



PROPHETIC TIMES

WEEKLY WORLD NEWS UPDATE

OAKLAND, CALIFORNIA

DECEMBER 24 2011

REPORT: SAUDI TEXTBOOKS TEACH ANNIHILATION OF JEWS

December 22, 2011 YnetNews.com reports: "Despite promises to clean up violent and xenophobic content from textbooks, recent editions in Saudi Arabia continue teach school children barbaric practices, Fox News reported.

The news network, which was able to obtain translated copies of the recently-printed books from the Institute for Gulf Affairs in Washington, DC, said that the books teaches ninth graders that the annihilation of Jews is imperative.

'The hour (of judgment) will not come until the Muslims fight the Jews and kill them,' one part reads. 'There is a Jew behind me, come and kill him.'

The reviewed editions were printed for the 2010-2011 academic year. Another book teaches 10th graders how to cut off the hands and feet of a thief.

'This is where terrorism starts, in the education system.' Ali Al-Ahmed, director of the Institute for Gulf Affairs, said, noting that the books were financed by the Saudi government.

In addition to coaching kids to kill Jews and amputate body parts, the text books depict women as weak and irresponsible. Moreover, al-Ahmed said the textbooks call for homosexuals to be put to death "because they pose a danger at society, as the Saudi school books teach." ..."

BRITAIN BLAMES EURO FOR TRIPLE-A WARNING

December 21, 2011 The EU Observer reported: "The British government has blamed the euro for ratings agency worries on its triple-A status amid a widening political gap between Brussels and London.

A UK treasury spokesman told newswires on Tuesday (20 December) that exposure to the eurozone is the main reason why Moody's earlier the same day warned that Britain's top-level grade faces "formidable and rising challenges."

The spokesman said: "The UK is not immune to the problems facing our trading partners in the euro area; the crisis is having a chilling effect across Europe and it is important that the euro area continues to take decisive action to fix their problems."

The Moody's report noted "that no EU sovereign rating can be considered immune to this crisis." But it cited internal UK problems as the main cause of concern. "...

EU-UK relations deteriorated further when core euro member France said the UK should lose its triple-A grade before France does and eurosceptic MPs in the British government said the UK should leave the Union. "..."

IRAN'S NAVY TO HOLD DRILL IN INTERNATIONAL WATERS

December 22, 2011 The Associated Press reported: "Iran's navy chief said Thursday his forces plan to hold a 10-day drill in international waters beyond the strategic Strait of Hormuz at the mouth of the Persian Gulf, an exercise that could bring Iranian ships into proximity with U.S. Navy vessels.

The drill will be Iran's latest show of strength in the face of mounting international criticism over its controversial nuclear program, which the West fears is aimed at producing atomic weapons – charges that Tehran denies, insisting the program is for peaceful purposes only.

The Strait of Hormuz is of strategic significance as the passageway for about a third of the world's oil tanker traffic. Beyond it lie vast bodies of water, including the Arabian Sea and the Gulf of Aden. The U.S. Navy's Bahrain-based Fifth Fleet is also active in the area, as are warships of several other countries that patrol for pirates there.

Both the U.S. and Israel have not ruled out a military option against Iran over its nuclear program, while Iranian hard-liners have come out with occasional threats that Tehran would seal off the key waterway if the U.S. or Israel moved against the country's nuclear facilities.

Adm. Habibollah Sayyari told Iranian state TV that the maneuvers, dubbed Velayat-90, will begin on Saturday, He said they will be held in a 1,250-mile (2,000-kilometer) stretch of sea off the southern edge of the Arabian Peninsula and into the Gulf of Aden, near the entrance to the Red Sea.

Iran regularly holds war games and has also been active in fighting piracy in the Gulf of Aden.

Sayyari denied an Iranian media report from last week that the drill would close the Strait of Hormuz. "There has been no decision yet on this," he was quoted as saying by the official IRNA news agency.

However, he stressed that Iran's navy and the Revolutionary Guard have the capability to close the strait but that "any decision on this will have to come from the leader," referring to Supreme Leader Ayatollah Ali Khamenei."..."



ASSAD LOSING CONTROL AS 10,000 SOLDIERS DESERT SYRIAN MILITARY

December 21, 2011 Haaretz reported: "More than 10,000 soldiers have deserted the Syrian army, sources say, with as many as half the conscripts not reporting in the last three call-ups.

