



PROPHETIC TIMES

WEEKLY WORLD NEWS UPDATE

OAKLAND, CALIFORNIA

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IRAN TEST-FIRES NEW MISSILE, ISRAEL WITHIN REACH

November 12, 2008 Reuters reported: "Iran said it test-fired a new generation of surface-to-surface missile on Wednesday and that the Islamic Republic was ready to defend itself against any attacker. Iran's latest missile test followed persistent speculation in recent months of possible U.S. or Israeli strikes against its nuclear facilities, which the West suspects form part of a covert atomic weapons program, a charge Tehran denies.

U.S. President-elect Barak Obama, like outgoing U.S. President George W. Bush, has not ruled out military action although he has criticized the Bush administration for not pursuing more diplomacy and engagement with Tehran.

Washington said the test highlighted the need for a missile defense system it plans to base in Poland and the Czech Republic to counter threats from what it calls "rogue states."

Iranian Defence Minister Mostafa Mohammad Najjar said the Iranian-made surface-to-surface Sejil missile had "extremely high capabilities" and was only intended for defensive purposes. He said it had a range of close to 2,000 km (1,200 miles), almost as far as another Iranian missile, Shahab 3. That would enable it to reach Israel and U.S. bases in the Gulf.

"This missile test is in the framework of Iran's deterrent doctrine," the official IRNA news agency quoted him as saying.

"It will only land on the heads of those enemies ... who want to make an aggression and invade the Islamic Republic," said Najjar, who did not mention any country by name.

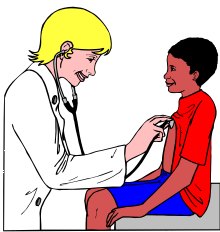
Iran's English-language Press TV said the Sejil missile had two stages and was of a type that used combined solid fuel. A missile was shown soaring from a platform in desert-like terrain, leaving a long vapor trail. It came a day after media said the Revolutionary Guards had test-fired another missile called Samen near the Iraqi border.

"They do it all the time. It's Iranian machismo," said Tim Ripley, an analyst at Jane's Defence Weekly."..."

STUDY FINDS OBESE KIDS HAVE ARTERIES LIKE 45-YEAR-OLDS'

November 12, 2008 The Los Angeles Times reported: "The arteries of many obese children and teenagers are as thick and stiff as those of 45-year-olds, a sign that such children could have severe cardiovascular disease at a much younger age than their parents unless their condition is reversed, researchers said Tuesday.

"It's possible that they will have heart disease in their 20s and 30s," said Dr. Geetha Raghuvver of the University of Missouri at Kansas City, who led the study presented at a New Orleans meeting of the American Heart Assn.



"There's a saying that 'you're as old as your arteries,' meaning that the state of your arteries is more important than your actual age in the evolution of heart disease and stroke," she said. "We found that the state of the arteries of these children is more typical of a 45-year-old than of someone their own age."

Experts did not find the results surprising, but they did view it as "alarming."

"We're facing an epidemic of childhood obesity," said Dr. Michael Schloss, co-director of the lipid treatment program at the New York University School of Medicine, who was not involved in the study. "We are raising a generation of children that are going to have a significant increase in vascular disease as they get older."



A May study from the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention found that 16.3% of U.S. children and teenagers are obese and an additional 15.6% are overweight."..."

MEDVEDEV SUBMITS BILL FOR 6-YEAR RUSSIAN PRESIDENTIAL TERM

November 11, 2008 The Associated Press reported: "President Dmitry Medvedev submitted a bill Tuesday to extend Russia's presidential term from four years to six, making good on a promise in his state of the nation address.

If approved as expected by lawmakers, the lengthy term means that Vladimir Putin, Medvedev's predecessor and the current prime minister, would be eligible for another 12 years in a second presidential stint. Aides say the term change would only apply to future presidents.

The widely popular Putin — who was constitutionally barred from seeking a third straight term as president — tapped protege Medvedev as his favored successor, ensuring his election in May. Putin then became prime minister, but is still widely seen as the man calling the shots in Russia.

The constitution does not prevent Putin from running again after a break and Medvedev's swift move to extend the presidential term sparked speculation that Putin might not wait until scheduled elections in 2012 to seek a return to the office.

