



# PROPHETIC TIMES

WEEKLY WORLD NEWS UPDATE

OAKLAND, CALIFORNIA

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## POPE CLOSE TO DEATH, RECEIVES COMMUNION -VATICAN

*April 1, 2005* Reuters reported: "Pope John Paul was in a "very grave" condition on Friday and appeared close to death after suffering cardio-circulatory collapse and shock, the Vatican said in a statement."

## POPE IN 'VERY GRAVE' CONDITION -VATICAN

*April 1, 2005* Reuters reported: "Pope John Paul's condition was "very grave" on Friday, the Vatican said in a statement, adding that the Pontiff had suffered shock and cardio-circulatory collapse.

Vatican spokesman Joaquin Navarro-Valls said the Pope had been given the Holy Viaticum -- communion reserved for those close to death -- and had decided himself not to go to hospital for treatment.

The statement said the Pope had received cardio-respiratory assistance on Thursday and on Friday morning was still "conscious, lucid and tranquil."

## NEW REPORT PREDICTS BOOST IN BIOMETRICS IN EUROPE

*March 31, 2005* The EUobserver reported: "Biometric entrance systems at school cafeterias, fingerprint scanners to start car engines or face recognition systems on buses could become an everyday reality for Europeans, a new research paper suggests. The study, "Biometrics at the Frontiers: Assessing the impact on society", was conducted by the European Commission and published on Wednesday, 30 March.

It argues that EU policy-makers should prepare for a boost of biometrics use in everyday life and act now to shape it, referring to both the challenges and potential threats to data abuse and to people's privacy.

EU member states are set to start introducing biometrics in passports, visas and residence permits from the next year, while some countries have already taken such measures -- mainly due to US pressure on visa-free European states to issue biometric passports for security reasons.

Biometrics have predominantly been applied in physical access control (42% of the market), but demand has been growing both for its use in IT applications (25%) and in financial services (15%).

The futuristic scenarios portrayed by the study suggest that, by as early as 2015, people will apply new technologies based on biometrics much more intensively in their everyday lives as well as in business, health care and in security services such as border controls.

In a list of examples, the authors suggest that biometric entry systems would be used at school cafeterias or facial recognition facilities for public transport. Also, people will commonly use digital storage space called virtual residence, where password access is replaced by an iris scanner..."



## IRAN, PAKISTAN PLAN NAVAL EXERCISES

*March 31, 2005* Middle East Newslines reported: "Iran and Pakistan plan to hold a joint naval exercise. Officials said Iran and Pakistan were preparing to hold a joint naval exercise over the next few weeks. They said the exercise reflected increased defense relations.



"The exercise would enhance naval procedures and doctrines," a statement by the Pakistan Navy said. "Such naval exchanges based on goodwill will play an important role in the strengthening of relations and increased military cooperation between the two countries."

The Iran Navy plans to deploy at least two vessels -- identified as the Iris Bandar Abbas and the Iris Larak -- to the joint naval exercise. Pakistan has not detailed its contribution to the exercise..."

## VIOLENT CONFRONTATION EXPECTED OVER PULLOUT

*March 30, 2005* Middle East Newslines reported: Israeli authorities have braced for a bloody confrontation with opponents of plans to expel about 10,000 Jews from the Gaza Strip and northern West Bank.

Israeli officials and right-wing organizers said the exhaustion of political options to prevent a withdrawal could convert the anti-withdrawal movement into one that focuses on unrest and confrontation with security forces. They said withdrawal opponents planned to bring 100,000 Israelis into the Gaza Strip to stop a government eviction effort.

"We will burn the streets," Knesset member Zvi Hendel, who has led the anti-withdrawal effort, said.

On Monday, the Knesset voted 72-39 against a bill that called for a referendum on a withdrawal from the Gaza Strip and northern West Bank. Hours later, Jewish settlement leaders ordered the end of a 36-hour protest in front of parliament and called for the recruitment of at least 100,000 people prepared to resist the Israeli withdrawal..."

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## PROTECTION FROM U.S., ISRAELI ATTACK

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*March 25, 2005* Reuter's reported: "An Iranian exile accused Tehran on Thursday of secretly purifying uranium for use in nuclear weapons at a recently-constructed underground facility at its Parchin military complex. "Iran has completed an underground tunnel-like facility in Parchin, which is now engaged in laser enrichment," said Alireza Jafarzadeh, an Iranian exile who has reported accurately in the past about hidden atomic facilities in Iran.

"This underground site is camouflaged and built in an area of Parchin that deals with the chemical industry," he told Reuters by telephone from Washington, citing "well-placed sources inside the Iranian regime".

Iranian officials were not immediately available for comment, and Tehran has repeatedly denied carrying out any nuclear work at Parchin. Jafarzadeh said the enrichment work was linked to a secret nuclear weapons programme.

Enrichment is a process of purifying uranium for use as fuel for power plants or weapons. Iran says it no longer works on laser enrichment, a high-tech but inefficient enrichment method.

Jafarzadeh is a former spokesman for the National Coalition of Resistance of Iran (NCRI), an exile group that is campaigning to overthrow Iran's rulers by force and is listed by the United States as a terrorist organisation. Since its offices in Washington were forced to close, he has run a think-tank there.

If true, his allegation would be a breach of Iran's promise to halt all activities linked to uranium enrichment while in talks with the European Union about the future of Iran's nuclear programme, a Western diplomat said.

Speaking on condition of anonymity, he also said it would be a "clear violation" of the nuclear Non-Proliferation Treaty (NPT), which requires that the construction and operation of such facilities be declared to the U.N. nuclear watchdog.

Washington, which accuses Iran of developing nuclear weapons, believes Tehran has been conducting tests and experiments related to nuclear bombmaking at Parchin.

Tehran denies wanting weapons and insists its nuclear ambitions are limited to the peaceful generation of electricity..."

"Iran has said a tunnel complex under a uranium conversion plant at Isfahan had been built to store equipment for protection in case of U.S. or Israeli attack."

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## PA SMUGGLES SA-7s FROM EGYPT

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*March 29, 2005* Middle East Newsline reported: "Israel's military has determined that the Palestinian Authority has smuggled surface-to-air missiles from Egypt.



Israeli officials said Soviet-origin SA-7 missiles were smuggled from Egypt's Sinai Peninsula to the Gaza Strip over the last few days. They said the missiles were ordered by PA officials and their delivery to the Gaza Strip was facilitated by elements within the PA and Egyptian security forces.

On Sunday, Defense Minister Shaul Mofaz said the SA-7 Strella was transferred from Egypt to the Gaza Strip through any one of 18 tunnels that connect the divided city of Rafah. Mofaz said PA intelligence helped relay the missiles, but did not elaborate.

"Last week, several Strellas were smuggled in by Palestinian military intelligence," Mofaz told the Cabinet. "If the Palestinians don't get seize the Strellas, we will..."

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## FRANCE PUTS US UNDER PRESSURE TO ACCEPT WAR CRIMES COURT

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*March 24, 2005* Euobserver reported: "France has tabled a draft resolution at the UN that would refer crimes against humanity in Sudan's western Darfur region to the International Criminal Court in The Hague (ICC). The resolution places the US in the difficult dilemma of accepting the International Criminal Court or casting a politically damaging veto in the UN Security Council. According to the New York Times, the French will call for a vote today (24 March) in the UN Security Council, where France has been assured of at least 11 votes in favour. Only nine votes are needed to pass the resolution, provided no veto is cast."

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