



ISRAEL STRIKES AGAIN

Days after President Trump announced a Gaza ceasefire, the Israeli military said it launched attacks on Hamas. Page A11

One Tough Cookie

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ANALYSIS

US headed for strategic loss in Iran, allies fear

BY STEVEN ERLANGER
The New York Times

BERLIN — To America's allies, President Donald Trump's war in Iran, now in its sixth month, seems headed for a strategic defeat. They worry that the inability of the United States to turn military superiority into a sustainably changed Iran has displayed a vulnerability that Russia and China will welcome. In addition, Trump's goals remain unmet, and the U.S. military is running short on key armaments that it needs for global reach.

MORE ON WAR

- Scope of hacks on U.S. water supply widens, evidence points to Iran, Page A10
- Kuwait says it downed Iranian drones, Page A7
- General warns Pentagon he lacks sufficient forces to protect Israel, Page A7

For the moment, Iran is seemingly resolute under a more radical government, its nuclear and ballistic missile programs are degraded but not destroyed, and the Strait of Hormuz is effectively under its control. The war has left the United States and Israel in weaker positions — and blaming each other for the mess.

Iranian missiles and drones not only restrict traffic through the strait and damage the economic infrastructure of allied energy production, but they also continue to threaten U.S. bases across the Middle East and have killed or injured American service members.

With Trump's aims shifting, Washington is losing credibility both militarily

SEE IRAN, PAGE A7

WEATHER

Hot, humid and cloudy.
High: 82°; Low: 70°
EXPANDED WEATHER, B3

The KING Of Auto Body Shops

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AMHERST

Some in Mass. worry about repercussions of China's ethnic unity law

The long reach of

REPRESSION



Visitors walk past a window through which a symbol of the Chinese Communist Party is visible at the Nanhu Revolutionary Memorial Hall museum in Jiaxing, China, on Sept. 21, 2019. (YAN CONG / THE NEW YORK TIMES)



BY DANIEL JACKSON
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A new law that went into effect in China at the beginning of July has some in Massachusetts worried that the country might go to even greater lengths to squash dissent outside its borders.

Thondup Tsering, a Tibetan activist who lives in Western Massachusetts, said he wouldn't be surprised if China used the law to target members of the approximately 200-person Tibetan community around Amherst for practicing its culture and traditions.

Thondup Tsering stands in downtown Amherst on July 21. He recently completed his term representing North America in the 17th Tibetan Parliament-in-Exile. (DOUGLAS HOOK / THE REPUBLICAN)

"It's possible. It's very possible," Tsering said. "I mean, (the) Chinese government's arm is very long."

In March, China passed an ethnic unity law that codifies aggressive efforts to assimilate the 56 ethnic groups living in the country, according to the Council on Foreign Relations.

China's law requires governments to communicate in Mandarin and for schools to teach in Mandarin, Tsering said. However, the full sacred texts of Tibetan Buddhism are in the Tibetan language.

"If Tibetans are to lose their language, we are going to lose our culture, we are going to lose our identity," said Tsering, whose term in the Tibetan Parliament-in-Exile ended in May.

Illegal agents of the PRC

The law includes a provision that authorizes Chinese officials to act against people who work in opposition to the country's assimilation goals

— even if they live outside China.

China's ethnic unity law "weaponized their domestic legislation into a tool for transnational repression and global censorship," said Director General Charles Liao of the Taiwan consulate in Boston in an interview with The Republican.

Even before the law went into effect, China has worked to surveil and target dissidents in the United States, according to the U.S. Department of Justice.

In May, a man in New York City was convicted for operating a foreign police station in Manhattan's Chinatown on behalf of the Chinese agency that carries out that government's domestic law enforcement and intelligence gathering.

The U.S. Attorney's Office said Lu Jianwang faces up to 30 years in prison for illegally acting as an agent of the People's Republic of China. Among his duties at the police station: tracking down the whereabouts of a pro-democracy

SEE REACH, PAGE A6

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