"It is one of the more legitimate suggestions. Such ideas were around before Putin's own term ended," said Masha Lipman, a political analyst with the Carnegie Moscow Center.

Business daily Vedomosti quoted an unnamed Kremlin official last week as saying Medvedev might even step down next year, triggering

an early ballot to return Putin to the helm.

"There is little doubt that Putin remains the most powerful politician and makes all the major decisions," Lipman said. She warned, however, that changing the constitution could set a dangerous precedent. Medvedev's bill must be approved by both houses of parliament as well as two-thirds of regional legislatures.

The bill would also extend the term of the lower house of parliament, the State Duma, from four years to five. Medvedev also submitted a separate proposal to give the Duma more control over the Cabinet. That change could also play into Putin's hands, as he leads the United Russia party, which dominates the Duma and politics nationwide. Putin last week ordered United Russia lawmakers to ensure that Medvedev's proposals were passed."

OLMERT: WE MUST CEDE PARTS OF JERUSALEM

November 11, 2008 The Jerusalem Post reported: "Prime Minister Ehud Olmert on Monday used a Jerusalem memorial ceremony for former prime minister Yitzhak Rabin to reiterate that Israel must be willing to cede parts of the Capital.

"If you want to keep Israel Jewish and democratic, we need to give up parts of the homeland we have dreamed about for generations and [mentioned] in our prayers, even Arab neighborhoods of Jerusalem, and to return to a 1967 Israel with certain amendments," he said, at the state ceremony on Mount Herzl, where Rabin is buried.

"The decision must be made now. The moment of truth has arrived. There is no escaping it, but the [opportunity] can be missed. If, God forbid, we dither, we will lose the support for the idea of two states. There is no need to expand on the alternative... Rabin will win," he continued.

"The moment of truth has arrived," he repeated. "We can push it off for many years in which blood will be spilled. But we must look at it honestly, proudly and responsibly. The bullets that killed Rabin could not stop the historic path that he led. Even after his death, Rabin will be victorious."..."

SOMALI ISLAMIST INSURGENTS SEIZE NEW TOWN NEAR CAPITAL, IMPOSE STRICT ISLAMIC LAW

November 13, 2008 The Associated Press reported: "Advancing ever closer to Somalia's beleaguered capital, heavily armed Islamic fighters declared Thursday they will use strict Muslim rules to bring their lawless Horn of Africa country back under control."...

Islamic fighters now control most of southern and central Somalia, with the crucial exceptions of Mogadishu and Baidoa, where the parliament for Somalia's weak, U.N.-backed government sits."...

The insurgents, who are fighting to enforce Shariah law in Somalia, are not a homogenous group. Al-Shabab, which the U.S. considers a terror group because of its leaders' alleged links to al-Qaida, controls the most territory. Elasha, however, was taken over by more moderate fighters.

"Our fighters have taken the control of the area to provide security for the displaced people" suffering under the constant fighting, said Abdirahin Isse Adow, a spokesman for the Islamist forces in Elasha. In contrast, al-Shabab in recent weeks has carried out a public execution by stoning — reportedly of a 13-year-old gang rape victim — and lashings of alleged thieves.

"We inform you that from today on, all areas under our control will be ruled by Islam," Shabab commander Sheik Abukar told residents of Merka on Thursday, one day after taking over the key port town without firing a shot. "We will change the behavior of the youth here."



AMBITIOUS ENERGY PLAN AIMS TO WEAN EUROPE FROM RUSSIA

November 13, 2008 The EU Observer reported: "A day before the European Union heads into partnership talks with Russia, its major energy supplier to the east, Brussels has unveiled a strategy outlining how it hopes to wean the 27-country bloc from the fickle oil and gas dealer.

"We will not stand idly by while we sleep walk into Europe's energy dependence crisis," European Commission President Jose Manuel Barroso said as he presented a detailed, multi-faceted scheme every bit as ambitious as the EU's very much related climate and energy package. "We must shield European citizens from the risk that external suppliers cannot honour their commitments," he said, without mentioning Russia."...

The EU currently depends on foreign sources for almost 54 percent of its energy consumption, including 61 percent of its gas. According to the commission, this figure will climb to 84 percent by 2030.

Of this, a full 42 percent is currently imported from Russia, along with a third of its oil and a quarter of its coal. President Barroso noted that it costs each European around €700 a year to pay for these imports."..."