diseases* journal, was in line with other Chinese research that very belatedly confirmed the numbers given to the rest of the world by the Chinese government were much lower than the true number of infections...

A separate study published by the Chinese Center for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) late last month put the 'seroprevalence' rate in Wuhan, the percentage of the population with antibodies, even higher at 4.43%, implying that around half a million people in the city could have been infected. China still claims only 87,331 Chinese coronavirus infections and 4,634 fatalities in total..."

London Mayor Sadiq Khan Demands Shuttering of Churches and Other Places of Worship

January 11, 2021 breitbart.com reported: "London mayor Sadiq Khan has written to Boris Johnson requesting the immediate closure of all places of worship to curb the spread of coronavirus cases. Churches and other places of worship have been allowed to stay open during the current lockdown, but Mr. Khan has asked that they be forced to close in a letter to Prime Minister Boris Johnson.

The mayor has declared a 'major incident' as the coronavirus infection rate has surpassed one per cent in the Greater London area. Khan said that such a state of emergency is justified because London's hospitals risk being 'overwhelmed.'

'Our heroic doctors, nurses and NHS staff are doing an amazing job, but with cases rising so rapidly, our hospitals are at risk of being overwhelmed,' Khan said Friday. 'The stark reality is that we will run out of beds for patients in the next couple of weeks unless the spread of the virus slows down drastically.'

'We are declaring a major incident because the threat this virus poses to our city is at crisis point,' Khan said..."

Iran's IRGC unveils underground missile base in the Gulf

January 8, 2021 jpost.com reported: "Iran's elite Revolutionary Guards unveiled an underground missile base at an undisclosed Gulf location on Friday, Iranian state media reported, at a time of heightened tension between Tehran and the United States.

'The base is one of several bases housing the Guards' Navy's strategic missiles,' the state media quoted the head of the Guards, Major General Hossein Salami, as saying.

Last year, the Guards said Iran had built underground 'missile cities' along the Gulf coastline, warning of a 'nightmare for Iran's enemies'. 'These missiles have ranges of hundreds of kilometers, enjoy pinpoint accuracy and huge destructive power, and can overcome the enemy's electronic warfare equipment,' Salami said..."

Beijing Warns US Will Pay 'Heavy Price' if UN Ambassador Goes to Taiwan

January 8, 2021 voanews.com reported: "China on Thursday threatened that the United States would pay a 'heavy price' if its United Nations Ambassador Kelly Craft kept plans announced by the State Department to travel to Taiwan next week.

'The United States will pay a heavy price for its wrong action,' a statement from the Chinese mission to the UN said.

'China strongly urges the United States to stop its crazy provocation, stop creating new difficulties for China-U.S. relations and the two countries' cooperation in the United Nations, and stop going further on the wrong path.'

China 'firmly opposes' the visit and demands the US cancel its plans, the statement added, reiterating Beijing's one-China policy that maintains Taiwan is a province of the nation..."



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