WEEKLY WORLD NEWS UPDATE

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NORTH KOREA MAY BE CLOSER TO FULL ICBM TEST

July 31, 2014 SpaceDaily.com reported: "Fresh satellite images suggest North Korea might be wrapping up engine trials on an intercontinental ballistic missile, fuelling speculation of a full-scale flight test to come, a US think-tank said Wednesday. Development of a working ICBM would be a game-changing step, bringing the continental United States into range and adding a whole new threat level to the North's regular nuclear-strike warnings.

'The rocket engine test program may wind down by the end of this year,' The US-Korea Institute at Johns Hopkins University said on its closely followed 38 North website.

'If the engine tests are concluded, the next stage in development of the KN-08 road-mobile ICBM may be full-scale flight tests of the missile,' it added. It stressed, however, that it was unclear just how successful the tests had been..."

LIBERIAN OFFICIAL: EBOLA OUTBREAK 'IS ABOVE THE CONTROL OF THE NATIONAL GOVERNMENT'

July 31, 2014 charlotte.cbc.com reported: "A Liberian health official says the Ebola outbreak is now above the control of its government.

"Our government has declared this now as a humanitarian crisis that is above the control of the national government," Tolbert Nyenswah, Liberia's assistant minister of health, told CBS News.

More than 700 people have died in four western African nations during the largest Ebola outbreak ever, with over 320 known cases in Liberia alone. One American died while contracting the virus in Liberia. Two other American medical missionary workers also contracted Ebola.

"This virus, if it is not taken care of, will be a global pandemic," Nyenswah told CBS News, calling for more international aid to help treat the sick and stop the spreading of the disease.

The Peace Corps has now temporarily evacuated 340 volunteers from Guinea, Liberia and Sierra Leone after two members were exposed to the virus. CBS News reports those two volunteers have been isolated. This comes as two North Carolina-based missionary groups have ordered the evacuation of their non-essential personnel from Liberia after a doctor and a missionary contracted Ebola.

SIM USA President Bruce Johnson announced Tuesday that his group and Samaritan's Purse decided on the evacuation following an upsurge in the number of Ebola cases in Liberia. Johnson said the logistics of the evacuation are being determined. Spokesman Palmer Holt said approximately 60 employees will be evacuated. A statement from SIM says none of the evacuees is displaying any symptoms of Ebola, but all are being monitored continually.

A Texas-trained doctor and a missionary from Charlotte have contracted the disease."

EBOLA: SPIDER'S WEB OF INFECTION IS GROWING AS HUNT CONTINUES FOR 30,000 'VICTIMS' OF OUTBREAK

July 30, 2014 Mirror.co.uk reported: "The hunt for people in contact with deadly Ebola was dramatically escalated tonight as the risk of infection spread across the globe like a giant spider's web.

Initially health officials wanted to trace only a few hundred passengers on two planes which had carried victim Patrick Sawyer, 40. But – as Cabinet ministers held an emergency Cobra meeting in London – the search was widened to find up to 30,000 people who could be hosting the organism which kills 90% of sufferers.

The list includes anyone at one of four airports visited by American dad-of-three Sawyer, and those in contact with him in Nigeria's capital Lagos, home to 17 million, where he died five days ago.

Mike Noyes, of Action Aid, said: "This is the worst Ebola outbreak the world has ever seen.

"The most worrying thing is not just the numbers of people dying, but how long it is going on for.

"Most outbreaks last six weeks to two months. This one began in February and is speeding up. Nigeria's Special Advisor on Public Health Dr Yewande Adeshina said: "We're actually looking at contacting over 30,000 people."

A total of 672 have so far been killed in the outbreak which has spread across four borders in Western Africa. A team of public health experts plus £2million in emergency aid have been sent to the region by the UK. Several airlines have now stopped flying to Liberia and Sierra Leone over concerns about the spread of the disease from Guinea."..."

'JEWS, THE END IS NEAR', SAYS GRAFFITI IN ROME

July 30, 2014 Arutz Sheva reported: "Rome's mayor has denounced anti-Semitic graffiti and swastikas that have appeared across the city, The Associated Press (AP) reported on Tuesday. Some of the graffiti referred to the escalating violence in Gaza and included taunts such as 'Jews, the end is near.'

Rome Mayor Ignazio Marino offered his solidarity with Rome's Jewish community and said the graffiti, which appeared near Jewish-owned businesses, was an 'offense to all Romans.'

