



PROPHETIC TIMES

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Weekly World News Briefs

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At least 13 killed, dozens wounded in car-ramming attack in Barcelona

August 17, 2017 timesofisrael.com reported: "A white van jumped the sidewalk in the northern Spanish city of Barcelona Thursday, killing at least 13 and injuring dozens, in what police confirmed was a terror attack.

Police said the driver fled on foot after the van came to a standstill after crashing into a kiosk. Spain's El Pais newspaper, citing police sources, said he and a second perpetrator of the attack were holed up in a bar after the attack.

The Civil Guard said the van was rented by a man named as Driss Oukabir in the municipality of Santa Perpetua de la Mogada, near Barcelona, El Pais reported. He was later apprehended as a suspect. Police dispelled earlier reports of a hostage situation..."



Al Qaeda Publishes Blueprint for Attacks on Key U.S. Transportation Systems

August 17, 2017 The Washington Free Beacon reported: "The al Qaeda terror group's chief bomb maker has published a blueprint for new attacks on U.S. transportation systems, including planes, trains, and boats, which the terror group views as 'prime targets,' according to a copy of a lengthy manifesto that provides a guide for would-be terrorists to launch attacks.

Ibrahim al-Asiri, a top al Qaeda leader known as the terror group's chief bomb maker, detailed the extremist organization's plans to target U.S. passenger and shipping transportation services, which the terror organization views as weak links ripe for attack.

While al Qaeda's operations have been weakened by years of U.S. attacks on its key locations and apparatus, it has increasingly relied on promulgating its radical ideology to so-called 'lone wolfs' who are not officially affiliated with the group but who are capable of carrying out terror attacks without detection by American authorities..."

Japan, US conduct live-fire drill amid regional tension

August 16, 2017 spacedaily.com reported: "Some 300 Japanese and US military personnel on Wednesday carried out live-fire artillery training in northern Japan, officials said, amid high regional tensions over North Korean missile threats. The drill, part of a 19-day exercise, came after a tense war of words between the United States and North Korea over Pyongyang's threats to fire missiles towards the Pacific island of Guam.

Troops from Japan's Ground Self-Defence Force (GSDF) and US Marines fired live ammunition from armed vehicles at a manoeuvre area on the northern island of Hokkaido. The two forces began the Northern Viper 2017 exercise on August 10, involving a total of 1,300 GSDF troops and 2,000 Marines.

"It is the first joint exercise between the GSDF and US Marines in Hokkaido," a defence ministry spokesman said. The spokesman denied any link between the drill and recent regional tension over North Korea..."

Ukraine to probe claim it supplied N Korea missile engine

August 16, 2017 spacedaily.com reported: "Ukraine's President Petro Poroshenko on Wednesday ordered an investigation into a report that North Korea procured an engine for its long-range missile from a Ukraine factory. But he nevertheless dismissed as "absurd" any suggestion Ukraine had supplied the communist state with such equipment.

A report by the International Institute for Strategic Studies (IISS) said missiles used in recent North Korean tests were based on the Soviet-era RD-250 engine built at Dnipro, Ukraine. While the IISS report did not accuse the Ukrainian authorities or the plant managers of being involved, it did suggest the engines could have been stolen from storage there.

But Kiev reacted angrily to an article in the New York Times that emphasised the engine's Ukrainian origin, in a statement posted on the president's website. Poroshenko ordered immediate checks on the New York Times' allegations of deliveries of missile engines or related technology from Ukraine to North Korea -- and a report back in three days.

"However absurd the accusations against Ukraine are, we must carefully check... the alleged deliveries," the statement quoted Poroshenko as saying..."

North Korea carried out a pair of successful intercontinental ballistic missile tests in July following long-term struggles, which the IISS report said could be caused by the RD-250 purchase and refurbishment..."

North Korea leader 'briefed' on Guam plan but opts to wait

August 15, 2017 BBC News reported: "North Korean leader Kim Jong-un reviewed plans to fire missiles towards the US Pacific territory of Guam but will hold off, state media said. Although prepared for 'the enveloping fire at Guam', the North said it would watch what 'the foolish Yankees' do before taking a decision.

Last week's threat against Guam escalated the sharp rhetoric being exchanged between the two sides. This latest report points to a pause in the increasingly bitter war of words. South Korea's President Moon Jae-in meanwhile has urged the US not to launch an attack on the Korean peninsula without its consent, saying 'no one may decide to take military action without the consent' of the South.

The report on state news agency KCNA said Kim Jong-un 'examined the plan for a long time' and discussed it with senior military officials.

