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Weekly World News Briefs

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U.S. General Claims Russia Poses Threat to America's Space Capabilities

June 6, 2019 spacedaily.com reported: "This follows the Russian Foreign Ministry underscoring in April that Moscow is ready and willing to hold a full-fledged dialogue with any country in order to prevent militarisation of outer space.

Air Force General John Raymond, who has been nominated to lead the US Space Command, has claimed that the armed forces of Russia and China are rapidly developing their space capabilities, while the US military's operational advantages in this sector are shrinking.

'We no longer have the luxury of operating in a peaceful, benign domain. And we no longer have the luxury of treating space superiority as a given,' Raymond noted in his written questions posed by lawmakers during a Senate Armed Services Committee hearing to consider his nomination.

He claimed that Russia and China have managed to strengthen their space capabilities over the past few years mainly by 'watching how the United States has integrated its [space] capacities into its military operations'.

'The US military relies on space operations in some capacity for nearly everything it does, from GPS navigation to communications to guiding weapons to specific targets,' Raymond added..."

Iran is 'six months away from an atomic bomb'

June 6, 2019 Arutz Sheva 7 reported: Olli Heinonen, who headed the International Atomic Energy Agency's (IAEA) security team and served as the organizations' deputy director general, on Wednesday morning told Army Radio that Israelis on the whole are not aware of the severity of the Iranian threat.

"Israelis need to be worried, and the Gulf states also have reason for concern," Heinonen said. "How will you be able to ensure your security if Iran achieves nuclear abilities?"

In the full interview, which will be aired Thursday morning, Heinonen said that despite IAEA's claims, Iran can develop nuclear weapons in up to six to eight months..."

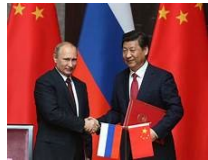
Xi Jinping in Russia to usher 'new era' of friendship

June 5, 2019 spacedaily.com reported: "Chinese President Xi Jinping headed for Russia Wednesday to mark a new era of friendship and reinforce economic ties that had benefitted from Moscow's isolation from the West.

Due to arrive in the early afternoon, Xi will be received with full honours. He will have talks in the Kremlin with President Vladimir Putin before attending a formal reception and in the evening he will attend a night out at the Bolshoi theatre.

The visit comes five years after Moscow's annexation of Crimea in 2014 led to a serious rift with its Western partners and subsequent turn toward its neighbour to the east. From Moscow, Xi will travel to Russia's former imperial capital Saint Petersburg to attend the Economic Forum hosted by Putin on Thursday and Friday.

China and Russia 'have strong political mutual trust and support each other firmly on issues concerning each other's core interests and major concerns,' Xi said during an interview with Russian media ahead of the visit, according to a transcript released by Beijing's official Xinhua news agency..."



Xi Jinping/Vladimir Putin

Alien news: Belief in ET will soon replace faith in GOD - shock claim

June 5, 2019 express.co.uk reported: "More than half of Americans believe in a God, with the figure for those who believe in aliens only slightly lower. One professor, who has authored a new book called American Cosmic, states that a belief in aliens could replace religious beliefs. The book, written by Diana Pasulka, a professor at the University of North Carolina, focuses on why humans chose to believe in the supernatural, and how we use Gods and aliens to explain the unexplainable.

Now, in an interview with Vox, Prof Pasulka explained how the paradigm is shifting from one to another. She said this is because no proof of God has been discovered in human history, while alien life could one day be confirmed..."

"She says we're going to find life, we're going to find habitable planets and things like that. So that gives this type of religiosity a far more powerful bite than the traditional religions, which are based on faith in things unseen and unprovable.

"But the belief that UFOs and aliens are potentially true, and can potentially be proven, makes this a uniquely powerful narrative for the people who believe in it.

"Is it fair to call this a new form of religion? I think so..."

France, India bolster capabilities in Indian Ocean

June 4, 2019 asiatictimes.com reported: "A focus on anti-submarine warfare suggests the 17th edition of Varuna, an annual exercise between the navies of India and France, was aimed at China.

Alarmism over the People's Liberation Army Navy's presence in the Indian Ocean is likely misplaced at the moment, but the rapid growth of Chinese naval forces could change things in the future, with Delhi and Paris teaming up in an anti-China front led by the United States.

The second phase of Varuna was conducted off Djibouti from May 22-25, the French Embassy in India revealed last week. The tiny African nation is home to a French base, as well as to China's first and only overseas naval facility..."

