

Iran has secret atomic warehouse

Claims Netanyahu at UN, refuses to back Trump's two-state endorsement

AGENCIES

Israel's prime minister has accused arch-enemy Tehran of harboring a secret atomic warehouse, making deft use of ample props and vowing that his country would never let Iran develop nuclear weapons.

Iran "hasn't abandoned its goal to develop nuclear weapons," Benjamin Netanyahu told the UN General Assembly, where his annual appearance has frequently focused on Israel's chief enemy, the Islamic republic.

"Israel will never let a regime that calls for our destruction to develop nuclear weapons. Not now, not in 10 years, not ever," he said. "Israel will do whatever it must do to defend itself against Iran's aggression."

"What Iran hides, Israel will find," the prime minister added.

Netanyahu opened his speech by claiming that Iran had a secret atomic warehouse in Tehran, holding up a map and a photograph of an outwardly "innocent looking compound" which he urged the UN atomic agency to inspect.

"Today I'm disclosing for the first time that Iran has another secret facility in Tehran, a secret atomic warehouse for storing massive amounts of equipment and



7 Palestinians killed in new border clashes
US shuts consulate in Iraq's Basra, blames Iran

material from Iran's secret nuclear weapons program," he said.

He also claimed that the Iranian-linked Lebanese Shia militia Hezbollah had positioned three missile sites near Beirut airport, holding up what he called "a picture worth a thousand missiles" and titled "Beirut Precision Guided Missile."

Iranian Foreign Minister Mohammad Javad Zarif later ridiculed Netanyahu's allegations, saying that previous claims by Israel had not stood up to scrutiny when investigated by the UN's International Atomic Energy Agency.

Netanyahu also accused Iranian agents of plotting attacks in the United States and Europe, as well as being an aggressor in the Middle East.

He tore into Europe for its policy of "appeasement" with Iran, a word that evokes in history European capitals' reluctance to stand up against Adolf Hitler in the run-up to World War II.

Later, in an interview with CNN, Netanyahu refused to commit to a two-state solution to Israel's ongoing conflict with Palestinians, despite US President Donald Trump indicating, at least for a time, that

would be his preferred outcome.

Netanyahu in the interview said that in a one-on-one meeting with Trump on the margins of the United Nations General Assembly, the US President asked him, "what would you like to see?"

Netanyahu said he answered that he would like to see the Palestinians be self-governing in a demilitarized state with "none of the powers to threaten us." He said Israel have to have the "overriding security" on its hand.

Meanwhile, seven more Palestinians, including two boys aged 12 and 14, were killed in clashes with Israeli forces along the Gaza border Friday. At least 193 Palestinians have been killed by Israeli fire since March, the majority during border protests, while one Israeli soldier has been shot dead by a Palestinian sniper.

Iraq's foreign ministry voiced "regret" yesterday over a US decision to shut its consulate in the southern city of Basra which has been rocked by weeks of deadly protests.

Secretary of State Mike Pompeo ordered all but emergency staff to leave Basra, with consular duties to be taken over by the embassy in Baghdad. He blamed Iranian militias for "indirect fire" against the US consulate.

China, Russia slam US 'blackmail'

AFP, New York

China and Russia denounced the use of "blackmail" Friday in thinly-veiled rebukes of President Donald Trump, highlighting the chasm between the US and its rivals on issues ranging from trade to the war in Syria.

Days after Trump slapped \$200 billion in tariffs and vowed to press on until China buckles, Foreign Minister Wang Yi told the UN General Assembly that Beijing would not be bowed.

"China will not be blackmailed or yield to pressure," Wang told the chamber amid an escalating trade war between Washington and Beijing.

Russia's foreign minister took to the same stage, condemning countries that resort to "political blackmail, economic pressure and brute force" in a bid to prevent the emergence of rival global powers.

Relations between Washington and both Beijing and Moscow have plummeted in recent months and the General Assembly, the world's biggest annual diplomatic gathering, has if anything witnessed a deepening of divisions since it opened on Tuesday.

Wang did try to play down the spurt in tensions as natural between two major countries and also insisted that China had no ambitions to replace the US as the world's pre-eminent power.

But his speech to the General Assembly contained multiple repudiations of Trump's "America First" foreign policy, which the US president again championed in his own combative speech at the UN this week.

Beijing vows to be 'champion of multilateralism'
Moscow laments US 'attacks' on ME peace process, int'l deals

SAUDI ARABIA-QATAR FEUD

'No progress' despite US-brokered talks

AFP, New York

US Secretary of State Mike Pompeo brought the foreign ministers of Saudi Arabia and Qatar together Friday for the first time since their diplomatic feud erupted but there was no sign of a let-up in tensions between the Gulf powerhouses.