According to Western intelligence agencies, even though the top brass is still loyal to President Bashar Assad, lower-level officers are deserting in large numbers, and in some cases, whole units have deserted en masse.

The army is considered the main factor safeguarding Assad's regime, after mass protests began in the south in March and spread throughout the country, inspired by the demonstrations elsewhere in the Arab world.

Israeli Defense Minister Ehud Barak predicted this month that the Syrian regime would collapse within weeks. Barak said it was impossible to know who would rule Syria in the future, but in any case it would be a blow to the alliance between Iran and Lebanese Shi'ite group Hezbollah.

Another sign of the Syrian regime's frailty is Hamas' decision to move its headquarters from Damascus, as the Palestinian group that runs the Gaza Strip prepares for a possible post-Assad era. ..."

CHINA BEEFING UP MILITARY PRESENCE IN INDIAN OCEAN

December 21, 2011 SpaceWar.com reported: "Little by little China is forming military links in Africa and in the Indian Ocean in order, experts say, to protect Beijing's economic interests in the region.

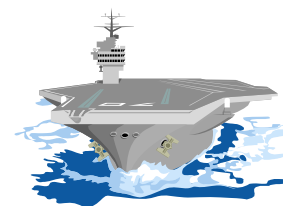
In the past three weeks Beijing has committed to supporting Ugandan forces operating in Somalia and to helping the Seychelles fight piracy.

'It is very clear that the Chinese leaders recognize that military force will play a bigger role to safeguard China's overseas interests,' Jonathan Holslag, of the Brussels Institute of Chinese Contemporary Studies told AFP.

'There is a willingness, and even a consensus, in China, that this process will take place.'

The Indian Ocean is strategic, Holslag said, noting that 85 percent of China's oil imports and 60 percent of its exports are routed via the Gulf of Aden. Beijing does not so far have any military base in the region: its military presence consists of three vessels in the Gulf of Aden to fight Somali pirates. But the deployment of those ships in 2009, the first of its kind for the Chinese navy, was already highly symbolic.

For the moment, cooperation between China and the islands of the Indian Ocean is still limited to "low profile military-to-military exchanges, but it is getting broader and more structured," Holslag told AFP...."



WORLD ECONOMY AT A 'VERY DANGEROUS JUNCTURE': IMF CHIEF

December 20, 2011 Breitbart.com reported: "IMF chief Christine Lagarde warned Tuesday that the world economy is at a "very dangerous juncture," speaking of the potential impact on poorer nations during her first visit to Africa as head of the fund.

The International Monetary Fund managing director spoke of a crisis of confidence with high unemployment and slowing global growth.

"Currently the world economy stands at a very dangerous juncture," Lagarde told a roundtable on Africa's economic future in the Nigerian city of Lagos. She said the IMF's revised global growth forecast expected in January looked to be lower than the previous one in September, which was four percent, already down from June's outlook.

"And what's more, there are downside risks on the horizon that are really threatening the recovery process that had started" after the 2008-09 global financial crisis, she said.

The IMF has said Europe's worsening economy and financial market turmoil meant it will revise downwards its predictions for global growth contained in its World Economic Outlook report published three months ago. Early this month, the UN cut its 2012 world growth forecast to 2.6 percent from 3.6 percent, warning that the global economy is "teetering on the brink of a major downturn".

Lagarde said on Monday during meetings with Nigerian officials that the European debt crisis posed a risk for "all economies of the world". "..."

N. KOREA TEST-FIRES SHORT-RANGE MISSILES: REPORT

December 19, 2011 SpaceDaily.com reported: "North Korea test-fired two short-range missiles off its east coast on Monday, the same day it announced the death of leader Kim Jong-Il, South Korea's Yonhap news agency said. The agency quoted an unnamed government official as saying the launches were unrelated to the announcement that Kim had died Saturday of a heart attack.

"The missiles are estimated to have a range of about 120 kilometres (72 miles)," the official said on condition of anonymity.

"We believe the North test-fired the missiles to try to improve their capabilities and range. We don't see this as more than test-firing."

Seoul's defence ministry declined to confirm the reported launches."..."

*Compiled by L. Jim Tuck, Pastor
UCGIA Oakland, San Jose, Santa Rosa, and Stockton
ljt5053@sbcglobal.net*