China says U.S. 'playing with fire' over Taiwan

June 4, 2019 sinodaily.com reported: "The United States 'is playing with fire' over Taiwan, Beijing said Thursday, after recent US moves related to the self-ruled island — including the transit of warships through the Taiwan Strait.

The United States diplomatically recognises China over Taiwan, but Beijing has bristled at the close relations between Washington and the self-ruled democratic island.

'The US recently often played the Taiwan card, in a vain attempt to use Taiwan to contain China. This is purely wishful thinking,' Chinese defence ministry spokesman Wu Qian said at a monthly press briefing.

China sees Taiwan as part of its territory to be reunified, despite the two sides having been ruled separately since the end of a civil war on the mainland in 1949.

Two US warships sailed through the Taiwan Strait last week in what the US Navy described as a routine transit in accordance with international law, triggering a protest from Beijing..."

Sexually transmitted superbug warning as infections soar 26% in a year

June 3, 2019 independent.co.uk reported: "Gonorrhoea diagnoses in England have risen to their highest level for 40 years and jumped 26 per cent since 2017, sparking warnings from health chiefs about the threat from drug resistant strains.



Public Health England figures show there were 447,694 sexually transmitted infections diagnosed in 2018, a rise of 5 per cent in a year. The biggest increase was in gonorrhoea where there were 56,259 cases diagnosed, 14,000 more than in 2017.

Experts warned about the UK's first case of "super-gonorrhoea" a year ago, although the man was eventually cured it required extensive treatment with a cocktail of drugs usually held in reserve for the most serious infection.

"This is of concern given the three cases of extensively drug resistant *Neisseria gonorrhoeae* identified in England in 2018," PHE warned.

"The number of gonorrhoea diagnoses in 2018 was the largest annual number reported since 1978, since 2009, gonorrhoea diagnoses have risen by 249 per cent (from 16,141 to 56,259), mostly due to increases among gay, bisexual and other men who have sex with men..."

China will not renounce use of force in Taiwan reunification

June 3, 2019 sinodaily.com reported: "China will not renounce the use of force in the reunification of Taiwan, the country's defence minister said Sunday, calling it 'very dangerous' to underestimate Beijing's will.

'We will strive for the process of peaceful reunification with utmost sincerity and greatest efforts but we make no promise to renounce the use of force,' General Wei Fenghe told an international security conference in Singapore.

'Any underestimation of the PLA's (People's Liberation Army) resolve and will is extremely dangerous,' he said, calling it the army's 'sacred duty' to defend Chinese territory..."

China will double its nuclear warheads in next 10 years, DIA chief says

June 2, 2019 spacedaily.com reported: "China will double its stockpile of nuclear weapons in the next decade, the chief of the U.S. Defense Intelligence Agency said.

Speaking to the Hudson Institute in Washington, D.C., Lt. Gen. Robert Ashley added that assessments indicate Russia violated a 1996 treaty banning nuclear detonation tests that could cause a self-sustaining chain reaction.

'Over the next decade, China is likely to at least double the size of its nuclear stockpile in the course of implementing the most rapid expansion and diversification of its nuclear arsenal in China's history,' Ashley said on Wednesday. 'Last year, China launched more ballistic missiles for testing and training than the rest of the world combined.'

'We expect this modernization to continue and this trajectory is consistent with Chinese President Xi's vision for China's military, which he laid out at the 19th Party Congress and stated that China's military will be 'fully transformed into a first tier force' by 2050,' Ashley said.

He added that the estimate of China's available nuclear weapons is in the 'low, couple of hundred' of warheads..."

'We are ready' for any Iranian proxy attack, says senior Israel Navy officer

June 2, 2019 jpost.com reported: "With tensions high between the United States and Iran, the Israel Navy is prepared for any threat posed by Hezbollah, Iran's terror proxy in Lebanon.

While Israel has remained officially mum on the war of words between Tehran and Washington, the IDF is well aware of the strategic threat a war between the two foes could pose to the Jewish state.

'In every war the sea will be involved,' a senior navy officer told The Jerusalem Post. 'If there is war tomorrow, the navy is ready. Our readiness is high at all times.'

The sea, he said, is 'an open theater where there are no borders but which every enemy wants to win. We have to be superior. We protect our borders where there are no walls, but there are multiple enemies.'

As the navy increases in importance, especially in regard to protecting the country's coastline from waterborne threats as well as providing protection to the country's gas fields and shipping lanes, interest in the Naval Officer's Course has grown..."