Marino also ordered the graffiti and swastikas removed, according to AP.

Jewish leaders, meanwhile, urged Rome police to find those responsible and punish them. The head of Rome's Jewish Community, Riccardo Pacifici, was quoted by AP as having said, 'Rome cannot become like Paris where Jews are assaulted, synagogues are surrounded and where wearing the yarmulke is a concrete danger.'

Italian political leaders condemned the graffiti and the Vatican newspaper l'Osservatore Romano wrote Tuesday of the 'abominable' new episode of anti-Semitism..."

EGYPT: KERRY PUSHING US CLOSER TO HAMAS

July 30, 2014 WND.com reported: "Secretary of State John Kerry's attempts to sideline Egypt in Israel-Hamas cease-fire talks has forced the Egyptian government to move closer to Hamas' positions in Gaza, according to an Egyptian official involved with the truce talks who spoke to WND on condition of anonymity.

The Egyptian official backed the Israeli government's reported frustration over Kerry's attempts to broker a cease-fire, with Egypt believing Kerry's truce proposals would have served Hamas' anti-Israel agenda.

'Kerry acts more like a first-year college student taking a course on the Middle East than a diplomat who knows what's going on,' said the Egyptian official. The official confirmed Israel's version of events as published Sunday in the country's Haaretz newspaper..."

FRENCH OFFICIAL: 1,000 FRENCH JIHADISTS 'GETTING READY'

July 29, 2014 Arutz Sheva reported: "For the first time since World War II, cries and shouts to 'Kill the Jews' have been sounded on the streets of France,' said Meir Haviv, a member of the French Parliament. Speaking at the Knesset Monday, Haviv described some details of the recent incidents of anti-Semitism in France, including attempts to attack synagogues, individuals, and Jewish-owned stores and schools.

'I greatly fear that we will soon experience a second Toulouse attack,' he said, referring to an attack by Islamist terrorists on a Jewish school in 2012. Haviv spoke to Knesset members during a special session convened to discuss anti-Semitism in France and the rest of Europe.

Haviv said that some 1,000 French nationals were in 'Jihad camp' in Syria, boning up on their terror skills. 'These are 1,000 ticking time bombs,' he said. 'If Jews cannot live safely in France, this is not just a problem for Jews, but for France itself.'

Several weeks ago, Muslim rioters surrounded Don Yitzchak Abarbanel Synagogue in the 11th arrondissement of Paris, and threw rocks into the house of worship. Large scale police forces were called to extricate the Jews. Clashes erupted in Paris on Sunday as thousands of people protested against Israel and in support of terrorist groups in Gaza.

Haviv said he wanted the world to learn from history. 'At Munich in 1938 they wanted to prevent a war at all costs and submitted to the demands of the Nazis. They were wrong then, and today the United States is wrong to submit to the demands of Jihadists. They were wrong in Egypt, Iraq, Syria, and Iran.'..."

RANSOMING CITIZENS, EUROPE BECOMES AL QAEDA'S PATRON

July 29, 2014 nytimes.com reported: "The cash filled three suitcases: 5 million euros. The German official charged with delivering this cargo arrived here aboard a nearly empty military plane and was whisked away to a secret meeting with the president of Mali, who had offered Europe a face-saving solution to a vexing problem.

Officially, Germany had budgeted the money as humanitarian aid for the poor, landlocked nation of Mali.

In truth, all sides understood that the cash was bound for an obscure group of Islamic extremists who were holding 32 European hostages, according to six senior diplomats directly involved in the exchange.

The suitcases were loaded onto pickup trucks and driven hundreds of miles north into the Sahara, where the bearded fighters, who would soon become an official arm of Al Qaeda, counted the money on a blanket thrown on the sand. The 2003 episode was a learning experience for both sides. Eleven years later, the handoff in Bamako has become a well-rehearsed ritual, one of dozens of such transactions repeated all over the world.

Kidnapping Europeans for ransom has become a global business for Al Qaeda, bankrolling its operations across the globe.

While European governments deny paying ransoms, an investigation by The New York Times found that Al Qaeda and its direct affiliates have taken in at least \$125 million in revenue from kidnappings since 2008, of which \$66 million was paid just in the past year.

In various news releases and statements, the United States Treasury Department has cited ransom amounts that, taken together, put the total at around \$165 million over the same period.."..."