The commander of North Korea's strategic force was now merely waiting for orders 'after rounding off the preparations for the enveloping fire at Guam'. But, crucially, the report also said that Mr Kim would watch the US before making any decision, signalling an apparent deceleration in the provocative rhetoric..."

China, Russia push talks as North Korea steps back from missile launches

August 15, 2017 SpaceDaily.com reported: "China and Russia pushed Tuesday for talks to defuse the 'confrontational spiral' between the US and North Korea after Kim Jong-Un stepped back from a planned missile strike near Guam.

The North Korean leader said he would wait and see how the United States behaved before deciding whether to execute the planned launch of four missiles over Japan towards the tiny US territory in the Pacific.

Some analysts suggested Kim was opening a possible path to de-escalating tensions, which spiked dramatically with recent bellicose exchanges between US President Donald Trump and Pyongyang.

The North's official KCNA news agency said Kim was briefed on the 'plan for an enveloping fire at Guam' during an inspection on Monday of the Strategic Force command in charge of the nuclear-armed state's missile units. But it said Kim would 'watch a little more the foolish and stupid conduct of the Yankees' before executing any order..."

Iran Sending Warships to Atlantic Ocean Amid Massive New Military Buildup

August 15, 2017 The Washington Free Beacon reported: "Iran is preparing to send a flotilla of warships to the Atlantic Ocean following the announcement of a massive \$500 million investment in war spending, according to Iranian leaders, who say the military moves are in response to recent efforts by the United States to impose a package of new economic sanctions on Tehran.



The military investment and buildup comes following weeks of tense interactions between Iran and the United States in regional waters, where Iranian military ships have carried out a series of dangerous maneuvers near U.S. vessels. The interactions have roiled U.S. military leaders and prompted tough talk from the Trump administration, which is currently examining potential ways to leave the landmark nuclear deal.

Iran's increasingly hostile behavior also follows a little-noticed United Nations report disclosing that Iran has repeatedly violated international accords banning ballistic missile work. Lawmakers in the U.S. Congress and some policy experts also believe that Iran has been violating some provisions in the nuclear agreement governing nuclear-related materials..."

Iranian official: No one will inspect our military centers

August 14, 2017 Arutz Sheva 7 reported: "A senior Iranian military official stated that Iran will not allow any foreign states, especially the U.S., to visit the country's military centers.

'Both the great Iranian nation and the U.S. and the world should know that if there is only one demand in the whole world which will be rejected and if there is only one wish that will be taken to the grave, it is the Americans' demand to visit our military centers,' Lieutenant Commander of the Iranian Revolutionary Guards Corps (IRGC), Brigadier General Hossein Salami, said in a televised interview on Saturday.

The comments were quoted by the semiofficial Iranian Fars news agency.

'The Americans should not allow themselves at all to speak about Iran and if they want to visit a base they should go to the military sites in the U.S.,' added Salami. He underscored Iran's high defense and military power, and said Tehran has produced different missiles in such large numbers that it has problems in stockpiling them..."

Congressional Expert: North Korea Satellites Orbiting U.S. Could Be Used for 'Surprise' EMP Attack

August 13, 2017 Breitbart.com reported: "While the news media and U.S. intelligence community continues to focus on North Korea's missile capabilities, one expert warned on Sunday that we are ignoring two North Korean satellites currently orbiting the U.S. that could be used to carry out a devastating electromagnetic pulse (EMP) attack.

Such a 'surprise' attack could paralyze the U.S. electrical grid and critical civilian infrastructure, resulting in the death of large numbers of Americans. So warned Dr. Peter Vincent Pry, executive director of the Congressional Task Force on National and Homeland Security and chief of staff of the Congressional EMP Commission..."

Mossad Chief warns: Iran is taking over the Middle East

August 13, 2017 Arutz Sheva 7 reported: "Mossad Director Yossi Cohen briefed the cabinet Sunday, warning that the Iranian regime is expanding its control across the Middle East through proxy forces in Syria, Lebanon, Iraq, and Yemen.

'In places where Iran's presence is limited, Iran is working to fill the void,' he said. Cohen also said that Iran has not abandoned its aspirations to become a nuclear power, and that the nuclear agreement signed between the world powers and Iran only strengthens Iranian aggression in the region.

The Mossad head also told ministers that Iran's economy has gotten stronger ever since signing the nuclear accords in 2015, a trend that has been reinforced by recent international agreements. The agreement freed frozen Iranian funds and led to trade agreements with European countries eager to profit from the opportunity. Under Obama, the US also sent Iran hundreds of millions of dollars after Iran freed US hostages..."

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