WEEKLY WORLD NEWS UPDATE

OAKLAND, CALIFORNIA

MARCH

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CLASHES RESUME IN EGYPT'S PORT SAID

March 7, 2013 France24.com reported: "Egyptian police fired tear gas at protesters as clashes resumed on Thursday in Port Said, a canal city that has become a thorn in the side of Islamist President Mohamed Morsi's beleaguered government.

The daily clashes resumed after protesters marched on the police headquarters, which they had already set ablaze on Tuesday, chanting "the interior ministry are thugs," an AFP correspondent reported. Police fired tear gas as soldiers, deployed in the city since late January, moved in to guard the police building.

The unrest in the Suez Canal city, fueled by January death sentences handed down to football fans over deadly rioting last year, flared again on Sunday, with six people, including three policemen, dying in the clashes."

OFFICIALS: 80 PERCENT OF RECENT NYC HIGH SCHOOL GRADUATES CANNOT READ

March 7, 2013 New York.cbslocal.com reported: "Nearly 80 percent of New York City high school graduates need to relearn basic skills before they can enter the City University's community college system. The number of kids behind the 8-ball is the highest in years, CBS2's Marcia Kramer reported Thursday.

When they graduated from city high schools, students in a special remedial program at the Borough of Manhattan Community College couldn't make the grade. They had to re-learn basic skills — reading, writing and math — first before they could begin college courses. They are part of a disturbing statistic.

Officials told CBS 2's Kramer that nearly 80 percent of those who graduate from city high schools arrived at City University's community college system without having mastered the skills to do college-level work. In sheer numbers it means that nearly 11,000 kids who got diplomas from city high schools needed remedial courses to re-learn the basics."..."

CHAVEZ BODY TO BE PUT ON PERMANENT DISPLAY

March 7, 2013 The Associated Press reported: "Hugo Chavez's body will be preserved and forever displayed inside a glass tomb at a military museum not far from the presidential palace from which he ruled for 14 years, his successor announced Thursday in a Caribbean version of the treatment given Communist revolutionary leaders like Lenin, Mao and Ho Chi Minh.

Vice President Nicolas Maduro, Venezuela's acting head of state, said Chavez would first lie in state for "at least" seven more days at the museum, which will eventually become his permanent home. It was not clear when exactly he would be moved from the military academy where his body has been since Wednesday."..."

MARS MISSION MARKS MILESTONE IN INDIA'S SPACE PROGRAM

March 6, 2013 VOANews.com reported: "India's ambitious plan to send a spacecraft to Mars later this year marks a major milestone in its space program. The mission is a bid by India to catch up in the global space race and join the league of major space-faring nations.

The unmanned, Indian spacecraft will be launched around November, when the red planet is closest to earth. It will take nine months to reach Mars' orbit. An official at the Indian Space Research Organization, Deviprasad Karnik, says the Mars Orbiter mission will be equipped with a methane sensor and look for signs of past life."...

The Mars mission comes five years after India sent an unmanned spacecraft to the moon and detected evidence of water on the lunar surface for the first time. It was heralded as a significant scientific discovery."..."

S. KOREA VOWS TO RETALIATE IF PROVOKED BY NORTH

March 6, 2013 SpaceDaily.com reported: "South Korea warned Wednesday that it would retaliate against any provocation from North Korea, a day after the North threatened to tear up the armistice that ended the Korean War in 1953.

"If North Korea carries out provocations that threaten the lives and safety of South Koreans, our military will carry out strong and resolute retaliations," Army General Kim Yong-Hyun told reporters.

Kim's briefing followed North Korea's announcement on Tuesday that it would "completely declare invalid" the armistice agreement in response to moves to toughen UN sanctions after its recent nuclear test. The announcement, attributed to the supreme command spokesman, also threatened an undefined "strike of justice" against a target of the North's choosing.

Because the armistice ending the 1950-53 conflict was not followed by a peace treaty, the two Koreas remain technically at war, with the ceasefire agreement theoretically the only barrier to a resumption of full hostilities."..."

IRAN ORDERS TERRORISTS: PREPARE FOR WAR

March 6, 2013 Word Net Daily reported: "Iran's supreme leader, Ayatollah Ali Khamenei, has ordered all of the Islamic regime's armed forces to prepare for war, WND learned Tuesday.

