



PROPHETIC TIMES

WEEKLY WORLD NEWS UPDATE

OAKLAND, CALIFORNIA

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ENCEPHALITIS CLAIMS 200 IN NEPAL

September 13, 2005 BBCNews reported: "More than 200 people in Nepal have now died from Japanese encephalitis, officials say, in an outbreak that has claimed more than 700 lives in India. Nepalese authorities say thousands have been affected in the past two months and the death toll could be far higher with unreported deaths.

NGOs in India say that for the same reason the number killed there could be much greater, perhaps reaching 1,500. The disease is transmitted from infected mosquitoes. As in India, most of the dead in Nepal are children.

Nepalese authorities say medical supplies have been stepped up but admit a failure to disburse sufficient medicines in time to the affected areas has caused a number of deaths. Health workers say the official death toll only covers public hospitals, not those who die at home, often in remote areas. Health Minister Nikshya Sumshere Rana said the country was short of vaccine and was trying to obtain more from China. He feared the number of dead could go much higher.

The worst affected areas are the villages of the south-western districts, bordering the Indian state of Uttar Pradesh, which has borne the brunt of the outbreak. Japanese encephalitis has killed at least 8,000 people in Uttar Pradesh since 1978."

MAJOR ATTACK ON IRAQ 'REBEL TOWN'

September 10, 2005 BBCNews reported: "US and Iraqi troops swept through the town, smashing walls with armored vehicles and engaging in gun battles. The Americans believe the town is being used as a staging post by foreign fighters crossing into Iraq from Syria.

Iraq's defense minister said 144 rebels had been killed in Talafar in the past two days. He said his forces were ready to strike rebels in four other towns. The BBC's Jonathan Charles in Baghdad says the operation in Talafar is the biggest against rebels since the assault on Falluja last year.

The assault on Talafar has been expected for some time and the authorities earlier urged Talafar's 200,000 residents to leave. It has been the scene of heavy fighting and US air strikes in the past week. Iraqi Prime Minister Ibrahim Jaafari said action had to be taken in Talafar because insurgents were trying to isolate it from the rest of Iraq and the political process.



"At 0200 [local time] today, acting on my orders, Iraqi forces commenced an operation to remove all remaining terrorist elements from the city of Talafar," Iraqi Prime Minister Ibrahim Jaafari said in a statement. "These forces are operating with support from the Multi-National Force," he said.

The US military drove the insurgents out of Talafar a year ago, only for them to return once the troops had withdrawn. Iraqi Defence Minister Saadoun Dulaimi said 144 insurgents had been killed during the operation in Talafar in the last two days and 192 captured. Many of them were Arabs from other states.

He said attention would be turned to other parts of the country which needed help. "We tell our people in Ramadi, Samarra, Rawa and Qaim that we are coming," Mr Dulaimi told a news conference. "There will be no refuge for the terrorists, criminals and bloodsuckers..."

U.S. SEES BREAKTHROUGH IN ME DEMOCRACY

September 10, 2005 Middle East Newslines reported: "The United States has claimed a breakthrough in efforts to introduce democracy in the Middle East.

The Bush administration determined that Middle East states have shown greater willingness than ever to hold transparent elections and ensure media openness. Officials said the situation marked a significant improvement from that in 2003.

"In the Middle East, too, the wave of democracy is now arriving," Assistant Secretary of State Daniel Fried told a Paris audience on Sept. 1.

Fried cited elections in Lebanon, the presidential campaign in Egypt and human rights activities in Syria. He also cited the Israeli unilateral withdrawal from the Gaza Strip and the eviction of its nearly 9,000 Jewish residents..."

IRAQI PRESIDENT WANTS LONG-TERM US TROOP PRESENCE



September 10, 2005 VOA News reported: "Iraq's president says Iraq will need a small number of U.S. troops stationed in the country for the long term to deter any effort by Iraq's neighbors to interfere in its internal affairs. President Jalal Talabani met Friday at the Pentagon with U.S. Defense Secretary Donald Rumsfeld.

