

Iran points at U.S. and warns of new nuclear arms race

UNITED NATIONS (AP) — Iran's deputy foreign minister pointed at the United States in warning on Tuesday that a new nuclear arms race and new competition to modernize nuclear weapons are starting.

Abbas Araghchi made the comments during a high-level meeting of the U.N. General Assembly to promote International

Day for the Total Elimination of Nuclear Weapons, calling that goal "a legal, political and moral responsibility."

But, he said, despite the cessation of the nuclear arms race for the last decades, "recently we hear (an) alarming announcement by a nuclear-weapon state that it intends to continuously strengthen and expand its nuclear arsenal to ensure its place 'at the top of the pack.'"

This was a clear reference to U.S. President Donald Trump's comment in February that "a dream

would be that no country would have nukes, but if countries are going to have nukes, we're going to be at the top of the pack."

Araghchi called that statement "a clear indication of, and an explicit invitation to, the start of a new nuclear arms race."

Saudi Arabia to allow women to drive for 1st time next year

RIYADH, Saudi Arabia (AP) — Women will be allowed to drive for

the first time next summer in Saudi Arabia, the ultra-conservative kingdom announced Tuesday, marking a significant expansion of women's rights in the only the country that barred them from getting behind the wheel.

While women in other Muslim countries drove freely, the kingdom's blanket ban attracted negative publicity for years. Neither Islamic law nor Saudi traffic law explicitly prohibited women from driving, but they were not issued licenses and were detained if they attempted to drive.

Prince Khaled bin Salman, Saudi Arabia's ambassador to Washington and the king's son, said letting women drive is a "huge step forward" and that "society is ready."

"This is the right time to do the right thing," he told reporters in the U.S. Women will be allowed to obtain licenses without the permission of a male relative.

The announcement came in the form of a royal decree that was reported late Tuesday by the state-run Saudi Press Agency and state TV.



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