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Israel, US issue veiled warnings to Iran

July 1, 2021 jpost.com reported: "Prime Minister Naftali Bennett and the US issued veiled threats against Iran on Wednesday from Jerusalem and New York.

'The State of Israel will always defend itself, by itself, against any external threat,' Prime Minister Naftali Bennett said at a special memorial ceremony for the founder of political Zionism Theodor Herzl, at the military cemetery in Jerusalem named in his honor.

'Israel won't let its hands be tied when it comes to ensuring our security. We will act firmly, creatively and continuously, in the face of emerging threats, both from near and far,' Bennett added.

It was a line that hinted at potential Israeli reaction to Iran, which threatens Israel from its own territory and from its proxy forces on Israel's borders, particularly in Syria and Lebanon. It was similar in tone and style to statements issued against Iran by former Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu..."

War in Space is Coming

June 30, 2021 spacewar.com reported: "A new arms race is unfolding among spacefaring nations. Space experts have been telling us about contested space for the last several years. The number of active satellites is exploding from about 1,000 a few years ago to an expected 50,000+ within 10 years. The sky is indeed getting very congested.

These satellites provide worldwide communications, GPS navigation, weather forecasting and planetary surveillance. Military organizations rely on many of these satellites in support of modern warfare.

The three main contenders in space are the US, China and Russia. It is entirely possible that the ongoing power struggle may ignite a conflict that could cripple the entire space-based infrastructure while reducing the capabilities of warfighter organizations..."



Palestinian Terror Youth Summer Camps Begin: Planning 'Demise of all Jews, Israel'

June 30, 2021 Breitbart.com reported: "Hamas' military wing, the Izz ad-Din al-Qassam Brigades, as well as the Palestinian Islamic Jihad, have opened registration recently for their annual summer camps for Gaza youth, where children as young as nine are trained in marksmanship, kidnapping, and tunnel warfare, as they're encouraged to become next-generation terrorists.

This summer's camps, which begin on Tuesday and are designed for young primary school students as well as college- and even post-college age Gaza residents, are dubbed 'Sword of Jerusalem,' after Hamas' recent conflict with the Jewish state, which began after the U.S.-designated terror group launched over 4,000 rockets at civilian population centers throughout the Jewish state last month.

Many camps carry anti-Israel themes and are named after terrorists who murdered Israelis in the past..."

Russia, China extend friendship treaty, hail ties

June 29, 2021 spacewar.com reported: "The leaders of China and Russia on Monday announced the extension of a 20-year-old friendship treaty, hailing increasingly close ties and the 'stabilising role' of their relationship.

The Kremlin published a joint statement from Russia and China to mark two decades since the treaty was signed, as Vladimir Putin and Xi Jinping held a televised meeting by video link.

The past several years have marked a period of intensified cooperation for Moscow and Beijing as the two global powers face common tensions with the United States.

The two countries have developed economic, military and energy ties while supporting each other on a number of issues, especially when faced with criticism from the West..."



South Korea to build their own 'Iron Dome' to defend against North Korea

June 29, 2021 Arutz Sheva 7 reported: "South Korea on Monday announced plans to build a \$2.6 billion missile interception defense system, similar to Israel's 'Iron Dome,' to protect the country from North Korea's long-range rockets.

At the end of 2020, the government's defense plan called for the creation of a 'Korean-style Iron Dome' to be implemented to defend Seoul and key military facilities against attack from North Korea, reported *Reuters*. A significant part of the region around Seoul, South Korea consists of half of the country's 52 million population. The area is within range of the North's weaponry..."

Heart inflammation after COVID-19 shots higher-than-expected in study of U.S. military

June 29, 2021 Reuters reported: "Members of the U.S. military who were vaccinated against COVID-19 showed higher-than-expected rates of heart inflammation, although the condition was still extremely rare, according to a study released on Tuesday. The study found that 23 previously healthy males with an average age of 25 complained of chest pain within four days of receiving a COVID-19 shot. The incident rate was higher than some previous estimates would have anticipated, it said.

All the patients, who at the time of the study's publication had recovered or were recovering from myocarditis - an inflammation of the heart muscle - had received shots made by either Pfizer Inc. and BioNTech SE or Moderna Inc.

U.S. health regulators last week added a warning to the literature that accompanies those mRNA vaccines to flag the rare risk of heart inflammation seen primarily in young males..."

India Looks to Enhance Military Capabilities in Space

June 28, 2021 voanews.com reported: "Driven by national security concerns and the emergence of China as a significant threat, India is looking to expand its military capabilities in space, according to analysts.

'Geopolitics is the primary driver for India to focus on the military aspects of its space program,' said Rajeswari Pillai Rajagopalan, director of the Center for Security, Strategy and Technology at the Observer Research Institute in New Delhi.

'It has to respond to the growing capabilities in space of China, with which time and again border disputes have flared. India has recognized that if it does not step up, it will lose out on using space assets for military purposes,' he told *VOA*.

An Indian anti-satellite weapon test conducted two years ago to demonstrate that it could shoot down satellites in space was the country's first significant step to give a military profile to its space program. With that test, India became the fourth country, after China, Russia, and the United States, to demonstrate anti-satellite capability..."

Millions skipped church during pandemic. Will they return?

June 28, 2021 apnews.com reported: "With millions of people having stayed home from places of worship during the coronavirus pandemic, struggling congregations have one key question: How many of them will return? As the pandemic recedes in the United States and in-person services resume, worries of a deepening slide in attendance are universal. Some houses of worship won't make it...On the Maine coast, the pandemic proved to be the last straw for the 164-year-old Waldoboro United Methodist Church.



Even before COVID-19 swept the world, weekly attendance had dipped to 25 or 30 at the white-clapboard New England church that could hold several hundred worshippers. The number further dwindled to five or six before the final service was held Sunday, said the Rev. Gregory Foster..."

In the United States, the latest challenge for places of worship comes against a backdrop of a decades long trend of a smaller share of the population identifying as religious. It's too early to know the full impact of the pandemic. Surveys do show signs of hopefulness — and also cause for concern.

About three-quarters of Americans who attended religious services in person at least monthly before the pandemic say they are likely to do so again in the next few weeks, according to a recent AP-NORC poll. That's up slightly from the about two-thirds who said in May 2020 that they would if they were allowed to do so. But 7% said they definitely won't be attending.

Those findings are in line with a Pew Research Center survey of U.S. residents last summer. It found that 92% of people who regularly attend religious services expected to continue at the same or higher rate, while 7% say they will attend in-person services less often.

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