At the start of a meeting with counterparts from the six-nation Gulf Cooperation Council (GCC) along with allies Egypt and Jordan, Pompeo said that those present had "a shared interest in a wide range of security issues."

But speaking to reporters later, Qatar's foreign minister said there had been "no progress" in resolving the more than year-long dispute with Saudi Arabia. He insisted that the gas-rich state remained "open to dialogue" with the Saudis and its allies.

The United States said that all the countries found common cause against Iran, Saudi Arabia's archrival which the Trump administration has been seeking to isolate.

"All participants agreed on the need to confront threats from Iran directed at the region and the United States," the State Department said in a statement.

In apparent reference to Saudi Arabia and Qatar, the statement called for forging greater cooperation in the Middle East "anchored by a united GCC" which could "advance prosperity, security and stability in the region."

Saudi Arabia -- along with its Gulf allies, the United Arab Emirates and Bahrain -- cut diplomatic and trade ties with Qatar in June 2017, accusing it of supporting terrorism and being too close to Iran.

Pakistan 'glorifies killers'

Indian FM, at UN, accuses Pakistan of sheltering terrorists

AGENCIES, Dawn online

Indian External Affairs Minister Sushma Swaraj yesterday slammed Pakistan at the United Nations General Assembly in New York, accusing it of harbouring terrorists and "masking malevolence with duplicity".

Denying the neighbouring nation's charge that India was shying away from talks, Swaraj said it was impossible to speak to a nation where terrorist Hafiz Saeed roams freely proclaimed.

"We have not sabotaged negotiations with Pakistan. We began talks with them because we believed it necessary. They were stalled only because of Pakistan's own behaviour," she said.

To drive home her point, Sushma Swaraj recounted how Prime Minister Narendra Modi had invited all heads

of the South Asian Association for Regional Cooperation (SAARC) to his swearing-in ceremony in 2014.

"We have always preferred the peace option. Even after Imran Khan came to power in Pakistan, we accepted their request for talks. But within hours, they

INDO-PAK TENSIONS



killed three of our policemen in Kashmir."

"Pakistan glorifies killers, refuses to see the blood of innocents, and then throws the dust of deceit on India to cover its own guilt," she said.

Her comments came as Pakistan Foreign Minister Shah Mehmood Qureshi said war with India is not an option for his country to resolve disputes.

In an interview to Al-Jazeera televi-

sion, Qureshi said the new government had inherited strained relations with two key countries -- India and the United States -- and was working to improve ties with both.

His comment came as Indian Union Home Minister Rajnath Singh on Friday hinted that New Delhi is prepared to strike across borders.

Prior to Singh's statement, Indian Army chief Bipin Rawat had said that it was time for another surgical strike, according to NDTV. "I believe there is a need for one more action (surgical strike). But I would not want to disclose how we want to do it," he told India Today in an interview.

On US-Pakistan ties, Qureshi said Pakistan wanted friendly relations with the US, while exercising its option to cultivate relations with China and others.

"We want the US to be friends with Pakistan. We recognise that the US is an important global power, and they will continue to be a military, technological and economic power in the foreseeable future," he said.

Pakistan FM says war with India not an option
India home minister hints at surgical strikes across LoC

Uproar as Pak minister meets with terrorists

DAWN ONLINE

Another case of political interference in official matters surfaced after Punjab Minister for Prisons Zawar Hussain visited the Kot Lakhpat Jail on Thursday and allegedly unlocked high security barracks.

The minister, along with 'six suspected civilians', allegedly held a secret meeting with the militants of banned terror outfits involved in suicide attacks in Lahore and under-trial sectarian inmates. Through this visit to the high-profile prisoners, he created a risk of security lapse as he allegedly unlocked the barracks, housing 109 dangerous terrorists in sheer violation of Pakistan Prisons Rules 1978.

Presently, the jail houses 3,700 convicts and other inmates, including 300 death row prisoners, 45 foreigners, 70 high-profile/sectarian prisoners and those convicted by army courts, besides 2,200 other dangerous convicted inmates.

Minister Zawar Hussain allegedly forced his entry into the jail in the wee hours and stopped the jail superintendent and other senior officials from accompanying him as he went to meet the prisoners, says a detailed report dispatched to the home secretary by the prisons department.

It says the minister allegedly forced all the jail officials to leave the premises and made them wait outside it. He directed the officials not to enter the jail until he completes his 'work' as he seized the keys to the cells/barracks of the high-risk prisoners, unlocked the cells and met and interviewed the prisoners in violation of rules.

