



PROPHETIC TIMES

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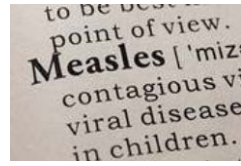
Weekly World News Briefs

May 11, 2019

'Unprecedented' 100,000 hit by European Measles outbreak spreading at 'alarming' rate

May 9, 2019 dailystar.co.uk reported: "The World Health Organization said the rise in cases was "unprecedented" for a preventable disease.

They revealed they are rapidly ramping up their response to the outbreak, which has spread over two years, "based on the growing number of children and adults affected by and dying from the disease". Measles is one of the leading causes of death in the world from a disease that can be cured by a vaccine. It poses a particular danger to children and gives sufferers excruciating rashes, fever, and inflamed eyes.



WHO revealed today that, since the beginning of last year, more than 90% of countries across the continent have together reported over 100,000 measles cases and over 90 related deaths.

In recent years, conspiracy theories and fake reports have led to many parents stopping their kids having a vaccine, which is effective at preventing the disease. The WHO highlighted "the persistence of pockets of non-immunized or under-immunized individuals in many countries fueling the continuing spread of measles." ..."

Iran nuclear deal: European powers reject 'ultimatums'

May 9, 2019 bbcnews.com reported: "European powers have said they remain committed to the Iran nuclear deal but that they 'reject any ultimatums' from Tehran to prevent its collapse.

Iran announced on Wednesday that it had suspended two commitments under the 2015 accord in response to the economic sanctions the US reimposed last year. It also threatened to step up uranium enrichment if it was not shielded from the sanctions' effects within 60 days. The EU, UK, France and Germany noted 'with great concern' Iran's move.

Under the nuclear deal, which is known as the Joint Comprehensive Plan of Action (JCPOA), Iran agreed to limit its sensitive nuclear activities in return for sanctions relief..."

Iran summons Christians to explain why they converted from Islam

May 8, 2019 christiantoday.com reports: "Iran's intelligence minister, Mahmoud Alavi, openly expressed concern last weekend about the spread of Christianity in the Islamic republic and said that some converts to Christianity were 'summoned' to explain why they have converted. The 65-year-old Alavi gave a speech before Shia clerics on Saturday, the day before the beginning of Ramadan.

According to the International Shia News Association, Alavi blamed 'evangelical propaganda' for the increase in Iranian Muslims converting to Christianity in certain areas of the country.

Despite Christianity being criminalized in a country where the government is entangled with hardline Islam, the nation is experiencing one of the fastest evolving underground church movements in the world.

According to Radio Farda, Alavi told the clerics that the Intelligence Ministry and Qom Seminary, the country's largest Islamic seminary, have dispatched individuals and institutions that are active in 'countering the advocates of Christianity' to areas where Muslims are being converted.

'People tend to become Christians who are ordinary people of the community, for example, their sandwich shops and the like, and they became a Christian family,' he was quoted as saying. Alavi also said that in a city like Hamadan province in northwestern Iran, the government was given no choice but to summon Muslim converts to Christianity to ask why they have embraced the religion over Islam..."

Islamic Jihad leader predicts war this summer

May 8, 2019 [Arutz Sheva](http://ArutzSheva.com) reported: "Islamic Jihad leader Ziad al-Nakhala said on Tuesday that he believed that a war would break out between Israel and Gaza this summer because of the intention to 'disarm the resistance in Gaza.'

He made the comments in an interview with the Lebanese Al-Mayadeen TV, translated by Channel 13 News.

'We decided to fire at an IDF officer and a female soldier last Friday in cooperation with Hamas, in response to the killing of the demonstrators at the return marches,' said Nakhala. 'The Egyptians did not like the fact that this was happening while we were in Cairo. I, together with Yahya Sinwar, decided to continue the response. I say that the last round of escalation was only an exercise in live ammunition ahead of the larger battle to take place soon.'

The Islamic Jihad leader further claimed that if the previous round of escalation had continued, rocket fire on Tel Aviv would have taken place 'within hours.' ..."

U.S. jittery about Chinese subs in Arctic

May 8, 2019 asiatimes.com reported: "The Pentagon is worried that it may see more submarines deployed by the People's Liberation Army further afield, such as in the Arctic Ocean, as China's bold military presence in waters on the top of the world may hinder the US nuclear deterrence. That assessment was included in the Pentagon's annual report on the PLA to the United States Congress.

Even though it does not border the world's northernmost waters, China outlined plans in a white paper last year to develop new shipping shortcuts opened up by the melting of sea ice in the Arctic Ocean and to collaborate with Russia to form a 'Polar Silk Road'.

Beijing's Arctic ambitions have understandably caused trepidation among nations in the region, as the melting of sea ice may also enable new locations to launch faster missile attacks to anywhere in the northern hemisphere..."

