



PROPHETIC TIMES

WEEKLY WORLD NEWS UPDATE

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GAY MARRIAGE REVEALS SURPRISE CONTRAST BETWEEN 'STARCHY' BRITAIN AND 'FREEWHEELING' FRANCE

July 17, 2013 washingtonpost.com reported: "The French like to make fun of the British, joking about their repressed ways in matters of the heart. But when it came time to debate same-sex marriage, it was France that betrayed a deep conservative streak in sometimes violent protests — while the British showed themselves to be modern and tolerant.

With little fanfare or controversy, Britain announced Wednesday that Queen Elizabeth II — hardly a social radical — had signed into law a bill legalizing same-sex marriages in England and Wales. France has also legalized gay marriages, but only after a series of gigantic protests attracting families from the traditional heartland that revealed a deeply split society.

Official word that the queen had approved the bill drew cheers in the usually sedate House of Commons."..."

EGYPT'S COPTIC CHRISTIANS PAY PRICE OF POLITICAL TUMULT

July 17, 2013 BBC News reported: "Khamis had no other choice than to leave his house in the village of Dalga, near the central Egyptian city of Minya. After an arson attack on his cousin's house and the fatal shooting of another relative, he fled into hiding with his wife and six children. He said they had been singled out for no other reason than being Christians.

'It was a terrible night,' recalled Khamis, who agreed to talk to us but did not want to be identified. Khamis is not his real name. Khamis recounted what happened on the night of 3 July, when the army deposed Islamist former President Mohammed Morsi.

'Angry mobs and thugs rampaged through houses owned by Christians. They started with the house of my cousin, looting and setting it on fire. We weren't taking any chances - we fled the village.'

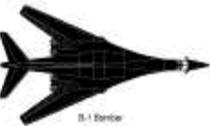
Since Mr. Morsi was forced from office, there has been a string of attacks on Christians in different provinces. Local Copts say they have been singled out by radical Islamists, for campaigning against the former president and his Muslim Brotherhood movement..."

RUSSIA TO DESIGN A NEW STRATEGIC BOMBER

July 17, 2013 SpaceDaily.com reported: "Russia will start designing a new strategic bomber in 2014, Chief of the General Staff of the Russian Army, Valery Gerasimov, said. Here are more details about the project by expert at Centre for Strategic Technology Analysis, Vasily Kashin, who compares this with the similar Chinese and American projects.

The new Prospective Air Complex for Long Range Aviation (PAK DA) will replace the Tu-95MS and Tu-160 bombers that Russia is using now. The Tupolev Designing Bureau will develop the new bomber. It will deliver its plan for the development of the aircraft and the estimation of the cost of this work to the Defence Ministry.

Reportedly, the serial production of the bomber is expected to start in 2020. However, some other reports say that the aircraft will make its maiden flight in 2020. Concerning its engines, their development was started in 2011. It's quite possible that the aircraft will be equipped with the updated models of the 117S or NK-32 advanced engines. The weapon systems are also being developed.



It has been suggested that the bomber will carry X-101 cruise missiles that can hit a target at a distance of 5,500 kilometers. Moreover it may carry short-range missiles and glide bombs.

At present, according to the approved project, the future bomber will be built under the "flying-wing" scheme similar to the American B-2 Spirit. At present, this is the only stealth strategic bomber that has been developed to a level for launching serial production. The price of a bomber with the necessary equipment and spare parts was estimated at over \$900 million in the 1990s, while the overall cost of the development and the production of all aircraft was about \$45 billion.

Most likely, similar to the American B-2, the Russian bomber will fly at a high subsonic speed. Basic attention will be focused on its long-range and stealth technology. In this case, the Russian bomber will differ from the future Chinese strategic bomber, which judging by mock-up models, will be a supersonic aircraft.

At the same time, analysts insist that the Chinese project will cost huge sums and experience technical difficulties when taking into account, that unlike the U.S. and Russia, China has no experience at all in this area. Practically, if China wants to implement the programme up to serial production, it will have to spend huge sums comparable to that of the entire manned-space programme.



In fact, the Russian project is not starting from scratch. The Tupolev Design Bureau worked on the Tu-202 project in the 1970s and 1980s. It planned to develop this aircraft in two versions, strategic bomber and long-range anti-submarine aircraft.

