



PROPHETIC TIMES

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Weekly World News Briefs

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Former Iranian Crown Prince: We are beginning to see end of the regime

January 16, 2020 jpost.com reported: "The 'beginning of the end' of the Iranian regime has started, former Crown Prince of Iran Reza Pahlavi said Wednesday in a conversation at the Hudson Institute in Washington with senior fellow Mike Doran. Pahlavi stated that the recent protests in Iran are different than previous demonstrations.

'People smell the opportunity for the first time in 40 years,' he added. 'This time is very different from 2009, even very different from 1997. The people have had it. Today's generation of young Iranians cannot take it anymore. They want to have an opportunity for a better future. They want to be on the path of modernity and freedom. The only thing that stands between them and the free world is this regime.'

Pahlavi said that it's time for Ayatollah Khamenei to step down and to allow a peaceful transition with a minimal number of casualties..."

Russian government resigns after President Putin's state-of-the-nation address proposes changes to the constitution

January 15, 2020 rt.com reported: "Russian Prime Minister Dmitry Medvedev has announced that the entire government is resigning in a surprise statement released shortly after President Vladimir Putin delivered his annual state-of-the-nation address.

Accepting the resignation, Putin thanked the ministers for their hard work and asked them to function as a caretaker government until a new one can be formed.

Medvedev and Putin had met for a work meeting to discuss the state-of-the-nation address earlier on Wednesday, the Kremlin said. Medvedev explained that the cabinet is resigning in accordance with Article 117 of the Russian Constitution, which states that the government can offer its resignation to the president, who can either accept or reject it.

During his speech, Putin said he intended to create the position of deputy secretary of Russia's Security Council, which would be offered to Medvedev. Medvedev's move to the new role will mean Russia will have a new prime minister when a new government is formed.

Putin also proposed multiple amendments to Russia's constitution. His proposals would entail "*substantial changes*" to the constitution as well as to the "*entire balance of power, the power of the executive, the power of the legislature, the power of the judiciary,*" Medvedev explained.

"*In this context, it is obvious that, as the government, we must provide the president with a capability to make all decisions,*" which are required to implement the proposed plan, Medvedev said announcing the en-masse resignation. Medvedev became prime minister in 2012, after serving four years as president. He currently heads the ruling United Russia party." ..."

New Space Force Chief sworn in at White House

January 15, 2020 spacedaily.com reported: "Vice President Mike Pence formally swore in Gen. John "Jay" Raymond as the new Chief of Space Operations Tuesday at the White House, a U.S. official told VOA.

Raymond assumed the duties of the first head of the Space Force on December 20, 2019, when U.S. President Donald Trump signed into law the National Defense Authorization Act that officially launched the new force.

"The Space Force will help us deter aggression and control the ultimate high ground," Trump said at the NDAA signing last month.

Officials say the Space Force will organize, train and equip military personnel who primarily focus on space operations. "..."



Gen. John "Jay" Raymond

China imposes harsh new rules governing religious groups in 2020

January 14, 2020 foxnews.com reports: "China is striking the 'final blow to religious liberty' with new administrative measures set to take place in February with total submission to the Chinese Communist Party, according to a watchdog group.

The country's state-run media announced the new 'Administrative Measures for Religious Groups' on Dec. 30. That same day, Pastor Wang Yi of Chengdu's Early Rain Covenant Church, one of the most well-known leaders in the House Church movement, was sentenced to nine years in jail for 'inciting subversion of state power,' raising concern for Chinese Christians.

Bitter Winter, a watchdog on religious liberty and human rights in China, said the situation for religious groups is going from 'bad to worse.'

'In practice, your religion no longer matters, if you are Buddhist, or Taoist, or Muslim or Christian,' a Chinese Catholic priest told *AsiaNews*. 'The only religion allowed is faith in the Chinese Communist Party.' ..."

Philippine volcano trembles more, spews lava half-mile high

January 14, 2020 The Associated Press reported: “A volcano near the Philippine capital spewed lava into the sky and trembled constantly Tuesday, possibly portending a bigger and more dangerous eruption, as tens of thousands of people fled villages darkened and blanketed by heavy ash.



