



WRATH OF IRAN: Israeli security forces surveyed a site struck by an Iranian missile in Dimona on Sunday. With Tehran's refusal to lift its chokehold on the Strait of Hormuz, U.S. strikes on power centers would mark a major escalation in the war, now entering its fourth week.

MIDDLE EAST

U.S. threatens to strike Iran power grid

War enters perilous new phase with Tehran rejecting ultimatum

By VAUGHN COCKAYNE
THE WASHINGTON TIMES

Iranian officials remained adamant Sunday that the Strait of Hormuz would remain closed, despite threats from President Trump that U.S. forces could take out Iran's power plants if the strategic waterway is not opened by Monday.

Abbas Araghchi, Iran's foreign minister, said the strait remains effectively closed to most ships because companies that insure commercial shipping vessels are unwilling to take the extreme risk.

"Strait of Hormuz is not closed. Ships hesitate because insurers fear the war of choice you initiated — not Iran. No insurer — and no Iranian — will be swayed by more threats. Try respect," Mr. Araghchi wrote Sunday on X.

"Freedom of Navigation cannot exist without Freedom of Trade. Respect both — or expect neither," he wrote.

Iranian military spokesperson Ebrahim Zolfanghari struck a similar tone earlier Sunday. He insisted that his nation would retaliate against U.S., Israeli and Persian Gulf states "fuel, energy, information technology and desalination infrastructure" if Mr.

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STUCK IN A WAR: Iran has vowed to keep the Strait of Hormuz closed until the United States and Israel stop their attacks. Gulf nations' costs for defense from Tehran's retribution have been staggering.

PERSIAN GULF

Missile strikes shatter Gulf image of stability

By VAUGHN COCKAYNE
THE WASHINGTON TIMES

Iran's scattershot attacks on its Persian Gulf neighbors are taking a toll on the carefully crafted reputations of stability that countries such as Saudi Arabia and the United Arab Emirates have built in recent years, potentially disrupting billions of dollars in Western investment as the U.S. and Iran threaten to intensify

attacks on energy infrastructure in the region.

Additionally, the Strait of Hormuz, the strategic waterway used to transport 20% of the world's oil, has remained closed. The Iranian leadership has promised to keep it closed until attacks cease.

President Trump demanded Saturday that Iran reopen the strait within 48 hours or face attacks on its domestic power stations, which could cut electricity

for millions of Iranians.

Iran said it would respond in kind and vowed to hit power sites across the Middle East, including those in Gulf states.

Iran has shown a clear desire to expand its targets over the past three weeks of war. It has struck at the energy infrastructure, civilian architecture and Western-linked financial centers

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SECURITY

Trump deploys ICE to airports to aid TSA staff

Temporary solution to work crisis sets off political firestorm

By SETH McLAUGHLIN AND LINDSEY McPHERSON
THE WASHINGTON TIMES

President Trump is sending ICE agents to airports starting Monday to help relieve security lines despite sharp criticism from Democrats and the union representing Transportation Security Administration workers.

Democrats said posting U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement agents at airports without training could lead to more chaos and potentially violence.

Some Republicans said they were "not a fan" of the move, as Sen. Lisa Murkowski of Alaska put it.

Senate Majority Leader John Thune, South Dakota Republican, called the ICE deployment a tool of "last resort" stemming from Democrats' refusal to fund the Department of Homeland Security despite some White House concessions on immigration enforcement demands.

"If the Democrats do not allow for Just and Proper Security at our Airports, and elsewhere



PUBLIC'S PROBLEM: Air travelers have faced waits of two or three hours in security lines at major U.S. airports.

throughout our Country, ICE will do the job far better than ever done before!" Mr. Trump said on social media. "The Fascist Democrats will never protect America, but the Republicans will."

White House border czar Tom Homan confirmed that the deployment would begin Monday. He said Mr. Trump called him Sunday morning and made

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NARCOTICS

Fentanyl overdose deaths plummet to unprecedented lows

Global supply shifts take hold

By TOM HOWELL JR.
THE WASHINGTON TIMES

Drug overdose deaths have fallen during President Trump's second term alongside his get-tough approach to fentanyl that includes sealing the border, killing foreign drug traffickers and rescheduling synthetic opioids to deliver harsher criminal sentences.

Roughly 68,000 people died of drug overdoses in the U.S. in the 12 months ended in October, the most recent point for which federal data is available. It was a 20% drop from the same measure in October 2024.

The decline is a continuation

of the dramatic drop in overdose morbidity that began in mid-2023 and continued through the second half of President Biden's term.

Overdose deaths peaked at a one-year rate of 111,466 in June 2023 before plummeting.

Deaths from synthetic opioids, specifically, which includes fentanyl, halved from an annual rate of about 80,000 in late 2023 to 40,000 in the year leading to October 2025, according to

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► Memphis experiencing decline in violent crime. **A6**

ENERGY

Nuclear recycling campuses slash need for buried radioactive dumps

By SUSAN FERRECHIO
THE WASHINGTON TIMES

Forget nuclear waste dumps such as the now-abandoned site at Nevada's Yucca Mountain.

The federal government is pushing for the development of "nuclear lifecycle innovation campuses" across the U.S. that will reuse much of the spent fuel from nuclear reactors to generate additional energy and eliminate the need for a single, massive underground storage site

for radioactive waste.

Recycling allows 97% of spent fuel, most of it uranium, to be reused as fuel in nuclear reactors. Plutonium in spent fuel can be recycled for use in conventional nuclear reactors. France, Japan, Germany, Belgium and Russia recycle plutonium from nuclear fuel waste.

The new program, outlined by nuclear energy experts at a recent Senate Energy and Natural Resources Committee hearing, marks a significant shift away

from the decades-old plan to store the nation's radioactive waste at a single location.

The plan to use Yucca Mountain as the nation's nuclear waste repository was all but abandoned because of public and political opposition, even though Congress designated it in 2002 as the nation's sole location for burying high-level radioactive waste and spent nuclear fuel.

President Trump, who was once in favor of building a national nuclear waste repository at

Yucca Mountain, made a pivotal shift at the end of his first term as he sought to maintain support for his reelection bid in the swing state of Nevada. Democrats and many state residents sought to block the project, and Mr. Trump sided with them months before the 2020 election.

"Nevada, I hear you on Yucca Mountain and my Administration will RESPECT you," Mr. Trump said on social media in February 2020.

Mr. Trump's post ended any

chance of reviving the Yucca Mountain nuclear waste disposal project. He promised at the time to explore "innovative approaches" for dealing with left-over radioactive material.

Though Mr. Trump lost the 2020 election, his nuclear waste disposal plan is advancing rapidly in his second term. Theodore J. Garrish, assistant secretary of energy for nuclear energy, told Senate lawmakers.

Two dozen states have signaled interest in serving as areas

for industrialization. This all-inclusive designation would require building campuses with infrastructure capable of fully supporting nuclear power, such as enriching uranium, enabling the recycling of radioactive waste and storing what is left.

The campuses could house advanced nuclear reactors and power-hungry data centers, which, if located together, could save significant money, Mr.

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POLITICS

Speaker under pressure to pass FISA provision before it expires. **A4**

NATION

Musk found liable for defrauding investors in Twitter purchase. **A6**

WORLD

Justice referendum becomes major test for Italy's Meloni. **A8**

REGION

Pentagon to keep Guard in District to end of Trump's term. **A10**

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