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Analysis Pressure Mounts on Iran, but Drums of War Have Not Yet Sounded

Trump seems to stand by promise not to engage in more pointless Mideast wars. The dangerous competition between Hamas, Islamic Jihad in Gaza. What will the next Independence Day look like?

Amos Harel **May 10, 2019** 5:11 AM
comments Zen

The temperature in the Middle East is slowly rising, but insofar as it's possible to predict, we aren't on the brink of war between America and Iran. U.S. President Donald Trump promised his voters to refrain...

Opinion How the War Between America and Iran Will Start

Iran is laying trip-wires for a violent, costly escalation. America's response will be determined by a besieged president, an administration led by anti-Iran hawks and a pre-occupied Congress

Warren Getler **May 10, 2019** 7:52 AM
21 comments Zen

There are growing signs that there could be escalation at the edge provocative attacks by pro-Iranian Shia forces operating in the Wild West of Iraq. How will America handle this form of escalation with...

The U.S. boosted tariffs from 10 percent to 25 percent on \$200 billion worth of Chinese goods on Friday.

President Trump tweeted Friday that the "process is in place" to levy an expanded round of tariffs on the remainder of Chinese imports.

Mr. Trump said there is "no need to rush" trade negotiations.

After the U.S. increased tariffs from 10 percent to 25 percent on \$200 billion worth of Chinese goods, President Donald Trump said Friday that the "process is in place" to levy an expanded round of tariffs on effectively the remainder of Chinese imports, totaling \$325 billion.

While U.S. and Chinese officials ended two days of trade negotiations without a deal, Mr. Trump said over Twitter that "Talks with China continue in a very congenial manner - there is absolutely no need to rush."

Asked later by reporters at the White House how the meeting had gone, U.S. Treasury Secretary Steven Mnuchin said tersely, "Constructive." Asked if another meeting with the Chinese was planned, he said, "Nothing planned as of now," before walking away.

....The process has begun to place additional Tariffs at 25% on the remaining 325 Billion Dollars. The U.S. only sells China approximately 100 Billion Dollars of goods & products, a very big imbalance. With the over 100 Billion Dollars in Tariffs that we take in, we will buy.....

— Donald J. Trump (@realDonaldTrump) May 10, 2019

The Chinese vowed "countermeasures," without providing details. The White House said late Thursday talks would continue Friday despite that the tariffs went into effect at midnight. Treasury Secretary Steven Mnuchin and U.S. Trade Representative Robert Lighthizer had a working dinner Thursday with Vice Premier Liu He.

Drones Used Missiles With Knife Warhead To Take Out Single Terrorist Targets
(arstechnica.com) 263

Posted by BeauHD on Friday May 10, 2019 @06:00AM from the target-acquired dept.
Zorro shares a report from The Wall Street Journal:

The U.S. government has developed a specially designed, **secret missile for pinpoint airstrikes that kill terrorist leaders with no explosion** (Warning: source paywalled; alternative source), drastically reducing damage and **minimizing the chances of civilian casualties**. Both the Central Intelligence Agency and the Pentagon have used the weapon while closely guarding its existence. A modified version of the well-known Hellfire missile, the weapon carries an inert warhead. Instead of exploding, it is designed to plunge more than **100 pounds of metal through the tops of cars and buildings** to kill its target without harming individuals and property close by.

To the targeted person, it is as if a speeding anvil fell from the sky, the officials said. But this **variant of the Hellfire missile**, designated as the **R9X**, also comes equipped with a different kind of payload: a **halo of six long blades that are stowed inside and then deploy through the skin of the missile seconds before impact, shredding anything in its tracks**. The R9X is known colloquially to the small community of individuals who are familiar with its use as "**the flying Ginsu**," for the **blades that can cut through buildings or car roofs and kill the target**. The nickname is a reference to the popular knives sold on TV infomercials in the late 1970s and early 1980s that showed them cutting through both tree branches and tomatoes. The weapon has also been referred to as the Ninja bomb.