Government work was suspended and schools were closed in a number of towns and cities, including Manila, because of health risks from the ash. Hundreds of flights were canceled or delayed, affecting tens of thousands of passengers.

The restiveness of the Taal volcano and several new fissures in the ground nearby likely mean magma is rising and may lead to further eruptive activity, the Philippine Institute of Volcanology and Seismology said.

The volcano was spurting fountains of red-hot lava 800 meters (half a mile) into the sky, and the massive column of ash and volcanic debris at times lit up with streaks of lightning.

The alert level since the eruption began Sunday has been 4, indicating a hazardous eruption is possible in hours to days. Level 5, the highest, means such an eruption is underway.

The Philippine institute said about 50 volcanic earthquakes were detected over eight hours Tuesday, indicating rising magma. It also warned that heavy and prolonged ash fall was possible in nearby villages.

“The speed in the rise of magma is important (in determining) when the volcano will have a strong eruption and if it will slow down and freeze,” said Renato Solidum, who heads the institute. “As of now, we don’t see activities slowing down and the earthquakes still continue.”

More than 38,000 people have been relocated so far to over 200 evacuation centers, U.N. spokesman Stephane Dujarric said in New York. He said U.N. teams are visiting evacuation centers and supporting authorities, who have asked the United Nations for help getting face masks.

The picturesque volcano in the middle of a lake in Batangas province south of Manila rumbled to life Sunday in a powerful explosion that blasted a 15-kilometer...column of ash, steam and rock into the sky. Clouds of volcanic ash blowing over Manila, 65 kilometers... to the north, closed the country’s main airport Sunday and part of Monday until the ash fall eased.” ...”

Israel hails ‘breakthrough’ towards laser air defence system

January 13, 2020 spacedaily.com reported: “The Israeli defence ministry has hailed a ‘breakthrough’ in the development of cheaper laser-based air defences, as tensions soar in the region after Iran hit US targets in retaliation for a high-profile assassination. The lasers, still under development, would be capable of intercepting ‘everything’ fired at Israel, including long and medium range missiles, rockets, mortar rounds and drones, an official told *AFP* on Thursday, asking not to be identified.

The new technology, which Israel hopes to test later this year, uses electricity to power the lasers, doing away with the need for stocks of munitions, the official said. The lasers would be used to ‘complement’ existing air defences such as the short-range Iron Dome system, David’s Sling, which targets medium-range threats, and the Arrow, Israel’s highest-altitude missile interception system...”

Iranian protesters refuse to trample Israeli, US flags

January 13, 2020 Arutz Sheva 7 reported: “Iranian protesters demonstrating against their country’s government were seen avoiding giant Israeli and American flags on the ground during their demonstration, so as to not trample them.

Video from student protests in Tehran shows thousands of demonstrators carefully walking around the two giant flags, which had been put on the ground to encourage passersby to trample them in a sign of contempt.

Nearly all of the students at Shahid Beheshti University in Tehran, however, can be seen walking around the flags during protests sparked by Iran’s admission that its military shot down a Ukrainian passenger jet, killing 176 civilians shortly after takeoff in what the regime called a ‘terrible mistake’...”

Putin attends massive war games off Crimea

January 10, 2020 spacewar.com reported: “Russian President Vladimir Putin on Thursday observed massive military drills off the coast of Moscow-annexed Crimea that involved test launches of cruise and hypersonic missiles.

Russia’s commander-in-chief was on board the cruiser Marshal Ustinov to watch the joint drills by the Northern and Black Sea Fleets, the Kremlin said. He watched test launches of Kalibr (Caliber) cruise missiles and Kinzhal (Dagger) hypersonic missiles among others, the Kremlin said.

Russia annexed the peninsula of Crimea from Ukraine in 2014, in a move condemned by the West that was followed by the outbreak of an insurgency in eastern Ukraine. The conflict has claimed more than 13,000 lives.

Exercises in the Black Sea featured frigates and a large anti-submarine ship as well as a submarine, large landing ships and fast attack guided missile craft, while fighter jets and bombers also took part...”

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