



# PROPHETIC TIMES

WEEKLY WORLD NEWS UPDATE

OAKLAND, CALIFORNIA

MAY 25 2013

## **ANALYSIS: MARKETS FACE ROUGH SUMMER RIDE AS FED PULLBACK FEARED**

*May 23, 2013* Reuters reported: "For the past few months, the Federal Reserve has been squarely in the financial markets' corner, thanks to its massive dollops of monetary stimulus. But signs that the central bank is discussing reducing that support by purchasing fewer bonds mean that trading is likely to get bumpier in coming months.

The Fed's evolving stance was made apparent by Federal Reserve chairman Ben Bernanke's remarks to Congress Wednesday, where he laid out the conditions that might cause the Fed to reduce its \$85 billion a month buying of Treasuries and mortgage-backed bonds."..."

## **GERMANY IS THE 'MOST POPULAR COUNTRY IN THE WORLD'**

*May 23, 2013* CNBC.com reported: "Europe's largest economy, Germany, which has been criticized for not doing enough to help struggling euro zone countries, has topped a poll as the world's most popular country.

The survey, carried out for the BBC, polled 26,000 people in 25 countries and asked them to rate 16 countries and the European Union as a whole on whether their influence on the world was mainly positive or negative.

Germany came out on top, with 59 percent of survey participants giving it a positive rating. The country moved up three percentage points from its 2012 position. It displaced Japan, which saw its positive rating fall from 58 percent last year to 51 percent, going from first to fourth place. The most negatively perceived country was Iran, with only 15 percent of respondents giving it a positive rating. Pakistan and North Korea also received low ratings.

Germany's increased popularity was helped by positive reviews from people in Spain, France, Ghana and Australia. But in debt-laden Greece a majority of people polled gave Germany negative ratings."

## **BOY SCOUTS APPROVE PLAN TO ACCEPT OPENLY GAY BOYS**

*May 23, 2013* The Associated Press reported: "The Boy Scouts of America threw open its ranks Thursday to gay Scouts but not gay Scout leaders - a fiercely contested compromise that some warned could fracture the organization and lead to mass defections of members and donors.

Of the roughly 1,400 voting members of the BSA's National Council who cast ballots, 61 percent supported the proposal drafted by the governing Executive Committee."..."



## **DEFENSE MINISTER: IRAN'S NEW MOBILE AIR DEFENSE SYSTEM "IMPENETRABLE"**

*May 22, 2013* The Fars News Agency reported: "Iranian Defense Minister Brigadier General Ahmad Vahidi described Iran's newly unveiled Herz air-defense shield as a very sophisticated system immune from enemy's jamming.

The Iranian Defense Ministry on Monday started mass-production of a highly mobile home-made air-defense system. The production line of the new system, Herz (Protector) 9, was inaugurated in a special ceremony attended by Vahidi on the occasion of the anniversary of the liberation of Khorramshahr city from Iraqi occupation during the eight-year Iraqi imposed war in the 1980s.

Speaking to reporters on the sidelines of the ceremony here in Tehran on Wednesday, Vahidi said Herz is a passive (silent) short-range air defense missile system.

"Due to its passiveness, the enemy cannot jam and disrupt it,' the minister underscored, adding that the system can hit targets 10 km in distance and 5 km in altitude..."

## **GERMAN GOVERNMENT IN BID TO SOFTEN AUSTERITY IMAGE**

*May 22, 2013* The EU Observer reported: "Germany is starting a series of conferences and bilateral programmes with Spain, Portugal and Greece to help them with youth employment schemes. "It would be a quite desirable side effect" if the move also helped improve Germany's austerity-driven image at EU level, finance minister Wolfgang Schaeuble said Wednesday."

## **BRITISH SOLDIER HACKED TO DEATH IN SUSPECTED ISLAMIST ATTACK**

*May 22, 2013* Reuters reported: "A British soldier was hacked to death by two men shouting Islamic slogans in a south London street on Wednesday, in what the government said appeared to be a terrorist attack.

A dramatic clip filmed by an onlooker just minutes after the killing showed a man with hands covered in blood, brandishing a bloodied meat cleaver and a knife.

