



PROPHETIC TIMES

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Irish aid agency Concern warns locusts will cause food crisis in Kenya

February 12, 2020 rte.ie reported: "Massive swarms of locusts are devouring entire fields of crops in as little as 30 seconds and fueling fears of a major food crisis in some of the world's poorest countries, Irish aid agency Concern Worldwide has warned.

Concern's Country Director for Kenya Amina Abdulla has said swarms of locusts, over 40km wide, are now affecting around 12 counties. Speaking to RTÉ's Morning Ireland, Ms. Abdulla said this will cause a major food security crisis, particularly for counties and regions in the northern part of the country.

She added that Kenya, and the Horn of Africa in general, recently came out of a prolonged drought period that was followed by widespread flooding, so communities are already very vulnerable." ..."

Top US commander warns Philippines rift could hurt terrorism fight

February 13, 2020 spacewar.com reported: "A top US commander warned ending a security pact with the Philippines' would hurt counter-terrorism efforts in the country's restive south Thursday, putting him at odds with commander-in-chief Donald Trump.

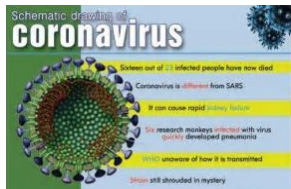
Washington's top military officer in Asia-Pacific Admiral Philip Davidson said he hoped Philippine President Rodrigo Duterte's decision to scrap a deal allowing US forces to be based in the country would be rethought.

Manila has given "180-day notice so we have some time for diplomatic efforts," Davidson said at an event in Sydney. "I hope we can get to a successful outcome."

Trump has said he would be "fine" with the end of the visiting forces agreement as it would save the United States "a lot of money".

But Davidson insisted the move would hamper military operations in Duterte's home island of Mindanao -- where separatist and Islamist violence has killed some 100,000 people.

"Our ability to help the Philippines in their counter-violent extremist fight in the south, our ability to train and operate within the Philippines and with Philippines armed forces would be challenged without that visiting forces agreement," he warned."..."



China confirms 15,152 new coronavirus cases, 254 additional deaths

February 13, 2020 cnbc.com reported: "In a Thursday press conference, China said it confirmed 15,152 new cases and 254 additional deaths. Those figures include the ones reported earlier by Hubei province under its new diagnosis methodology.

That brings the country's total death toll to 1,367 as the number of people infected hit 59,804, according to the government.

A spokeswoman for the Shanghai Health Commission said at a press conference that the methodology for diagnosing coronavirus has not been changed in any Chinese provinces or municipalities except for Hubei.

Health workers in Hubei province began using a new method to diagnose the virus this week.

Previously, infections were only allowed to be confirmed with nucleic acid tests, which can take days to process, but Hubei province is now using CT scans which can diagnose the virus more quickly

Erdogan Threatens Military Escalation in Syria

February 12, 2020 voanews.com reported: "Turkey's president, Recep Tayyip Erdogan, is threatening to escalate fighting against Syrian government forces following Monday's killing of Turkish soldiers. The warning comes in the face of calls for restraint from Moscow, but Erdogan is facing growing domestic pressure for an uncompromising stance.

'We have given the necessary response and retaliated in kind, but this is not enough,' Erdogan said Tuesday. The Turkish military claimed to have hit more than 100 targets of Damascus forces Monday.

The strikes were in response to the killing of five Turkish soldiers by artillery from Syrian forces in Idlib province.

Erdogan said Tuesday he would announce what new military steps he will take. He met Monday with his military commanders to discuss the Syrian situation.

In the space of a week, 12 Turkish soldiers have been killed by regime forces in Idlib. The Turkish president is facing growing domestic pressure to hit back..."

Space Wing squadron poised to receive first Space Force weapon system

February 11, 2020 spacedaily.com reported: "Imagine a secure communications room, like what has been shown in big-screen blockbuster movies...dozens of space and communications professionals behind computer terminals working together to deny an adversary the ability to attack the United States.

