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THE SUPERBUG THAT DOCTORS HAVE BEEN DREADING JUST REACHED THE U.S.

May 26, 2016 The Washington Post reported: "For the first time, researchers have found a person in the United States carrying a bacteria resistant to antibiotics of last resort, an alarming development that the top U.S. public health official says could mean "the end of the road" for antibiotics.

The antibiotic-resistant strain was found last month in the urine of a 49-year-old Pennsylvania woman. Department of Defense researchers determined that carried a strain of E. coli resistant to the antibiotic colistin, according to a study published Thursday in Antimicrobial Agents and Chemotherapy, a publication of the American Society for Microbiology. The authors wrote that the discovery "heralds the emergence of a truly pan-drug resistant bacteria."



Colistin is the antibiotic of last resort for particularly dangerous types of superbugs, including a family of bacteria known as CRE, which health officials have dubbed "nightmare bacteria." In some instances, these superbugs kill up to 50 percent of patients who become infected. The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention has called CRE among the country's most urgent public health threats.

It's the first time this colistin-resistant strain has been found in a person in the United States. Last November, public health officials around the globe reacted with alarm when Chinese and British researchers reported finding the colistin-resistant strain in pigs, raw pork meat and in a small number of people in China. The deadly strain was later discovered in Europe and elsewhere.

"It basically shows us that the end of the road isn't very far away for antibiotics -- that we may be in a situation where we have patients in our intensive-care units, or patients getting urinary tract infections for which we do not have antibiotics," CDC Director Tom Frieden in an interview Thursday."..."

IRAN PLEDGES \$70 MILLION TO PALESTINIAN ISLAMIC JIHAD

May 26, 2016 Arutz Sheva 7 reported: "Iran has agreed a new support package to the Palestinian Islamic Jihad terrorist group, pledging to provide \$70 million in annual assistance to terror group's 'jihad' against the State of Israel.

Sources close to Islamic Jihad told the pan-Arab Asharq al-Awsat newspaper of the pledge, which came after a visit by PIJ leaders to Tehran in April for meetings with the head of the Iranian Revolutionary Guards Qods Force, Qassem Soleimani. That delegation was headed by Islamic Jihad's Secretary General Ramadan Shalah, along with two of his top aides Akram Ajuri and Ziad Nakhleh.

Soleimani's Qods Force is in charge of international terrorism, espionage and proxy wars on behalf of the Islamic regime. The previously shadowy leader gained a high profile for leading pro-regime operations in Iraq and Syria against Sunni insurgents – operations which often included public appearances on the frontlines.

The meetings followed two years of strained relations between the Islamist terror group and Tehran, and essentially represented an emergency bailout as the cash-strapped group had been struggling to pay some of its personnel for several months.

It will also be seen as a serious snub towards Hamas, Islamic Jihad's main rivals in the Gaza Strip, which has over the past months in particular shifted away from Iran towards Tehran's arch-nemesis Saudi Arabia..."

POPE AND TOP IMAM EMBRACE IN HISTORIC VATICAN MEETING

May 25, 2016 timesofisrael.com reported: "Pope Francis embraced the grand imam of Cairo's Al-Azhar Mosque at the Vatican on Monday in a historic encounter both sides hope will lead to greater understanding and dialogue between the two faiths. The first Vatican meeting between the leader of the world's Catholics and the highest authority in Sunni Islam marks the culmination of a significant improvement in relations between the two faiths since Francis took office in 2013.

'Our meeting is the message,' Francis said in a brief comment at the start of his meeting with Sheikh Ahmed al-Tayeb, shortly after he had hugged and kissed his guest, Vatican officials told a small pool of reporters covering the event.

In a statement on the trip, Al-Azhar, an institution that also comprises a prestigious seat of learning, said the two sides had agreed to convene a 'peace conference.'

A statement quoted Tayeb as telling Francis: 'We need to take a joint stance, hand in hand, to bring happiness to humanity. Divine religions were revealed to make people happy, not to cause them hardship.'..."

GERMANY RECRUITING MUSLIM ILLEGALS AS POLICE OFFICERS

May 25, 2016 infowars.com reported: "The German state of Bavaria is recruiting Muslim migrants as police officers – and German citizenship isn't required. When announcing the move, Bavarian Interior Minister Joachim Herrmann implied they needed Muslim migrants as police because they speak the same language as their fellow illegals and know how they think.

"Our experience has shown that employees with foreign roots are more successful at finding a better approach to migrants," he told the Bayerische Rundfunk. "I'm optimistic that in this way we can improve our ability to solve crimes and reduce conflict."

The Bavarian police are also encouraging migrants to enroll due to the fierce opposition to German Chancellor Angela Merkel's open borders policy. In other words, they want cops who won't resist Merkel's agenda."..."

