

US ups pressure on Europe over 5G

Washington, United States

The US upped pressure on Europe Wednesday to avoid turning to Huawei for 5G telecom infrastructure, with a top commander saying NATO forces would cease communicating with their German colleagues if Berlin teams up with the Chinese firm.

The US and several other Western nations, fearful of the security risks posed by a company closely tied to the Chinese government, have shut Huawei out of tenders for the development of super-fast fifth-generation, or 5G, networks.

"We're concerned about their telecommunications backbone being compromised in the sense that, particularly with 5G, the bandwidth capability and ability to pull data is incredible," US General Curtis Scaparrotti, NATO's Supreme Allied Commander in Europe, told US lawmakers.

"If it also is inside of their defense communications, then we're not going to communicate with them" across those systems, the general said before the House Armed Services Committee.

"And for the military, that would be a problem."

Scaparrotti's comments came during questioning about trade talks in Europe, and Germany in particular, with Chi-



US General Curtis Scaparrotti

nese telecom groups such as Huawei.

Chinese law obliges companies headquartered in the country to provide technical assistance to intelligence services, but Huawei has strenuously denied allegations its equipment could be used for espionage.

Kathryn Wheelbarger, acting US assistant secretary of defense for international affairs, told the committee Huawei represents a "threat" to Europe.

Private and military concerns

"I can assure you that in all our conversations with all our European partners, we make very clear the threat of Chinese investment or development of the telecommunications infrastructure in Europe," Wheelbarger said.

The fields near Minhla, north of Yangon, are Myanmar's equivalent of the American Wild West, where informal oil entrepreneurs scramble from site to site in the hope of striking lucky. It is a hard way to make a living. A forest of temporary "derrick", three legged pyramids made from metal or bamboo stretching 30 feet or more into the air, covers the hillsides.

more than a kilometre into the ground.

Each is manned by a team working round-the-clock, often caked in black, viscous grime as they wait for a potentially lucrative spurt of oil.

"It's like the lottery," shouts Than Moe over the deafening noise of generators powering the field's hundreds of drills.

As he cooks up some rice for his crew of seven, he explains that setting up a drilling opera-

UAE port operator's profit rise

Dubai, United Arab Emirates

Dubai port and logistics giant DP World said yesterday its net profit for 2018 rose over five percent on increased trade and higher returns from new acquisitions.

The global provider, which runs port operations in over 40 countries, said in a statement that it posted a net profit of \$1.27 billion in 2018, compared to \$1.21 billion the previous year.

"This robust performance has been delivered in an uncertain trade environment, once again highlighting the resilience of our portfolio," said DP World chairman and CEO Sultan Ahmed bin Sulayem.

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DP WORLD CHAIRMAN AND CEO



He said DP World had made new acquisitions worth \$2.5 billion last year, strengthening its presence around the world. They included Berbera port in

Somaliland, Continental Warehousing Corp. in India, Cosmos Agencia Maritima in Peru, and the Unifeeder Group in Denmark, as well as the pan-Eu-

ropean logistics business P&O Ferries.

The state-owned company said its revenue for the year rose 20 per cent to \$5.65 billion, with important contributions from new acquisitions.

Its capital expenditure on the company for the year, however, hit just \$908 billion -- well short of the planned \$1.4 billion.

It said it plans to invest up to \$1.4 billion this year.

DP World said it had transported some 71.4 million standard containers in 2018, up around two percent on the previous year. It has the capacity to handle 91 million standard containers.

US, India commit to building six nuclear plants

Reuters | Washington

The United States and India on Wednesday agreed to strengthen security and civil nuclear cooperation, including building six US nuclear power plants in India, the two countries said in a joint statement.

The agreement came after two days of talks in Washington. The United States under President Donald Trump has been looking to sell more energy products to India, the world's third-biggest buyer of oil.

The talks involved Indian Foreign Secretary Vijay Gokhale



India's Foreign Secretary Vijay Gokhale

and Andrea Thompson, the US undersecretary of state for arms control and international security.

"They committed to strengthen bilateral security and civil nuclear cooperation, including the establishment of six US nuclear power plants in India," the joint statement said.

It gave no further details of the nuclear plant project.

The two countries have been discussing the supply of US nuclear reactors to energy-hungry India for more than a decade,

but a longstanding obstacle has been the need to bring Indian liability rules in-line with international norms, which require the costs of any accident to be channelled to the operator rather than the maker of a nuclear power station.

India plans to triple its nuclear capacity by 2024 to wean Asia's third-largest economy off polluting fossil fuels.

Last October, India and Russia signed a pact to build six more nuclear reactors at a new site in India following summit talks between their leaders in New Delhi.

Myanmar's black gold lures plucky oil drillers

Minhla, Myanmar

As clouds of acrid, black smoke belched above the flames engulfing an artisanal oil field in central Myanmar, prospectors from nearby hillsides arrived in droves, hoping for riches from a fresh line of black gold.

"The fire's a really good sign -- it means there's lots of oil here," Khin Maung Htay tells as he scouted around the site just hours after the blaze was

guished, some trudge knee-deep through a river of oozing filth, overspill from the wells mixing with water left behind by fire trucks, scraping up any oil they can salvage.

People here dismiss the risks involved.

"The fires aren't dangerous. They happen all the time," one man says without giving his name.

"We're just worried about losing money."



Workers filling barrels with crude oil at an informal oil field in Minhla township, central Myanmar. The weekend's blaze extinguished, some trudge knee-deep through a river of oozing filth, overspill from the wells mixing with water left behind by fire trucks, scraping up any oil they can salvage.



A woman salvaging spilled oil from a pond filled with mud and filth at an informal oil field in Minhla township, central Myanmar. The weekend's blaze extinguished, some trudge knee-deep through a river of oozing filth, overspill from the wells mixing with water left behind by fire trucks, scraping up any oil they can salvage.



Workers operating machines to extract crude oil from a well at an informal oil field in Minhla township, central Myanmar.



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