



PROPHETIC TIMES

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‘Gaza military operation sooner or later’

December 26, 2019 Arutz Sheva 7 reported: “Minister Ofir Akunis today referred to the last night’s fire from Gaza towards Ashkelon while the Prime Minister attended the primary campaign in the city.

‘Gaza will need a large and complex military operation sooner or later. We reach out for peace and instead get either suicide bombers or knives or one massacre or another,’ Akunis said in a Kann News interview.

He said, ‘You should talk to terror organizations in their language. First of all, strike a very strong blow they won’t recover from for many years.’...”

China, Russia, Iran to hold joint naval drills

December 26, 2019 AFP reported: “China, Russia and Iran will hold joint naval drills starting Friday in the Gulf of Oman, Beijing and Tehran said, at a time of heightened tensions since the US withdrew from a landmark nuclear deal with Tehran.

Set to take place from December 27 to 30, the military exercises aim to "deepen exchange and cooperation between the navies of the three countries", Chinese defence ministry spokesman Wu Qian told reporters Thursday.

Wu said the Chinese navy would deploy its Xining guided missile destroyer -- nicknamed the "carrier killer" for its array of anti-ship and land attack cruise missiles -- in the drills. But he did not give details on how many personnel or ships would take part overall.

For Iran, the drill's purpose was to bolster "international commerce security in the region" and "fighting terrorism and piracy," said senior armed forces spokesman Brigadier General Aboldazl Shekarchi.

The exercise would "stabilise security" in the region and benefit the world, state news agency IRNA quoted him as saying on Wednesday. "...”

China hosts Japan, South Korea with eyes on nuclear North

December 25, 2019 spacedaily.com reported: “China hosts the leaders of squabbling neighbours South Korea and Japan on Tuesday, flexing its diplomatic muscle with America’s two key military allies in Asia and seeking regional unity on how to deal with a belligerent North Korea.

The gathering in the southwestern city of Chengdu is being held with the clock ticking on a threatened ‘Christmas gift’ from North Korean leader Kim Jong Un that would reignite global tensions over its nuclear programme.

Kim has promised the unidentified ‘gift’, which analysts and American officials believe could be a provocative missile test, if the United States does not act make concessions in their nuclear talks by the end of the year.

The gathering in Chengdu will also feature the first one-on-one meeting between Japanese Prime Minister Shinzo Abe and South Korean President Moon Jae-in for 15 months.

Ties between their two nations have hit rock bottom in recent months over trade issues and other disputes related to decades of bitter wrangling over Japan’s 1910-45 occupation of the Korean peninsula...”

Beijing attacks US for ‘weaponisation’ of outer space

December 25, 2019 spacedaily.com reported: “Beijing warned Monday that the US was turning the cosmos into a ‘battlefield’, after Washington announced a new military arm called the Space Force.

Following concerns that China and Russia are challenging its position in space, US President Donald Trump signed the 2020 National Defense Authorization Act on Friday — which created a new branch of the US military.

Beijing responded by accusing the US of ‘pursuing the weaponisation of outer space’.

‘These actions from the US strongly violate the international consensus of the peaceful use of outer space.... posing a direct threat to outer space, peace, and security,’ said foreign ministry spokesman Geng Shuang at a regular press briefing.

Geng called for the international community to ‘adopt a prudent and responsible attitude to prevent outer space from becoming a new battlefield’.

The Space Force will be the sixth formal force of the US military, after the Army, Air Force, Navy, Marines, and Coast Guard...”

Syrian defences fire on ‘hostile missiles’ from Israel: state media

December 23, 2019 spacedaily.com reported: “Syrian air defences on Sunday fired on Israeli missiles, shooting down one that fell outside Damascus, the official Syrian news agency Sana reported.



Presidents Putin, Xi, & Rouhani

The 'hostile missiles came from the Occupied Territories,' Sana said, referring to Israel, adding that one missile came down in Aqraba, a suburb southeast of Damascus.

An Israeli army spokeswoman contacted by AFP said Israel does not comment on reports in foreign media.

According to the UK-based Syrian Observatory for Human Rights, there were three explosions in the Damascus suburbs after the missiles targeted 'Syrian regime and Iranian positions'.

It said at least two missiles came down near Aqraba.

The Observatory added that ambulances were observed heading towards where the missiles hit..."

Challenged by China and Russia, US builds force for future space wars

December 23, 2019 spacedaily.com reported: "The United States met a mounting 21st century strategic challenge from Russia and China Friday with the creation of a full-fledged US Space Force within the Department of Defense.

Acting on an ambition by President Donald Trump that had met resistance at first, the White House signaled its determination to not cede superiority in a Star Wars-like future of killer satellites and satellite-killer weapons.

Trump made the Space Force's creation real with the signing of the 2020 National Defense Authorization Act, which set the initial budget for a Pentagon force that will stand equally with the military's five other branches.

'Going to be a lot of things happening in space, because space is the world's newest warfighting domain,' Trump told members of the military gathered for the signing..."

ISIS in Iraq: Militants 'getting stronger again'

December 23, 2019 bbc.com reported: "There are growing indications that the Islamic State (IS) group is re-organising in Iraq, two years after losing the last of its territory in the country.

Kurdish and Western intelligence officials have told the *BBC* that the IS presence in Iraq is a sophisticated insurgency, and IS attacks are increasing.

The militants are now more skilled and more dangerous than al-Qaeda, according to Lahur Talabany, a top Kurdish counter-terrorism official.

'They have better techniques, better tactics and a lot more money at their disposal,' he said. 'They are able to buy vehicles, weapons, food supplies and equipment. Technologically they're more savvy. It's more difficult to flush them out. So, they are like al-Qaeda on steroids.'

The veteran intelligence chief delivered his stark assessment in a London accent – the legacy of years in the UK after his family had to flee from the regime of Saddam Hussein..."

US, Russian military leaders meet in Switzerland on Syria

December 20, 2019 spacewar.com reported: "The top US and Russian military chiefs met Wednesday in Switzerland for talks on Syria, where both countries are militarily engaged and maintain regular contact to avoid accidental confrontations.

General Mark Milley, the chairman of the US Joint Chiefs of Staff, and his Russian counterpart, General Valery Gerasimov, met in Bern, a spokeswoman for Milley said.

They discussed 'Syria, strategic stability and a variety of other operational and strategic issues to enhance deconfliction, improve understanding and reduce risk,' Colonel DeDe Halfhill said.

'Both leaders recognize the importance of maintaining regular communication to avoid miscalculation and to promote transparency,' she said..."

Turkey warns of 'escalation' if US ends Cyprus arms embargo

December 19, 2019 spacedaily.com reported: "Turkey has warned that US moves to lift a decades-old arms embargo on Cyprus would be a 'dangerous escalation', as relations deteriorated further between the NATO allies.

The US Congress voted Tuesday to end the embargo on the island, which was imposed in 1987 to avoid an arms race and encourage the conflict's resolution.

Cyprus has been divided since 1974 when Turkey invaded in response to a coup engineered by the then military regime in Athens.

The US decision 'will have no outcome other than hampering efforts towards a settlement on the island and creating a dangerous escalation,' the Turkish foreign ministry said in a statement late Tuesday..."



Bern, Switzerland