The aircraft was planned to be built according to the "flying wing" design. Its total range was 16,000 kilometers, while the range of the bomber carrying 6 cruise missiles was 5,500 kilometers. In the 1980s, a large number of aerodynamic experiments were carried out using

models of the aircraft.

New strategic bomber projects are always linked with huge technical risks. Nevertheless, the development of the PAK DA will provide Russia an effective system capable of hitting targets at any points on the Earth, within several hours of receiving the order, without need for foreign bases.”

PUTIN INSPECTS BIGGEST POST-SOVIET WAR GAMES

July 16, 2013 BBC News reports: “Russian President Vladimir Putin has inspected the country's biggest military drills since Soviet times, involving around 160,000 troops. The manoeuvres, in Russia's Far East, are part of efforts to boost military mobility and combat readiness.

Deputy Defence Minister Anatoly Antonov said that the exercise was not directed against any particular nation. Mr Antonov said Russia warned its neighbours about the exercise and provided detailed information to China. The two countries have an agreement that envisages a mutual exchange of data about military activities along their border.

Russia's army has been undergoing drills in its central and eastern military districts for several days. State-owned daily Rossiyskaya Gazeta described the drills as ‘the most intensive combat readiness check in the modern history of the Russian army’...”

EGYPT'S FUTURE UNCLEAR FOLLOWING ISLAMIST OUSTER

July 16, 2013 VOA News reported: “Nearly two weeks after the Egyptian army's ouster of President Mohamed Morsi, the Muslim Brotherhood is still giving no sign it is ready to join the country's political transition process.

Egypt's interim President Adly Mansour has called for the Islamist group to join the military-led transition and take part in upcoming votes to decide on a new constitution, parliament, and president.

But the Brotherhood has refused, insisting that doing so would essentially be giving approval to what it views as a military coup against the government of Morsi, Egypt's first democratically elected leader.

‘The entire political process is nothing more than a sham. And participating in it gives it legitimacy,’ said Gehad El-Haddad, a Muslim Brotherhood spokesman, in an interview with VOA. It makes little sense, Haddad said, for the Brotherhood to try to win elections as it did for the past two years, if it does not believe that Egypt's military will allow it to take power again.

‘There is no guarantee the military will not do this again,’ he said. ‘We've already gone through a presidential election, we've gone through parliamentary elections, we've gone through a constitutional referendum.’...”



ISRAEL: EU ATTACKS US BECAUSE WE'RE SMALL

July 16, 2013 Arutz Sheva reported: “Israeli officials on Tuesday slammed an EU directive that will bar all 28 member states from dealings with Jewish communities located beyond the 1949 Armistice lines, including eastern Jerusalem. A high-ranking official, who requested anonymity, described the European Union's move as a disproportionate ‘attack’ on Israel.

‘When it comes to disputed territories, the Europeans prefer to attack a small country like Israel instead of taking on more powerful states, because they're afraid of retaliation.’

Israel was ‘only informed of the directive at the last moment,’ he added. The directive, due to be published on Friday and take effect from 2014, forbids EU member states from funding or dealing with Israeli communities in the Golan Heights, Judea, Samaria and eastern Jerusalem, according to reports. It requires a clear distinction to be made in all signed agreements, between Israel and the territories it occupied in the 1967 Six Day War.

EU spokesman David Kriss told AFP: "These are guidelines on the eligibility of Israeli entities and their activity in the territories occupied by Israel since June 1967 for grants, prizes and financial instruments funded by the EU from 2014 onwards.

"It makes a distinction between Israel and the entities in the West Bank, east Jerusalem, the Gaza Strip and the Golan Heights," he said.”...”

TALIBAN SETTING UP BASE IN SYRIA

July 15, 2013 Arutz Sheva reported: “The Pakistani Taliban have visited Syria to set up a base and to assess ‘the needs of the jihad’, a Taliban official told the BBC over the weekend.

The official said that the base was set up with the assistance of ex-Afghan fighters of Middle Eastern origin who have moved to Syria in recent years.

At least 12 experts in warfare and information technology had gone to Syria in the last two months, he told the BBC. Mohammad Amin, a senior Taliban operative and ‘coordinator of the Syrian base’, told the BBC that the cell to monitor ‘the jihad’ in Syria was set up six months ago.

He said that the cell has the approval of militant factions both within and outside of the Tehrik-e-Taliban Pakistan (TTP), an umbrella organization of terrorist groups fighting the Pakistani forces...”

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