Satellite images show China is building its third and largest aircraft carrier

May 7, 2019 foxnews.com reported: “Images released by a Washington-based think-tank show construction on China’s third and largest aircraft carrier, activity analysts believe could eventually challenge U.S. strategic superiority in East Asia. The Center for Strategic and International Studies (CSIS) in Washington released images from April that reveal construction on China’s third aircraft carrier in the Jiangnan Shipyard in Shanghai over the past six months, Reuters reported.

China has not confirmed it is building a third carrier. But the Pentagon said last week that work had begun on a vessel that would ‘probably be larger than the first two and fitted with a catapult launch system to accelerate aircraft during takeoff.’

The CSIS images support the Pentagon’s claims. The satellite photographs show China’s Type 002 aircraft carrier is slightly smaller than U.S. carriers but larger than France’s Charles de Gaulle, analysts said. It remains unclear whether the vessel would have nuclear capability...”

US: There’s a ‘credible threat’ by Iran

May 7, 2019 Arutz Sheva 7 reported: “Acting US Defense Secretary Patrick Shanahan said on Monday that he approved the deployment of a US carrier strike group and a bomber task force to the Middle East because of ‘indications of a credible threat’ by Iran.

Shanahan wrote on Twitter that he approved the decision to send the USS Abraham Lincoln carrier strike group and a US Air Force bomber task force to the area on Sunday. The decision ‘represents a prudent repositioning of assets in response to indications of a credible threat by Iranian regime forces,’ he wrote.

‘We call on the Iranian regime to cease all provocation. We will hold the Iranian regime accountable for any attack on US forces or our interests,’ added Shanahan in a second tweet...”

Beijing slams U.S. warship sail-by in South China Sea

May 7, 2019 spacedaily.com reported: “China said two US warships sailed near disputed islands in the South China Sea without permission on Monday in the latest US challenge to Beijing’s territorial claims in the region. The Chinese navy asked the US vessels to leave after they entered waters adjacent to Gaven and Chigua reefs in the Spratly Islands, which Beijing calls Nansha, the foreign ministry said.

The move comes on top of trade tensions as President Donald Trump said Sunday he would raise tariffs on \$200 billion in Chinese goods on Friday because talks were moving ‘too slowly’.

‘The relevant actions of the US warships violated China’s sovereignty and undermined peace, security and good order in the relevant sea areas,’ ministry spokesman Geng Shuang said at a press briefing.

‘The Chinese side expresses strong dissatisfaction and resolute opposition’ to the operation, Geng added, noting that the ships had entered ‘without permission’...”

U.S. Air Force completes successful shoot down of air-launched missiles

May 6, 2019 spacedaily.com reported: “The Air Force Research Laboratory (AFRL) Self-Protect High Energy Laser Demonstrator (SHiELD) Advanced Technology Demonstration (ATD) Program successfully completed a major program milestone April 23, 2019 with the successful surrogate laser weapon system shoot down of multiple air launched missiles in flight.

The SHiELD program is developing a directed energy laser system on an aircraft pod that will serve to demonstrate self-defense of aircraft against surface-to-air (SAM) and air-to-air (AAM) missiles.

‘This critical demonstration shows that our directed energy systems are on track to be a game changer for our warfighters,’ said Dr. Kelly Hammett, director of AFRL’s Directed Energy Directorate...”

US to deploy bombers to Middle East in message to Iran

May 6, 2019 Arutz Sheva 7 reported: “The United States is deploying a carrier strike group and a bomber task force to the Middle East to send a clear message to Iran that any attack on US interests or its allies will be met with ‘unrelenting force,’ US national security adviser John Bolton said on Sunday, according to Reuters.

Amid rising tensions between the United States and Iran, Bolton said the decision was ‘in response to a number of troubling and escalatory indications and warnings.’

‘The United States is not seeking war with the Iranian regime, but we are fully prepared to respond to any attack, whether by proxy, the Islamic Revolutionary Guard Corps or regular Iranian forces,’ he added...”

Hamas, Islamic Jihad: ‘We’re close to open war with Israel’

May 6, 2019 jpost.com reported: “Defiant Hamas and Islamic Jihad officials said on Sunday that they don’t rule out the possibility that the current round of fighting in the Gaza Strip could lead to an all-out war with Israel.

The warning came as leaders of the two Palestinian groups continued their discussions in Cairo with senior Egyptian intelligence officials on ways of ending the current round of fighting with Israel.

Unconfirmed reports on Sunday evening claimed that Hamas has indicated its readiness for a ceasefire with Israel. Hamas officials in the Gaza Strip did not comment on the reports.

Islamic Jihad spokesperson Musab al-Braim said that the ‘resistance was on the threshold of a new phase in repelling the [Israeli] aggression that could lead to an open war.’ He said that light of the continued ‘aggression on our people and the targeting of children, houses and the implementation of the policy of assassinations, we are on the threshold of this phase, and we will not have mercy on this enemy.’...”