HARDLINE CLERIC ELECTED HEAD OF KEY IRAN OVERSIGHT BODY

May 24, 2016 timesofisrael.com reported: "Iran's Assembly of Experts chose ultra-conservative Ayatollah Ahmad Jannati on Tuesday to head the key body which oversees the work of the country's supreme leader and will elect his successor, state television reported.

The 89-year-old cleric is one of the few hardliners who secured reelection in a February vote that saw a landslide for reformist and moderates in the capital and big gains elsewhere. Jannati was voted chairman of the 88-member Assembly with 51 votes. No moderates or reformists stood for the post.

Former president Ayatollah Akbar Hashemi Rafsanjani, who had chaired the assembly until 2011 and who topped the polls in Tehran three months ago, did not put his name forward, with media reports suggesting he could muster no more than 20 of the assembly's votes..."

RELIGIOUS 'NONES' OUTNUMBER CHRISTIANS IN ENGLAND AND WALES

May 24, 2016 ChristianToday.com reported: "More people in England and Wales say they have no religion than say they are Christians, according to new analysis – and the number is increasing.

Stephen Bullivant, senior lecturer in theology and ethics at St Mary's Catholic University in Twickenham, analysed data collected through British Social Attitudes surveys over three decades. He found that the number of people saying they had no religion – or 'nones' – was 48.5 per cent in 2014, almost double the figure of 25 per cent in 2011. Christians made up 43.5 per cent of the population.

'The striking thing is the clear sense of the growth of 'no religion' as a proportion of the population,' Bullivant said.

'The main driver is people who were brought up with some religion now saying they have no religion. What we're seeing is an acceleration in the numbers of people not only not practising their faith on a regular basis, but not even ticking the box. The reason for that is the big question in the sociology of religion.' ..."

IRANIAN COMMANDER: WE CAN DESTROY ISRAEL 'IN UNDER 8 MINUTES'

May 23, 2016 timesofisrael.com reported: "A senior Iranian military commander boasted that the Islamic Republic could 'raze the Zionist regime in less than eight minutes.'

Ahmad Karimpour, a senior adviser to the Iranian Revolutionary Guards' elite unit al-Quds Force, said if Supreme Leader Ali Khamenei gave the order to destroy Israel, the Iranian military had the capacity to do so quickly.

'If the Supreme Leader's orders [are] to be executed, with the abilities and the equipment at our disposal, we will raze the Zionist regime in less than eight minutes,' Karimpour said Thursday, according to the semi-official Fars News Agency.

A senior Iranian general on May 9 announced that the country's armed forces successfully tested a precision-guided, medium-range ballistic missile two weeks earlier that could reach Israel, the state-run Tasnim agency reported.

'We test-fired a missile with a range of 2,000 kilometers and a margin of error of eight meters,' Brigadier General Ali Abdollahi was quoted as saying at a Tehran science conference. The eight-meter margin means the 'missile enjoys zero error,' he told conference participants..."

RUSSIA, CHINA WARN OF CHEMICAL WEAPONS THREAT FOR EUROPE

May 23, 2016 voanews.com reported: "Russia and China want countries neighboring Syria to inform the U.N. if they find any extremist group trying to get chemical weapons, warning that they may be used in Europe. Both countries sent a draft resolution through the Security Council Wednesday, saying terrorists are a 'clear and present threat' to the continent.

'We know that there is a strong concern, with reports that thousands of them have moved to Europe,' Russia's U.N. Ambassador Vitaly Churkin told reporters in New York.

'Could some of them have brought with them the components of chemical weapons? Could some of them have brought to a European city or European country their knowledge of how to build chemical weapons?' he asked.

The resolution would call on such countries as Turkey and Iraq to monitor extremists for any moves toward building or acquiring chemical weapons..."

INDIA'S MINI SPACE SHUTTLE BLASTS OFF

May 23, 2016 spacedaily.com reported: "India successfully launched its first model space shuttle on Monday, a top official said, as New Delhi joined the race to develop a reusable rocket to make space travel easier and cheaper.

The winged shuttle blasted off on a rocket from the southeastern spaceport of Sriharikota at about 7:00am (0130 GMT), with television footage showing it streaming through a clear sky. The shuttle, about one sixth the size of a normal one, was meant to reach an altitude of 70 kilometres (43 miles) before gliding back down and splashing into the Bay of Bengal 10 minutes later.

"The lift-off was at 7am from the first launch pad here," India's space chief Devi Prasad Karnik told AFP. "We have successfully accomplished the RLV mission as a technology demonstrator," he said. The Indian Space Research Organisation (ISRO), known for its low costs, has developed the winged shuttle called the Reusable Launch Vehicle or RLV-TD reportedly on a miniscule budget of one billion rupees (\$14 million). Monday's test mission was a crucial step towards eventually developing a full-scale, reusable shuttle to send up satellites in the future.

India faces stiff competition including from global companies which are developing their own reusable rockets after NASA retired its space shuttle programme in 2011..."

