

WEEKLY WORLD NEWS UPDATE

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IRAN THREATENS 'SERIOUS CONSEQUENCES' FOR TEL AVIV

January 31, 2013 The Jerusalem Post reported: "In the wake of reported a Israeli air strike on a Syrian weapons center, Iran issued a threat to Israel on Thursday.

The Iranian regime's English language mouthpiece, Press TV, quoted a deputy foreign minister as saying that the 'strike on Syria will have serious consequences for Tel Aviv.' The official did not elaborate.

Last week, the AP quoted a senior adviser to Iran's supreme leader as saying that any attack on Syria would be seen by Tehran as an attack on itself. The official, Ali Akbar Velayati, said the regime of Basher Assad is a central component of the 'resistance front.'..."

NATO CHIEF: EU MUST SPEND MORE ON MILITARY

January 31, 2013 The EU Observer reported: "Nato chief Anders Fogh Rasmussen has urged EU countries to spend more on defence despite the economic crisis or risk losing US solidarity.

He said in a foreword to the alliance's report on 2012, out on Thursday (31 January), that: "If current defence spending trends were to continue, that would limit the practical ability of Nato's European nations to work together with their North American allies. But it would also risk weakening the political support for our alliance in the United States."

He added Nato is still "the most important military power in the world."

But he also warned: "The security challenges of the 21st century - terrorism, proliferation, piracy, cyber warfare, unstable states - will not go away as we focus on fixing our economies."

RADICAL CLERIC TELLS MORSI: KILL THE 'THUGS' OR WE'LL DO IT

January 31, 2013 Israel National News reports: "A controversial Egyptian preacher and Islamist writer has urged President Mohammed Morsi to kill 'thugs' and 'criminals' who are burning the country, otherwise people will do it themselves, Al Arabiya reported.

'I am saying this publicly and I am inciting the killing of criminals; I say criminals; thugs, thieves, those who are burning the country and those who are killing innocent people,' the preacher, Wagdy Ghoneim, was quoted as having said in a YouTube video.

'If the police or the prosecution will not restore justice, we will restore justice...God willing,' he added, according to Al Arabiya. Ghoneim said Morsi should 'use his powers' and be tough on 'outlaws' that are burning state institutions and inflicting harm upon the people.

'Your kindness will not work with these thugs Mr. president,' he said. Ghoneim is reportedly banned from several Western countries, including the United States and the UK, for activities deemed to foment hatred or encourage and support violence..."

INSIDE THE RING: NEW AL QAEDA THREAT

January 31, 2013 The Washington Times reported: "A jihadist website posted a new threat by al Qaeda this week that promises to conduct 'shocking' attacks on the United States and the West. The posting appeared on the Ansar al Mujahidin network Sunday and carried the headline, 'Map of al Qaeda and its future strikes.'

The message, in Arabic, asks: 'Where will the next strike by al Qaeda be?' A translation was obtained by Inside the Ring.

'The answer for it, in short: The coming strikes by al Qaeda, with God's Might, will be in the heart of the land of nonbelief, America, and in France, Denmark, other countries in Europe, in the countries that helped and are helping France, and in other places that shall be named by al Qaeda at other times,' the threat states. The attacks will be 'strong, serious, alarming, earth-shattering, shocking and terrifying.

"Under a section of the post on the method of the attacks, the unidentified writer said the strikes would be "group and lone-wolf operations, in addition to the use of booby-trapped vehicles."..."

MORSI AIDE: HOLOCAUST WAS A HOAX COOKED UP BY THE U.S.

January 30, 2013 Israel National News reported: "A key figure in Egyptian President Mohammed Morsi's government has called the Holocaust a hoax cooked up by U.S. intelligence operatives, and claimed the six million Jews who were killed by Nazis simply moved to the U.S., Fox News reports.

The claims made by Fathi Shihab-Eddim, a senior figure close to President Morsi who is now responsible for appointing the editors of all state-run Egyptian newspapers, came as the world marked Holocaust Remembrance Day on January 27.



'The myth of the Holocaust is an industry that America invented,' Shihab-Eddim said, according to Fox News.

'U.S. intelligence agencies in cooperation with their counterparts in allied nations during World War II created it [the Holocaust] to destroy the image of their opponents in Germany, and to justify war and massive destruction against military and civilian facilities of the

Axis powers, and especially to hit Hiroshima and Nagasaki with the atomic bomb,' Shihab-Eddim added."..."

