WEEKLY WORLD NEWS UPDATE

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SCIENTISTS CREATE 1st LIVING ORGANISM FROM ARTIFICIAL DNA

May 8, 2014 U.S. News & World Report reported: "Move over, Frankenstein! Your 21st-century counterpart has just been announced. In true sci-fi fashion, a team of researchers from The Scripps Research Institute (TSRI) in La Jolla, Calif., has created a brand-new bacteria based on a genetic structure found nowhere on Earth.

According to lead researcher Floyd Romesberg, the feat involved artificially engineering a unique combination of DNA material – a combination not found in any living creature – and then successfully inserting it into a living cell that usually contains only natural combinations of DNA.

'Life on Earth in all its diversity is encoded by only two pairs of DNA bases, A-T and C-G,' Romesberg explained in an institute news release. 'And what we've made is an organism that stably contains those two plus a third, unnatural pair of bases.'..."

PUTIN WARNS OF GROWING MILITANT NATIONALISM, NAZI IDEOLOGY IN EUROPE

May 8, 2014 RIA Novosti reported: "Militant nationalism, which has led to the appearance of Nazi ideology, is raising its head in Europe, Russian President Vladimir Putin said Thursday.

"Here and there militant nationalism is again raising its head, the same kind that brought on the appearance of Nazi ideology," Putin said during a meeting with the leaders of Armenia, Tajikistan, Kyrgyzstan and Belarus.

On Monday, Putin signed a bill making attempts to "whitewash Nazism" punishable with hefty fines and prison sentences. The law is based on the results of the Nuremberg Trials held by the Allies in 1945-1949, which convicted most surviving Nazi leaders of war crimes, denounced fascism and proclaimed most Nazi organizations as criminal.

The law provides for a monetary penalty of up to 500,000 rubles (\$14,000) or a jail term of up to 5 years as punishment for rehabilitating fascism and spreading false information about the Soviet Union's actions during World War II.

Publicly desecrating symbols of Russian military glory or spreading information disrespecting public holidays related to the country's defense will be punishable by a fine of up to 300,000 rubles (\$8,400) or community service for up to a year. The Soviet Union's role in the Allied victory in World War II is an important component of many Russians' sense of pride and patriotism, with spectacular anniversary parades and ceremonies held each year on May 9.

Pro-federalization supporters have called Ukrainian nationalists, who have protested and fought against federalists in the country's east since the ousting of President Viktor Yanukovych and deadly riots in Kiev, followers of Nazi ideology. Europe has been supporting Ukraine's so-called Euromaidan activists, who wish to see Ukraine become part of the EU."

FED CHAIR: 'DEFICITS WILL RISE TO UNSUSTAINABLE LEVELS'

May 7, 2014 cnsnews.com reported: "Federal Reserve Chairman Janet Yellen, referencing the Congressional Budget Office's long-term budget projections, told the Joint Economic Committee of Congress today that under current policies the federal government's deficits "will rise to unsustainable levels."

In the 10-year budget projections it released in April, the CBO estimated that the federal government will run \$7.618 trillion in deficits from 2015 through 2024. At the same time, the CBO projected that the federal government's debt held by the public would rise from \$11.983 trillion at the end of fiscal 2013 to \$20.947 trillion by the end of 2024.

The debt held by the public is the part of the U.S. government debt that is not held by the federal government itself. It primarily consists of marketable Treasury securities, including bills, notes and bonds. It does not include what the government calls "intragovernmental debt," which is the money the Treasury has borrowed out of the Social Security Trust Fund and other government trust funds to pay current expenses.

The total debt of the federal government at the end of fiscal 2013—including both the debt held by the public and the intragovernmental debt—was \$16.719 trillion. The CBO estimates that by 2024, the total debt of the federal government will be \$27.159 trillion—of which \$20.947 trillion will be debt held by the public. If that projection holds up, the federal debt held by the public in 2024 would be more than four times the \$5.035 trillion federal debt held by the public at the end of 2007."..."

IRAN THREATENS TO DESTROY U.S. NAVY

May 7, 2014 Arutz Sheva reported: "The commander of the Iranian Navy stated on Tuesday that his forces were trained to destroy U.S. warships. Speaking to the Fars news agency, the commander, Rear Admiral Ali Fadavi, threatened the Navy can sink an American aircraft carrier 'in less than a minute.'

Fadavi added that U.S. air combat power overseas is totally dependent on the fighter jets flying from its aircraft carriers, and this has made these vessels a natural and high value target for the Iranian Navy in any possible war. The Admiral said his forces have, thus, been conducting routine drills on how to sink U.S. vessels in any potential combat, especially in the Persian Gulf, adding that they have gained

good knowledge of the 'design, construction and structure of the U.S. warships.'