"We swear by almighty Allah we will never stop fighting you. The only reason we have done this is because Muslims are dying every day," the black man in his 20s or 30s, wearing a wool jacket and jeans and speaking with a local accent, shouted in the footage obtained by Britain's ITV news channel.

"This British soldier is an eye for an eye, a tooth for a tooth."

The attack was the first apparent Islamist killing in London since suicide bombers struck transport in July 2005. The capital was shocked by the bizarre scene of a killer covered in gore, declaring his motive to onlookers.

Police shot the two suspects while trying to arrest them, and the wounded men were taken into custody. No information was immediately released about the identity of the suspects, but two sources familiar with the investigation told Reuters authorities were investigating a possible link to Nigeria.

"I apologize that women had to witness that, but in our lands our women have to see the same thing. You people will never be safe. Remove your government. They don't care about you," the videotaped man said..."

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### **SYRIA AND ISRAEL IN EXCHANGE OF FIRE**

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*May 21, 2013* BBC News reported: "Israeli and Syrian forces have exchanged fire across the ceasefire line in the occupied Golan Heights.

Israel returned fire after one of its military vehicles was hit by shots from Syria, Israel's defence forces say. Media reports say no-one was hurt.

Syria says it destroyed an Israeli vehicle which it says crossed the ceasefire line into territory its forces control. Syria and Israel have traded fire a number of times in recent weeks. The Israeli military said its troops 'returned precise fire' after the vehicle was hit.

A statement from the Syrian army said it had 'destroyed an Israeli vehicle with everything that it had in it'. The statement said the vehicle was shot after it crossed the ceasefire line and headed towards the rebel-held village of Bir Ajam.

Syrian President Bashar al-Assad has previously accused Israel of aiding the rebels, but has not provided substantive evidence..."

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### **HEZBOLLAH PREPARING TO ATTACK ISRAEL, COMMANDER SAYS**

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*May 20, 2013* WND.com reported: "Hezbollah is in the final stage of preparation to attack Israel with sophisticated weapons, according to a high-level commander of the terrorist group.

Tabnak, an outlet of Iran's Islamic regime, said an unidentified Hezbollah commander, in an interview with the Kuwaiti paper Alrai, thanked Syrian President Bashar Assad for keeping his promise to provide those weapons to Hezbollah.

'The weapons given to Hezbollah will change the balance of power,' he said.

'We have in recent days done extensive operations for reconnaissance on Israel's central and sensitive military and infrastructural installations in different areas and also on Israel's commando posts and peacekeeping forces in the Golan Heights,' he said, 'to prepare for the coming battle with the occupying regime.'

The commander revealed some of the weapons given by Syria to Hezbollah, including Pantsir (SA-22 Greyhound) surface-to-air missiles, SAM 5 surface-to-air missiles and the Russian anti-tank Kornet missiles. However, the commander also hinted that soon Hezbollah will receive the advanced and dreaded ship-killer Yakhont missiles from Assad.

U.S. officials, British Prime Minister David Cameron and Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu had urged Russian President Vladimir Putin not to go ahead with his arms sales to Syria, including the S-300 anti-aircraft system and the feared Yakhont cruise missiles.

But despite their pleas, Russian officials said they were honoring contracts with Syria, and those weapons Russia will send to Syria may eventually wind up in the hands of Hezbollah and Iran..."

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### **HIGH COURT TO WEIGH IN ON LEGISLATIVE PRAYERS**

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*May 20, 2013* Brietbart.com reported: "The Supreme Court said Monday it will hear a new case on the intersection of religion and government in a dispute over prayers used to open public meetings.

The justices said they will review an appeals court ruling that held that the upstate New York town of Greece, a Rochester suburb, violated the Constitution by opening nearly every meeting over an 11-year span with prayers that stressed Christianity. The 2nd U.S. Circuit Court of Appeals said the town should have made a greater effort to invite people from other faiths to open its monthly board meetings.

The town says the high court already has upheld prayers at the start of legislative meetings and that private citizens offered invocations of their own choosing.

The town said in court papers that the opening prayers should be found to be constitutional, "so long as the government does not act with improper motive in selecting prayer-givers."

Two town residents who are not Christian complained that they felt marginalized by the steady stream of Christian prayers and challenged the practice. They are represented by Americans United for Separation of Church and State..."