Now imagine being able to pick-up and throw that entire room into a plane and drop it into a deployed location, enabling allied forces to counter attacks in the midst of a crisis.

That is the capability that the 21st Space Wing will soon bring online with impending operational acceptance of the new Counter Communications System upgrade.

‘The Counter Communications System is a transportable satellite communications system that provides a ground-based capability to reversibly deny adversary satellite communications,’ said Maj. Seth Horner, United States Space Force Space and Missile Systems Center CCS B10.2 program manager. ‘CCS has had incremental upgrades since the early 2000’s, which have incorporated new techniques, frequency bands, technology refreshes, and lessons learned from previous block upgrades. This specific upgrade includes new software capabilities to counter new adversary targets and threats.’

Total force Airmen worked with L3Harris during the last year to put together a comprehensive training program for this new software upgrade for the technicians who would be using it, as well as sending the software through rigorous testing...”

Top Iranian official: We’re looking for a pretext to raze Tel Aviv to the ground

February 11, 2020 timesofisrael.com reported: “A former leader of Iran’s Revolutionary Guards has warned that Iran is just looking for an excuse to attack Israel and ‘raze Tel Aviv to the ground,’ blaming Israel for allegedly helping the US kill top commander Qassem Soleimani.

Speaking to Lebanon’s Hezbollah-affiliated *al-Mayadeen* TV station on Saturday, Mohsen Rezaei was asked if Iran would carry out its previous threats to attack Israel in the event of a war with the US.

‘You should have no doubt about this. We would raze Tel Aviv to the ground for sure. We have been looking for such a pretext,’ Rezaei said in remarks translated by the Middle East Media Research Institute (MEMRI) and released Monday.

Rezaei, the secretary of Iran’s powerful Expediency Council, is considered a top politician and an adviser to Supreme Leader Ayatollah Ali Khamenei.

‘If they (the US) do something, we can use it as a pretext to attack Israel, because Israel played a role in the martyrdom of General Soleimani,’ he said, blaming Israel for tipping off the Americans to Soleimani’s location.

‘We were waiting for the Americans to give us a pretext to strike Tel Aviv, just like we attacked Ayn Al-Assad,’ he said referring to the US military base in Iraq, which Iran hit with several missiles in response to Soleimani’s killing...”

Egyptian army thwarts Sinai attack, kills 10 terrorists

February 10, 2020 Arutz Sheva 7 reported: “Egypt’s army announced on Sunday that it killed 10 terrorists as its forces thwarted a major terror attack on a military checkpoint in North Sinai province, the *Xinhua* news agency reported.

In a statement, Egypt’s army spokesperson Tamer al-Refai said members of the armed forces managed to foil a terrorist attack on a security post in North Sinai, adding that the assault caused the death and injury of seven troopers, including two officers.

A four-wheel drive vehicle used by the terrorists was destroyed, he said, noting that army forces started an operation in search of terrorists at the scene of the attack.

Egypt has been fighting an insurgency in the Sinai Peninsula for several years, which at times has spilled over into other parts of the country. Most of the attacks this time period have been claimed by the Sinai Province, the Islamic State (ISIS) affiliate in Egypt...”



‘Super spreaders’ could make coronavirus outbreak harder to contain

February 10, 2020 nypost.com reported: “Highly contagious coronavirus carriers known as “super spreaders” could make the new outbreak more unpredictable — and tougher to contain — as it fans out across the globe, experts said.

“Super spreaders” are a phenomenon that occurs only with some infectious diseases where patients transmit the illness to a disproportionately high number of people, the Telegraph reported.

With the coronavirus, some individuals might infect one or two people, while a “super spreader” may pass the illness to dozens, the outlet reported.

“It seems to be largely to do with the way an infection proceeds in a specific individual, which means some people simply excrete more virus than others,” Mark Woolhouse, professor of infectious disease epidemiology at the University of Edinburgh, told the Telegraph. “So they’re more infectious and become super spreaders.”

“Super spreaders” may prove to be a challenge for health officials trying to stop the spread of the virus, particularly since it is understood that some patients are infecting others before they show symptoms.” ...”

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