President Talabani says he thinks Iraqi security forces will be ready to take full responsibility for the country within two years, and all U.S. troops could leave the country at that time. But he wants some U.S. forces to stay on anyway. "No need for a huge number of American forces, but I said we need some. There will be a need for two, three small bases for frightening others not to interfere in our internal affairs," he said.

President Talabani made the statement at a news conference with Secretary Rumsfeld, who was reluctant to endorse the concept of a long-term U.S. troop presence in Iraq. "We wouldn't want to discuss anything that might be discussable until after there's a new constitution and a new government in place. And that type of thing would be discussed, as the President [Talabani] indicates, in an orderly way thereafter," he said.

At the news conference, President Talabani also said he has begun a dialogue with Syrian President Bashar al-Assad to try to get more Syrian help in stopping the flow of foreign insurgents into Iraq. President Talabani said he is not satisfied with the Syrian government's actions so far, but he sees some signs of hope of more cooperation in the future. He declined to provide details, saying that because of Syria's help to the Iraqi opposition during the Saddam Hussein era, he wants to settle any differences with President Assad in private discussions. The Iraqi president said he has been invited to Damascus for talks with his Syrian counterpart..."

REPORT WARNS OF TERRORISTS' 'GREAT RAMADAN OFFENSIVE'

September 8, 2005 CNS News.com reported: "Al Qaeda's plans for a series of spectacular terrorist strikes in October, targeting American interests as well as U.S. allies in Europe and the Middle East and said to be coordinated by Osama bin Laden and his top lieutenant in Iraq - Abu Musab al-Zarqawi -- are the subject of a non-public report issued by terrorism experts this week.

The attacks, planned to coincide with the Muslim observance of Ramadan and dubbed the "Great Ramadan Offensive," are designed to create a "fateful confrontation" with the U.S. and Israeli forces in the Middle East, according to a May 30 letter from Zarqawi to bin Laden. The contents of the letter are referenced in the report written by Yossef Bodansky, the former director of the U.S. Congressional Task Force on Terrorism and Unconventional Warfare.

The Sept. 2 report is accessible only to government officials on the Global Information System (GIS) database. **Cybercast News Service** obtained the report on the same day as its release. It warns of planned attacks in Western Europe, Russia and perhaps the continental U.S. The specific targets are believed to include airports at Schiphol in the Netherlands and Fiumicino in Italy.

Italy remains on high alert and barricades have been placed around Rome's Colosseum. "Terrorism is coming home," the GIS report quotes one unnamed German senior official. "And it's coming home to those countries whose governments may have believed they were immune from terror because for years they have provided safe haven to notorious Islamic extremists."

An associate of Zarqawi named Abu Abdul Rahman al-Jazeera, was said to be in Italy, but could not be located by authorities, according to Bodansky, who added that Jazeera was believed to have recently received from a Zarqawi messenger "the definitive mandate to plan and carry out a major terrorist operation in Italy."

In late August Italy announced that it was at an elevated risk for a terrorist attack. The country expelled 700 suspected militants and arrested 141 others. News organizations reported that locks to the entrances of 49 subway stations had been changed and metal barricades erected around the 2,000-year old Colosseum in Rome.

Details of the planned attacks were pieced together from intercepted communications between top al Qaeda leaders in the latter part of August, analysis of what counter-terrorism experts described as a dramatic increase in the volume of communication among jihad forces and the observation of an unprecedented movement of jihadists and messengers around the world apparently delivering instructions.

Zarqawi, linked to numerous bombings and the beheadings of several Western hostages in Iraq, reportedly titled his letter to bin Laden, "A Message from a Soldier to His Commander." According to the GIS report, Zarqawi's letter to bin Laden alluded to "the forthcoming grand offensive comprised of escalation in the Middle East and a series of spectacular terrorist strikes" meant to overshadow the impact of the Sept. 11, 2001 terrorist strikes in New York City and Washington, D.C."..."

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