



PROPHETIC TIMES

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Fears of 'digital dictatorship' as Myanmar deploys AI

March 18, 2021 Reuters reported: "Protesters in Myanmar fear they are being tracked with Chinese facial recognition technology, as spiraling violence and street surveillance spark fears of a "digital dictatorship" to replace ousted leader Aung San Suu Kyi.

Human rights groups say the use of artificial intelligence (AI) to check on citizens' movements poses a "serious threat" to their liberty. More than 200 people have been killed since Nobel peace laureate Suu Kyi was overthrown in a Feb. 1 coup, triggering mass protests that security forces have struggled to suppress with increasingly violent tactics. Security forces have focused on stamping out dissent in cities including the capital Naypyitaw, Yangon and Mandalay, where hundreds of CCTV cameras had been installed as part of a drive to improve governance and curb crime.

Human Rights Watch has expressed its "heightened concern" over cameras armed with AI technology that can scan faces and vehicle license plates in public places, and alert authorities to those on a wanted list.

"Even before the protests, the CCTVs were a concern for us, so we would try and avoid them - by taking different routes to go home, for example," Win Pe Myaing, a protester in Yangon, told the Thomson Reuters Foundation.

"We believe the police and the military are using the system to track demonstrations and protests. It's like a digital dictatorship - the regime is using technology to track and arrest citizens, and that's dangerous," he said...Most of the equipment used in Safe City, a project to curb crime in big cities, is from Chinese technology firm Huawei, the Myanmar Now publication had reported. Huawei did not respond to a request for comment." ..."

Iran, Russia denounce UK plan to boost nuclear arsenal

March 18, 2021 spacewar.com reported: "Iran and Russia on Wednesday denounced the UK's decision to bolster its nuclear arsenal, with the Islamic republic accusing it of 'hypocrisy' and the Kremlin warning the move threatens international stability.

Britain announced Tuesday that it plans to increase its nuclear arsenal from 180 warheads to 260 by the end of the decade, as it published a document outlining a recalibration of its foreign policy. The move reverses a previous commitment by London to reduce its stockpile..."

Putin recalls Russian ambassador to Washington

March 18, 2021 Arutz Sheva 7 reported: "Russian President Vladimir Putin has recalled the Russian Ambassador in Washington following comments by US President Joe Biden in which called Putin a 'killer.'

Ambassador Anatoly Antonov was recalled to Moscow for consultations on 'what to do and where to go in the context of relations with the US.'

In an interview with *ABC News* host George Stephanopoulos, Biden responded to a question about whether he thought the Russian leader was a killer by saying: 'I do.'

Biden's remarks were met with scorn in Russia. Chairman of the Russian State Duma Vyacheslav Volodin said Biden's remarks showed 'hysteria from impotence' and constituted an insult to the Russian Federation..."



Russian President
Vladimir Putin

IAEA: Iran enriching uranium with advanced centrifuge

March 17, 2021 Arutz Sheva 7 reported: "Iran has started enriching uranium at its underground Natanz plant with a second type of advanced centrifuge, the IR-4, the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA) said in a report obtained by *Reuters* on Tuesday.

The move is yet another breach by Iran of the nuclear deal it signed with major powers in 2015.

'On 15 March 2021, the Agency verified that Iran began feeding the cascade of 174 IR-4 centrifuges already installed at FEP with natural UF₆,' the IAEA said in the report to member states dated Monday, referring to uranium hexafluoride, the form in which uranium is fed into centrifuges for enrichment.

Iran has consistently scaled back its compliance with the 2015 deal in response to former US President Donald Trump's withdrawal from it in 2018..."

Syria says Israel carried out air strikes in Damascus

March 17, 2021 Arutz Sheva 7 reported: "Syrian media reported on Tuesday evening that Israel attacked targets in the Damascus area and in southern Syria.

According to the reports, the country's air defense systems were activated due to 'Israeli aggression.' Syria's official *SANA* news agency said that several missiles were intercepted over the skies of the Syrian capital. Several weeks ago, Syrian news outlets reported that Israeli warplanes attacked Iranian targets near Damascus..."

France runs satellite war game in European first

March 15, 2021 spacewar.com reported: "France on Friday prepared to simulate an attack by a hostile power on one of its satellites in a war game scenario the government said is less outlandishly futuristic than it may seem.

President Emmanuel Macron was to watch onsite as his military chiefs started to play out a four-day sequence in which an unnamed space-capable power attacks a nation allied to France, and tries to take out a French communications satellite. Germany, Italy and the US are participating in the AsterX space war game at France's national space agency CNES in Toulouse, the first such exercise in France or in Europe..."

Pope Francis Calls for 'New World Order' After the Pandemic

March 15, 2021 Breitbart.com reported: "Pope Francis insists in some new book things will never be the same in a post-pandemic world, calling instead for the establishment of a 'new world order.'

In a book-length interview with journalist Domenico Agasso titled *God and the World to Come*, scheduled for release in Italian on Tuesday, the pontiff reiterates his case for the Great Reset with a shift away from financial speculation, fossil fuels, and military build-up toward a green economy based on inclusiveness..."

'Israel will be hit by 2,000 missiles a day in future war' – IDF general

March 15, 2021 jpost.com reported: "Israel will come under an onslaught of 2,000 rockets and missiles every day during a future war with Hezbollah in Lebanon, OC Home Front Command Maj.-Gen. Uri Gordin warned on Monday. Speaking at the B'Sheva Conference in Jerusalem, Gordin said that some 2,000 rockets and missiles will be fired at Israel every day and will challenge Israel's military and civil defense capabilities.

'Our enemies on the different fronts need to know that if needed, we will activate a powerful military that has never been seen before,' Gordin said. He added that Israel's enemies should know that the Israeli home front is resilient and has proven itself in the past..."

US warship transits Taiwan Strait after admiral's China invasion warning

March 12, 2021 sinodaily.com reported: "A US warship sailed through the Taiwan Strait, the American navy said a day after a top US commander warned of the threat to Taiwan of a Chinese invasion within the next six years. The Arleigh Burke-class guided missile destroyer USS John Finn conducted a routine transit yesterday through the waterway separating the Chinese mainland and Taiwan, the US Seventh Fleet said.

The third such voyage since President Joe Biden took office 'demonstrates the US commitment to a free and open Indo-Pacific,' it said in a statement.

US warships periodically conduct navigation exercises in the strait, often triggering angry responses from Beijing, which claims Taiwan and surrounding waters as its own territory. The US and many other countries view the route as international waters open to all..."

UN: 34 Million People 'Knocking at Famine's Door' Worldwide

March 12, 2021 voanews.com reported: "The U.N. secretary-general said Thursday that more than 88 million people were suffering from acute hunger in countries affected by conflict and instability at the end of 2020, and at least 34 million of them face possible famine this year.

'Today, I have one simple message: If you don't feed people, you feed conflict,' Antonio Guterres told a meeting of the U.N. Security Council on the links between war and hunger. 'Conflict drives hunger and famine. And hunger and famine drive conflict.'

He said 34 million people in over three dozen countries were just a step away from famine. Famine is already present in pockets of some countries..."



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