

The week ending May 29, 2015

IRAN

France warns Iran over nuclear deal as deadline nears

France warned on Wednesday it was ready to block a final deal between Iran and the six major powers on Iran's nuclear program unless Tehran provided inspectors access to all installations, including military sites. According to [Reuters](#), Iran's supreme leader, Ayatollah Ali Khamenei, last week ruled out international inspection of Iran's military sites or access to nuclear scientists under any agreement. Iran's military leaders echoed his remarks. "France will not accept (a deal) if it is not clear that inspections can be done at all Iranian installations, including military sites," French Foreign Minister Laurent Fabius told lawmakers in Paris. As talks resumed in Vienna on Wednesday to bridge gaps in negotiating positions before a June 30 deadline, the United States said it was not considering an extension, despite comments from France and Iran indicating wiggle room. "We're not contemplating any extension beyond June 30," State Department spokesman Jeff Rathke told reporters in Washington, saying the United States believed it was possible to meet the self-imposed deadline. To that end, U.S. Secretary of State John Kerry will meet his Iranian counterpart, Javad Zarif, in Geneva on May 30. The lead U.S. negotiator, Wendy Sherman, flew to Vienna on Wednesday for nuclear talks among Iran and the major powers and will join Kerry in Geneva before resuming talks in the Austrian capital.

Iran, North Korea forging ballistic, nuclear ties: dissidents

An exiled Iranian opposition group said on Thursday a delegation of North Korean experts in nuclear warheads and ballistic missiles visited a military site near Tehran in April amid talks between world powers and Iran over its nuclear program, reports [Reuters](#). The dissident National Council of Resistance of Iran (NCRI) exposed Iran's uranium enrichment plant at Natanz and a heavy water facility at Arak in 2002. But analysts say it has a mixed track record and a clear political agenda. Iran says allegations of nuclear bomb research are baseless and forged by its enemies. Citing information from sources inside Iran, including within Iran's Revolutionary Guards Corps, the Paris-based NCRI said the seven person North Korean Defence Ministry team were in Iran for the last week of April. It was the third time in 2015 that North Koreans had been to Iran and a nine person delegation was due to return in June, it said. "The delegates included nuclear experts, nuclear warhead experts and experts in various elements of ballistic missiles including guidance systems," NCRI said.

ISRAEL AND THE PALESTINIANS

After Rocket Attack, Israeli Jets Strike Targets in Gaza Strip

The Israeli Air Force launched airstrikes on the Gaza Strip early Wednesday morning, hours after a projectile fired from the coastal enclave fell in southern Israel, causing no damage, reports [The Times of Israel](#). The IDF said in a statement that it targeted four sites of terror infrastructure in the southern Gaza Strip in response to the rocket fire at southern Israel on Tuesday evening. The military said it confirmed direct hits. Defense Minister Moshe Ya'alon said Wednesday morning that Israel wouldn't tolerate a return to regular rocket fire from the Gaza Strip, adding that if calm doesn't return to the south the residents of Gaza would pay a heavy price. He said Israel holds Hamas responsible for

all hostilities toward Israel from the Gaza Strip. A rocket fired from the Gaza Strip hit southern Israel on Tuesday night, shortly after 9 p.m. as alarms sounded across the region, the Israeli army said. Israel is wary of Gaza terrorist groups rearming after Operation Protective Edge.

ISRAEL IN THE NEWS

Education Minister tries his hand at teaching math

Education Minister Naftali Bennett tried his hand at teaching a sixth grade math class at the Krol High School in Petah Tikva Thursday morning, reports [The Jerusalem Post](#). This comes the week after his inaugural speech as incoming education minister, in which he warned of the "strategic danger" he sees in the decreasing number of high school students matriculating with five points in math, the highest math matriculation in the system. "We must not allow the continued and drastic decrease in the number of students matriculating with five points in math. This isn't a statistical number – these are the future developers we are losing, these are the next Iron Dome developers that will not exist, these are the future brains of Israel that simply won't fulfill their potential in the world," Bennett said, speaking to the class of sixth grade math students. "The success of your generation in math will determine the success of the State of Israel," he continued. "This is a strategic threat that endangers the future of the state, and I chose to give my first lesson while on the job in mathematics to show the students the importance I see in the subject. Our challenge is to make you love the subjects of math and sciences, and to understand that it is the key to success in any profession you choose to pursue in the future."