



PROPHETIC TIMES

WEEKLY WORLD NEWS UPDATE

OAKLAND, CALIFORNIA

JANUARY 08 2011

40,000 CRABS JOIN SLEW OF ANIMAL-DEATH MYSTERIES

January 1, 2011 The Associated Press reported: "First, it was birds falling from the sky, then thousands of dead fish washing up on shore. Now, more than 40,000 Velvet swimming crabs have wound up dead on England beaches. The possible reason? Hypothermia.

The Thanet shoreline is littered with the crabs, along with dead starfish, lobsters, sponges and anemones. The crabs benefit from warm seas, but when winter hits and snow covers the beaches, they just can't handle the freezing temperatures, Tony Child, Thanet Coast Project manager, told the Star.

"It is a horrendous crash in the population," he said, adding similar crab deaths happened in the same place two years and five years ago.

"During the winter . . . they come closer to the shore . . . foraging where the seaweed is," he said. "There are more starfish this year that have been casualties. Lobsters have been washed in a bit frozen. Seagulls are doing quite well at the moment."

The creatures started washing up when snow blasted Europe shortly before Christmas, he said. Some local experts are researching the dead crabs, but Child said nothing can be done to prevent the massive number of deaths. "It's just part of the circle of life," he said.

Meanwhile, about 50 jackdaw birds were found dead Wednesday on a street in Stockholm, Sweden. A veterinarian investigating the incident told the Associated Press their cause of death is unknown but that there were fireworks in the area Tuesday night.

Along with shock from the fireworks, the vet listed cold weather and difficulty finding food as possible reasons for the deaths. These recent animal deaths join the thousands of others in the last week in the United States.

On Tuesday, 450 birds plummeted to their deaths in Louisiana for apparently no reason. Some of these grackles, starlings, brown-headed cowbirds and red-winged blackbirds may have flown into a power line, officials said.

On New Year's Eve, more than 3,000 red-winged blackbirds inexplicably fell from the skies in Arkansas. Officials have acknowledged it is unlikely they will ever determine a cause. Wildlife experts just west of where the blackbirds were found are still trying to figure out why 100,000 drum fish washed up on the shores of the Arkansas River.

A pollutant would have affected all fish, not just the one species, so investigators suspect the fish were stricken by an illness."..."

2011: YEAR OF THE BANK RUN?

January 3, 2011 CNNMoney.com reported: "Is a bank run about to bring Europe to its knees? Some market watchers say yes, pointing ominously to the torrents of money pouring out of Ireland. Irish bank deposits declined in November for the fourth straight month, the central bank said last week. Overseas deposits fled the country at their fastest pace in more than a year.

The deposit flight compounds the stress on a financial system whose massive property-lending losses already have driven the government to accept an unpopular bailout from the European Union and the International Monetary Fund.

Worse yet, it shows that the solutions policymakers slapped together in the fall of 2008 helped in some cases to create even bigger problems -- ones that are now coming due. Unconditionally guaranteeing bank deposits is just such a policy, in a country where loan losses made the banks insolvent, job loss left many taxpayers peniless and deposits now at least double annual economic output.

And this time, given the unpopularity of bailouts and dysfunctional European politics, there is ample reason to fear the banking mess won't so easily be swept aside.

"Facing facts like these, each morning when I wake up I have to wonder, 'Why is today not a good day for a wholesale run on the Irish banking system?'" asks Scott Miner, chief investment officer at Guggenheim Partners. "And if there is a wholesale run on the Irish banking system, then what stops the same scenario from cascading into Portugal, Greece, Italy, and most importantly, Spain?"..."

The high cost of market borrowing ties the hands of government officials who have promised to ride to the rescue of the bubble-ridden banks. Ireland has already ponied up outlandish sums to keep the banks afloat. Officials have said at every turn they believed they had the ability to stabilize the system, but stability has remained beyond their reach.

Now, with the state locked out of the bond market and the banks losing depositors, who is going to lend in an economy that already has shrunk drastically from its bubbly size of just a few years ago?

Bank runs "will seriously undermine the prosperity of this country for a generation," Pimco's Mohammed El-Erian said in November. He said the first steps to stemming the run would include "a big external aid package and steps by the Irish government."

The IMF, the EU and the Irish government committed to those steps this fall. But there is still no sign people in Ireland or elsewhere believe the \$113 billion bailout package will keep their money safe. Among many other things, there has been a rush out of the euro for the Swiss franc, not to mention the ever-present embrace of gold."..."



CANADA'S COPTIC CHRISTIANS ASK FOR PROTECTION IN WAKE OF EGYPT BOMBING

January 4, 2011 The Globe and Mail reported: “Coptic Christians in Canada are imploring police to step up security at churches during this week’s orthodox Christmas celebrations, as they brace for any copycat violence after last weekend’s suicide bombing in Egypt.