'They (Americans) know nothing. We have been making and sinking replicas of U.S. destroyers, frigates and warships for long years, and we have sunk the replica of their vessels in 50 seconds through a series of operational measures,' claimed Fadavi.

'We practice the same drills on replica aircraft carriers because sinking and destroying U.S. warships has, is and will be on our agenda,' he told Fars..."

BOTH SIDES BURY DEAD AS UKRAINE SLIDES TOWARDS WAR

May 6, 2014 Reuters reported: "Both sides have been burying their dead as Ukraine slides further towards war, with supporters of Russia and of a united Ukraine accusing each other of tearing the country apart. Tuesday was generally quieter than past days in most of eastern and southern Ukraine, but violence flared at dusk in the eastern port of Mariupol, where a spokesman for pro-Moscow militants told Russia's Itar-Tass news agency that one person was killed and three wounded in an attack on a checkpoint.

In Kramatorsk, a separatist-held town in the east that saw an advance by Ukrainian troops at the weekend, the coffin of 21-year-old nurse Yulia Izotova was carried through streets stilled by barricades of tires and tree trunks on Monday. Scattered red carnations traced the route.

At the Holy Trinity Church, seven priests led mourners in prayer for a woman killed by large caliber bullets, which the townsfolk believe were fired by Ukrainian troops."...The next few days could prove decisive: separatists in the eastern Donbass region say they will hold a referendum on secession on Sunday May 11, similar to the one that preceded Russia's annexation of Crimea.

The U.S. State Department denounced any attempt at a vote as "bogus" and promised more sanctions if Russia used it, as in Crimea, to send in forces or annex more territory: "This is the Crimea playbook all over again," a spokeswoman said. Secretary of State John Kerry said he would meet ministers in Europe next week to discuss the next steps on Ukraine.

Two days before the vote, Friday May 9, is the annual Victory Day holiday celebrating the Soviet Union's victory over Nazi Germany. Moscow has been openly comparing the government in Kiev to the Nazis, and Ukrainian officials say they are worried that the day could provoke violence. In Moscow, there will be a massive parade of military hardware through Red Square, a Soviet-era tradition revived by President Vladimir Putin."..."

NATO COMMANDER SAYS MUST CONSIDER PERMANENT TROOPS IN EASTERN EUROPE

May 6, 2014 Reuters reported: "NATO will have to consider permanently stationing troops in parts of Eastern Europe as a result of the increased tension between Russia and Ukraine, the alliance's top military commander said on Tuesday.

NATO has arranged a number of short-term army, air force and naval rotations in Eastern Europe, including the Baltic republics, Poland and Romania, but these are due to finish at the end of this year. Asked whether NATO might have to look at permanently stationing troops in the alliance's member states in Eastern Europe, U.S. Air Force General Philip Breedlove said: "I think this is something we have to consider and we will tee this up for discussion through the leaderships of our nations to see where that leads."

NATO leaders are due to hold a summit in Wales in early September. In the run-up to the summit, NATO commanders, defense ministers and foreign ministers would look at "tougher questions" about whether the alliance had the right footprint in Europe, Breedlove told a news conference in Ottawa.

"We need to look at our responsiveness, our readiness and then our positioning of forces to be able to address this new paradigm that we have seen demonstrated in Crimea and now on the eastern border of Ukraine," he said.

Breedlove, who said on Monday he did not think Moscow would send troops into eastern Ukraine, stressed the steps that NATO had taken so far were designed to support eastern members of the alliance.

"We are taking measures that should be very easily discerned as being defensive in nature. This is about assuring our allies, not provoking Russia, and we are communicating that at every level," he said. Breedlove insisted the so-called U.S. strategic "pivot" toward Asia would have no effect on its commitment to NATO and collective defense, though he acknowledged that U.S. troop levels in Europe have been reduced by about three-quarters from Cold War levels.

Asked if the U.S. troop levels would be enough in light of the Russian moves, he said: "In our own country now, and I think in every other NATO nation, based on the paradigm that we see that Russia has presented in Crimea and on the border of Ukraine ... we are all going to have to reevaluate some of the decisions that have been made (after the end of the Cold War)."...."

RUSSIAN BOMBERS, FIGHTER JETS 'SEEN OVER CRIMEA'

May 5, 2014 Agence France-Presse reported: "Several dozen Russian planes including what appeared to be strategic bombers and fighter jets have been spotted in the sky above the Moscow-controlled peninsula of Crimea, witnesses and experts said. According to Russian media, President Vladimir Putin is poised to visit Crimea on Friday after overseeing the main military parade on Red Square when Russia celebrates its victory over Nazi Germany in World War II.

A local aviation expert told AFP on Sunday that he had sighted a number of planes over the peninsula's main city of Simferopol on Saturday, including supersonic heavy strategic bombers and heavy military transport aircraft. The expert, who spoke on condition of anonymity, said he had also seen refuelling tankers and MiG-29 jets..."