DAMAGE CONTROL AFTER FRANCE'S JOB CZAR CLAIMS THE COUNTRY IS 'BANKRUPT'

January 29, 2013 The Washington Times reported: "France's job czar embarrassed Socialist Party President Francois Hollande with weekend claims the country is "totally bankrupt," according to various media. But now French politicos are fighting back, calling Labor Minister Michel Sapin's depiction of the nation's fiscal health as inappropriate, and untrue.

"France is a truly solvent country, France is a truly credible country," said Finance Minister Pierre Moscovici, in a BBC report. Mr. Sapin made his bankruptcy remarks during a Jan. 27 radio address, during which he spoke of the need for an austerity plan.

"It is a totally bankrupt state," Mr. Sapin said then, according to a report in The Independent. "That is why we had to put a deficit reduction plan in place, and nothing should make us turn away from that objective."

His statements reportedly sent shockwaves through the business community. And on Tuesday, government officials were scrambling to give the public assurance of a solvent national economy."..."

US DEBT HEADED TOWARD 200 PERCENT OF GDP EVEN AFTER 'FISCAL CLIFF' DEAL

January 29, 2013 thehill.com reported: "The nation's long-term fiscal outlook hasn't significantly improved following the recent agreement between Congress and the White House over tax and spending issues, according to a new analysis.



The "fiscal cliff" deal, combined with the debt-limit agreement of August 2011, only slightly delays the United States reaching debt-to-gross domestic product levels that would damage the economy and risk another fiscal crisis, according to a report from the Peter G. Peterson Foundation released on Tuesday.

The agreement "may have prevented the immediate threats that the fiscal cliff posed to our fragile economic recovery, but we haven't remotely fixed the nation's debt problem," said Michael A. Peterson, president and COO of the Peterson Foundation.

"The primary goal of any sustainable fiscal policy is to stabilize the debt as a share of the economy and put it on a downward path, and yet our nation is still heading toward debt levels of 200 percent of GDP and beyond," he said.

The report concludes that the recent round of deficit-reduction measures won't make major improvements because they fail to address most of the major contributors to the debt and deficit, including rapidly rising healthcare costs.

The analysis suggests that lawmakers take action quickly to ensure that the nation is on a sustainable fiscal path."..."

NORTH KOREA THREATENS 'MERCILESS' WAR

January 29, 2013 Voice of America News reported: "North Korea issued new threats against the South and its allies on Tuesday, saying it views a recent expansion of United Nations Security Council sanctions as an act of war.

In a commentary filled with typically inflammatory language, the official Korean Central News Agency promised 'merciless retaliatory blows' and a 'grand and just war for national reunification' in response to the sanctions.

The commentary did not mention the nuclear test threatened by North Korea last week following the unanimous Security Council decision, which punished Pyongyang for a December rocket launch. South Korea's foreign ministry on Tuesday again denounced the nuclear test threat. It urged its communist neighbor to 'pay heed to the continued warnings from the international community and not push ahead with any further provocations.'..."

SOUTH KOREA LAUNCHES SPACE ROCKET CARRYING SATELLITE

January 30, 2013 BBC News reported: "South Korea says its third attempt at launching a rocket to put a satellite in space has been a success. The Korea Space Launch Vehicle-1 (KSLV-1) blasted off from the Naro Space Center at 16:00 (07:00 GMT).

Science Minister Lee Ju-ho said the satellite, which will collect climate data, was in its correct orbit. The launch comes weeks after North Korea used its own three-stage rocket to place a satellite into orbit, sparking international criticism.

South Korea's 140-tonne rocket, known as Naro, was built in partnership with Russia, which had agreed to work with Seoul for three launch attempts. Previous launches in 2009 and 2010 failed, and this attempt had been postponed twice for technical reasons.

But officials said Wednesday's launch from the site 480km (298 miles) south of Seoul had gone as planned and that the rocket had reached its target altitude and deployed its satellite.

'After analysing various data, the Naro rocket successfully put the science satellite into designated orbit,' Mr Lee told reporters. 'We now have leapt up a step to become a space-power nation,' he said, adding that South Korea would use this 'overwhelming moment as a strong, dynamic force' to help drive an independent space programme..."