

The week ending June 5, 2015

IRAN

Iran's Nuclear Stockpile Grows, Complicating Negotiations

With only one month left before a deadline to complete a nuclear deal with Iran, international inspectors have reported that Tehran's stockpile of nuclear fuel increased about 20 percent over the last 18 months of negotiations, partially undercutting the Obama administration's contention that the Iranian program had been "frozen" during that period, reports [The New York Times](#). The extent to which Iran's stockpile has increased was documented in a report issued Friday by the International Atomic Energy Agency, the United Nations organization that monitors compliance with nuclear treaties. The overall increase in Iran's stockpile poses a major diplomatic and political challenge for President Obama and Secretary of State John Kerry... [Because] the administration will have to convince Congress and America's allies that Iran will shrink its stockpile by 96 percent in a matter of months after a deal is signed, even while it continues to produce new material and has demonstrated little success in reducing its current stockpile.

Iran Military Prowess Advances Amid Nuclear Talks, Pentagon Says

As recently as last week, the U.S. Department of Defense assessed that Iran was still developing technologies that can be used in order to produce nuclear weapons, despite the fact that the Islamic Republic has been engaged in negotiations with world powers aimed at curbing its atomic program, [Bloomberg](#) reported Thursday. Quoting an unclassified summary from a Pentagon document on Iran's military capabilities, the report said that Tehran has been conducting research that "could be applicable to nuclear weapons," but has nevertheless "fulfilled its obligations" to the P5+1 world powers and "paused progress" in parts of its nuclear program. Iran also continues to develop its capabilities to control the Strait of Hormuz—the No. 1 global choke point for oil transit—and avenues of approach in the event of a military conflict. It's "quietly fielding increasingly lethal weapon systems, including more advanced naval mines, small but capable submarines, armed unmanned aerial vehicles, coastal defense cruise missile batteries, attack craft and anti-ship-capable missiles," the Pentagon said.

ISRAEL AND THE PALESTINIANS

Israeli planes strike Gaza after rockets hit south

Israeli Air Force planes bombed three targets in the Gaza Strip after midnight on Thursday, shortly after rockets fired from the Hamas-controlled territory hit southern Israel, reports [The Times of Israel](#). The IDF confirmed three airstrikes on "terrorist infrastructure" in the Gaza Strip that scored direct hits. Hamas media reports said one airstrike targeted a Hamas military training ground in the central Gaza Strip and another hit targets in the southern city of Khan Yunis. There were no immediate reports of casualties in the attacks. IDF Spokesman Lt. Col.

Peter Lerner said in a statement that the Israeli military “will act against the aggression, will act against those that wish to terrorize Israel and will act to protect Israelis in the line of indiscriminate Gaza rocket fire.” The airstrikes came a few hours after three rockets were shot at southern Israel from the Gaza Strip Wednesday night, sending residents hurrying to bomb shelters for the second time in a little over a week. Last week’s attack marked the first time a Grad rocket, which can go farther than the smaller Kassams more commonly shot out of Gaza, had been fired at Israel since the war.

ISRAEL IN THE NEWS

Hebrew University unveils new statue of Albert Einstein on Jerusalem campus

According to [The Jerusalem Post](#), to commemorate the 100-year anniversary of Albert Einstein’s publication of the *Theory of Relativity*, and the 60th anniversary of his death, a bronze statue of the renowned theoretical physicist was unveiled on Wednesday at the Hebrew University in Jerusalem. The 2.5 meter monument, designed by sculptor Georgy Frangulyan in Moscow, sits on the Edmond J. Safra campus in front of the National Library, next to the departments of mathematics and physics. It is the capital’s second statue dedicated to Einstein, who was one of the university’s founders and most ardent supporters. Indeed, Einstein bequeathed the university his writings, intellectual heritage, and the rights to his image. A supporter of the Zionist movement, Einstein was offered Israel’s first presidency. Apart from co-founding the university, he served on its board of governors, chaired the academic committee, and gave the first scientific lecture there. He willed his personal archives and the rights to his works to the university, where most of his writings are located on the Edmond J. Safra Campus, including his publication of the Theory of Relativity, $E=mc^2$.

Israel's Knesset includes more women than ever before

Israel’s newly elected Knesset is barely two months old, and for all the challenges it has faced—including international pressure for a two-state solution, a struggle to form a coalition, and a plan to segregate buses that brought widespread criticism—the legislative body is already enjoying one major success: There are more women in Knesset now than there have ever been before. “If you don’t have women around the table, then decisions are made according to what’s convenient for men, not what’s convenient for women,” said Rachel Azaria, a first-term Knesset member with the Kulanu party. “Every Knesset, one after another, the number of women have been growing,” said Azaria, “and this is part of the way things are moving ahead. And I hope that one day we will be 50%. I think that will happen.” According to [CNN](#), of the 120 Knesset members, 29 are women, who come from all across the political spectrum. The Knesset is 24.2% female, which puts it ahead of the United States, where 19.4% of Congress is female, but behind the United Kingdom’s 29.4%. According to the Inter-Parliamentary Union, Rwanda leads the world in female representation. Rwanda’s Chamber of Deputies is 64% female. Many women in Israel’s Knesset want to require parties to have at least 40% women, which would more accurately mirror the general population. Now, only the left-wing Meretz party would meet that requirement.