On resistance, he locked the official guards of the high-security blocks of the dangerous prisoners in a cell for 'not cooperating with him'.



PHOTO: REUTERS, MAIL ONLINE

The ruins of cars as seen after tsunami hit in Palu, Indonesia. Inset, The ruin of a mosque badly damaged by a the 10ft tall tsunami that an official said swept away houses in at least two cities. Story on page 1.

Release Reuters reporters

Amal Clooney urges Suu Kyi; Mahathir, at UN, lashes out at 'massacre' of Rohingyas in Myanmar

AGENCIES

Prominent human rights lawyer Amal Clooney appealed to Aung San Suu Kyi on Friday over a pardon for two Reuters journalists imprisoned in Myanmar, saying the Nobel laureate held the key to their release.

The two fathers, accused of breaching Myanmar's state secrets law while reporting on a massacre of Rohingyas, were jailed for seven years earlier this month, fueling international outrage.

Clooney said the journalists' families had already submitted a request for their pardon, adding that the president can grant a pardon following consultation with Suu Kyi.

"The government can, if it wants to, end it today," the British-Lebanese lawyer told an event dedicated to press freedom on the sidelines of the United Nations General Assembly. Earlier this month, Suu Kyi defended the jailing of

Wa Lone, 32, and Kyaw Soe Oo, 28, hitting back at global criticism of a trial widely seen as an attempt to muzzle the free press.

"She holds the key. ... The key to truth and accountability, and the key to a more democratic and prosperous Myanmar," Clooney said. "History will judge her on her response."

"If you care about press freedom you care about this case ... Without a free press you cannot have democracy because you don't know how to judge what your government's doing," Clooney told Reuters after the event.

Meanwhile, Malaysian Prime Minister Mahathir Mohamad, while giving his address to the UN General Assembly on Friday, criticised the government of Myanmar for its treatment of its Rohingya Muslim minority and accuses the rest of the world of failing to act.

Mahathir asked fellow leaders: "Nations are independent, but does this mean that they have a right to massacre their own people?"



Powerful Typhoon Trami batters Japan coast

Set to hit mainland early today; dozens injured

AFP, Shibushi

A powerful typhoon pummelled Japan's southern island of Okinawa yesterday, injuring at least 17, as weather officials warned the storm would rip through the Japanese archipelago over the weekend.

Typhoon Trami, packing maximum gusts of 216 kilometres (134 miles) per hour near its centre, was forecast to hit the mainland early today and cause extreme weather across the country into Monday.

Television footage showed branches ripped from trees by strong winds blocking a main street in the regional capital Naha, as well as torrential horizontal rain and massive waves splashing over breakwaters on a remote island in the area.

Local policemen in rain jackets wielding chainsaws were battling the furious wind to remove fallen trees. The gusts were strong enough to overturn a truck and smash the glass windows of a bank.

Some 700 people were evacuated to shelters in Okinawa and electricity was cut to nearly 200,000 homes, public broadcaster NHK said.

At least 386 flights were cancelled, mainly in western Japan, according to NHK.

West Japan Railway said it would suspend all services in the Osaka region and cancel some Shinkansen bullet trains by noon on Sunday.

Seventeen people suffered minor injuries in storm-related accidents in Okinawa and several houses suffered some damage but no one was feared dead, local officials said.

NEWSIN brief

Malaysia's Anwar starts election campaign

AFP, Port Dickson

Malaysian leader-in-waiting Anwar Ibrahim started campaigning yesterday for a poll set to return him to frontline politics -- but faced a surprise challenge from an ex-aide whose sodomy allegations landed the political heavyweight in prison. Anwar is expected to easily win the local election on October 13 and re-enter parliament as an MP, just months after being released from jail following his alliance's shock win at national polls.

No safe passage for Idlib jihadists: Russia

AFP, United Nations

Russia on Friday warned it will not allow jihadists in Syria to be sent to Afghanistan or elsewhere under a deal reached with Turkey that averted a large-scale military assault on rebel-held Idlib province. Under the deal, Turkey agreed to separate opposition fighters from headline jihadists who belong to groups branded as terrorists by the United Nations, but the fate of those extremists remains uncertain.

Merkel, Erdogan vow to rebuild ties

AFP, Berlin

German Chancellor Angela Merkel and Turkish President Recep Tayyip Erdogan vowed Friday to rebuild strained relations after a two-year crisis despite remaining differences on civil rights and other issues. Erdogan was on a state visit to the top EU economy, home to three million people of Turkish descent. The three-day visit is being held under tight security as several protests were planned against the Turkish leader under the banner "Erdogan Not Welcome".