Fallout from the slaying of 21 people at an Alexandria church is causing political turmoil in Egypt and ripples of fear to spread in diaspora communities through the West. Yet Copts in Canada say they will still turn out in droves this week to celebrate the birth of Christ.

‘We have strong faith that God is protecting us as his people. But, on the other hand, we are expecting that authorities do their part,’ said Rev. Angelos Saad.”...” The fear is that terrorists could target his 2,000 congregants during the midnight mass on Jan. 7.

Canadian authorities are insisting there are no known credible threats. Yet in Europe, authorities are stepping up security at some churches in France and Austria. Al-Qaeda-inspired groups have essentially declared war on Copts in recent months.”...”

NORTH KOREA CALLS FOR ‘UNCONDITIONAL’ TALKS WITH SOUTH

January 6, 2011 SpaceDaily.com reports: “North Korea offered ‘unconditional’ talks with the South Wednesday, in its most conciliatory remarks since the nuclear-armed state sent tensions on the peninsula soaring by shelling a South Korean island. In an unusually cordial statement, carried by its KCNA agency, North Korea said the communist nation ‘courteously proposes having wide-ranging dialogue and negotiations.’

Pyeongyang is ‘ready to meet anyone anytime anywhere’, it said, calling for ‘unconditional and early opening of talks’ among officials with ‘real power and responsibility.’

The remarks were out of character for the reclusive regime led by Kim Jong-il, which regularly issues diatribes condemning Seoul as a puppet of the warmongering US.

But South Korean officials were dismissive of the comments. ‘What’s more important is sincerity in North Korea’s attitude,’ an unnamed official from Seoul’s unification ministry, which handles relations with the North, told Yonhap news agency. South Korea has regularly stressed that progress depends on the North’s actions, rather than its words.”...”

CHINA: NO CHANGES TO ‘NO FIRST NUCLEAR STRIKE POLICY’

January 6, 2011 Voice of America News reports: “China denies a Japanese media report that the People’s Liberation Army will consider launching a preemptive nuclear strike if threatened by another nuclear state.

Foreign Ministry spokesman Hong Lei Thursday said Beijing has not changed its policy of never being the first to fire nuclear weapons in a war. Hong says the Chinese government has pledged never to be the first country to use nuclear weapons - at any time or under any circumstances. He says reports that China is considering changing the policy are ‘groundless and out of ulterior motives.’

Japan’s Kyodo News agency Wednesday reported that the Chinese military will consider launching a preemptive nuclear strike if China faces a critical situation in a war with another nuclear state. The report relied upon internal People’s Liberation Army documents.”...”

IRAN BUILDS NEW EASTERN FRONT IN IRAQ AGAINST ISRAEL, JORDAN

January 6, 2011 DEBKAFfile reported: “The urgent phone call Jordan’s King Abdullah II put in to Israeli Prime Minister Binyamin Netanyahu Wednesday Jan. 5 dealt only marginally with stalled diplomacy with the Palestinians. The king pressed for answers on what Jerusalem and Amman can do to curb Iran’s advancing domination of Iraq in the face of America’s inaction.

Referring to Hizballah’s role, Abdullah commented to Netanyahu: First Iran’s missiles had you jammed from the north and the south, now Iran and Hizballah are cornering you from the east. The Americans are not lifting a finger to stop this happening.”

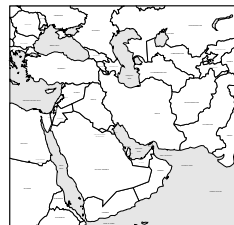
The call, which came through the day before the Israeli prime minister met Egyptian President Hosni Mubarak for lunch at Sharm al Sheikh, elicited no real practical replies. Netanyahu confirmed that Israel still stood by the guarantee of support its armed forces and security services had granted the Hashemite Kingdom and its ruler for the past 60 years.

Both the king and the prime minister appreciated that words are not enough. Since both their military and strategic policies are synchronized with Washington, the total disintegration of American strategic positions in Baghdad Wednesday, Jan 5, was an alarming setback to both Jerusalem and Amman.

On that day, the anti-US radical Iraqi Shiite cleric Muqtada Sadr, a close friend and ally of Hizballah’s leader Hassan Nasrallah, came marching home from self-imposed exile in Iran, and the new Iranian foreign minister Ali Akbar Salehi paid his first visit to Baghdad – both in full sight of 50,000 US troops.

Sadr was greeted by thousands of supporters on his return to his old stronghold in the holy city of Najef south of Baghdad three years after his armed militia was defeated in bloody revolts against US forces.

The two arrivals from Iran, the cleric and the diplomat, made it plain that Tehran has Iraq by the throat and plans to impose on Baghdad its regime structure, which rests on two focii, the political capital and the clergy.”...”



Middle Eastern Region