According to a source in the Revolutionary Guards intelligence unit, the regime believes Israel is on the verge of an attack, which could then draw America into the conflict.

Hundreds of ballistic missiles are ready to be launched against Israel and U.S. military bases in the region, the source said, and all terror groups that have long been positioned in Europe and America are ready to act should war break out.

While the regime has called last week's negotiations held in Kazakhstan "a turning point" between Iran and the 5-plus-1 countries – the permanent members of the U.N. Security Council plus Germany – it is stalling for time to complete its nuclear weapons development, at which point it believes Israel and the West will have no choice but to accept a nuclear-armed Iran, the source said.

However, regime officials do not believe Israel will wait it out and hence the preparations for war, he added.

WND reported exclusively on Feb. 28 about a warning by the regime's armed forces deputy chief of staff, Brig. Gen. Masoud Jazayeri, that al-Qaida operatives will soon attack America and Europe, even as a second terror team sent by the Islamic regime is about to enter the U.S.

The deputy chief of the Revolutionary Guards, Gen. Hossein Salami, recently warned that the regime's ballistic missiles could devastate the enemy and reach beyond the region."..."

LOCUST ALERT IN MIDDLE EAST AS PLAGUE DESCENDS ON EGYPT AND CREATES PANIC IN ISRAEL

March 5, 2013 dailymail.co.uk reported: "As swarms of locust devour Egyptian crops, the Middle East is bracing for the destructive bugs to migrate their way ahead of the Passover holiday.

A swarm of an estimated 30 million insects has been devastating crops in Egypt, fuelling apocalyptic fears because of the infestation's proximity to the Bible story of Passover in which a swarm of locusts, the eighth of ten plagues, is imposed on Egyptians by God for enslaving and abusing ancient Hebrews.

Israel's Agriculture Ministry set up an emergency hotline today and urged residents to be vigilant in reporting sightings of the insects to prevent an outbreak."..."

U.S., CHINA AGREE U.N. SANCTIONS DRAFT; NORTH KOREA RENEWS THREATS

March 5, 2013 Reuters reported: "The United States and China reached a deal that "significantly expands" U.N. sanctions on North Korea for its third nuclear test, eliciting a renewed threat by Pyongyang on Tuesday to scrap an armistice that ended the 1950-53 Korean War.

North Korea also said it would sever a military "hotline" with the United States if South Korea and Washington pressed on with two-month-long war games.

China's U.N. ambassador, Li Baodong, told Reuters the 15-nation Security Council was aiming for a Thursday vote on a draft sanctions resolution, which was agreed to by Washington and Beijing after three weeks of negotiations.

China is North Korea's closest ally and has a history of resisting tough sanctions on its neighbor.

The Chinese envoy made clear that Beijing was displeased by North Korea's February 12 nuclear test - its third since 2006 - though he cautioned against responding too harshly.

"We support action taken by the council, but we think that action should be proportionate, should be balanced and focused on bringing down the tension and focusing on the diplomatic track," Li said.

"A strong signal must be sent out that a nuclear test is against the will of the international community," he added.".."

'WE ARE ABOVE THE LAW OF THE LAND'

March 4, 2013 WND.com reported: "A Council on American-Islamic Relations leader told a crowd at a rally for Islam that members of the faith should not be bound by American law.

"If we are practicing Muslims, we are above the law of the land," said Mustafa Carroll, executive director of the Dallas-Fort Worth CAIR branch. The rally in Austin was part of a nationwide effort to hold "Muslim Capitol Day" events.

According to the event website, Muslims from around Texas went to the capitol to "promote civic and political activism throughout the wider Muslim community."

The organizers said one major issue discussed "was the recent House and Senate bill proposals involving the implementation of 'anti-Shariah' legislation, where the First Amendment rights and freedoms of Muslims would ultimately be hindered."

Critics argue Shariah prohibits other faiths from free exercise of religion when enforced, giving freedom only to Muslims.

Carroll's statement was similar to a statement allegedly made by CAIR co-founder and former chairman Omar M. Ahmad.

He was paraphrased by a reporter saying, "Islam isn't in America to be equal to any other faith, but to become dominant" and the Quran "should be the highest authority in America, and Islam the only accepted religion on Earth."..."