WEEKLY WORLD NEWS UPDATE

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ISIS HACKERS HIT FRENCH TELEVISION NETWORK TV5MONDE

April 9, 2015 Arutz Sheva reported: "French television network TV5Monde said Wednesday it had been hacked by individuals claiming to belong to the Islamic State group, who brought television broadcasts to a halt and hijacked its websites and social networks. The Parisbased company was able to partially resume television broadcasts by 1:00 a.m. after a three-hour blackout, the network's director-general Yves Bigot told AFP, but added its systems had been 'severely damaged' by an 'unprecedented attack'.

The hackers posted documents on TV5Monde's Facebook page purporting to be the identity cards and CVs of relatives of French soldiers involved in anti-ISIS operations, along with threats against the troops.

'Soldiers of France, stay away from the Islamic State! You have the chance to save your families, take advantage of it, read one message on TV5Monde's Facebook page.

'The CyberCaliphate continues its cyberjihad against the enemies of Islamic State,' the message added. The hackers also accused French President François Hollande of having committed 'an unforgivable mistake' by getting involved in 'a war that serves no purpose'.

'That's why the French received the gifts of Charlie Hebdo and Hyper Cacher in January,' it said on the broadcaster's Facebook page, referring to the twin terror attacks by Islamist gunmen in Paris that left 17 people dead over..."

REPORT: 39,000 IMMIGRANT KIDS COMING TO U.S.

April 8, 2015 newsday.com reported: "About 39,000 immigrant children are expected to enter the country illegally as unaccompanied minors this federal fiscal year, reaching the second-highest level of that migration since 2008, says an analysis issued Wednesday by a research group in Washington, D.C.

The estimate by the Migration Policy Institute, a nonprofit that studies the movement of people across international borders, is based on apprehension figures issued by U.S. Customs and Border Protection for the first five months of the fiscal year that began Oct. 1, 2014, and ends Sept. 30."...

The second wave of immigrants, as some are calling it, is expected even as localities and school systems struggle to absorb about 53,500 children who arrived in the last fiscal year, which ended Sept. 30, 2014. Those minors continue to move through a multistep immigration court process to decide whether they can stay or are to be deported."..."

IRAN: WE'LL START USING ADVANCED CENTRIFUGES AFTER DEAL SIGNED

April 8, 2015 Arutz Sheva reported: "Iran's negotiator in the nuclear negotiations and its nuclear chief revealed on Tuesday that after a final deal is signed by a June 30 deadline on the framework reached last week, Iran will unleash its most advanced centrifuges for uranium enrichment, threatening a quick turnover in producing a nuclear weapon.

Iran's semi-official FARS news agency reported on a closed meeting held Tuesday by Foreign Minister Javad Zarif and Atomic Energy Organization of Iran (AEOI) chief Ali Akbar Salehi, in which they briefed members of Iran's parliament on the deal being finalized.

In their statements, they said Iran's most advanced IR-8 centrifuges will be used as soon as the deal removing world sanctions against Iran begins. The report noted the two said the advanced centrifuges enrich uranium 20 times faster than the current IR-1 models, meaning they would radically reduce the breakout time needed for Iran to obtain a nuclear arsenal.

In the meeting Zarif and Salehi told the parliament 'that the country would inject UF6 gas into the latest generation of its centrifuge machines as soon as a final nuclear deal goes into effect by Tehran and the six world powers,' according to the report..."

CHRISTIANS STRUGGLE TO MAINTAIN LEGACY VERSUS ISIS

April 7, 2015 Arutz Sheva reported: "Amid the ISIS assault on Iraq, minorities have borne the brunt. One of those groups is Iraq's Christians, who before the 2003 US invasion were spread throughout the country with a sizeable community in the northwest. The majority of Iraqi Christians come from the Syriac, Assyrian and Chaldean churches with affiliations mainly to the Catholic Church and the Eastern Orthodox Church. Most other denominations have had a presence in Iraq, but have never overtaken these Churches, which are among the oldest in the world.

But many of those Christian areas have been in the crosshairs of last year's sweeping military advances by ISIS."...'Qaraqosh, a historic Assyrian city, was home to the largest Christian population in Iraq with approximately 50,000 members. Now the city is virtually devoid of its Christian population.'

This is not the first time a Muslim conquest has produced trouble for Christians there. In the early 1500s, the infamous Tamerlane swept through the area and beheaded an estimated 70,000 Christians in Tikrit and 90,000 in Baghdad. With that perspective, ISIS has not represented such a catastrophe – yet. 'When ISIS took control of Mosul, roughly 20,000 Christians initially stayed, but after the group issued an ultimatum – convert, flee or die – the remaining Christians had no other choice but to leave as well.'

'As well as attacks on Christians, there have also been attacks on Christian sites of worship, with deep historical value, particularly to the Assyrian community.'..."

GREECE READY TO PAY DEBTS, BUT FLIRTING WITH MOSCOW

April 7, 2015 EU Observer reported: "Greece reassured its lenders on debt commitments over the Easter weekend, but is continuing to cast doubt on its long-term relationship with the EU ahead of a visit to Moscow by prime minister Alexis Tsipras.

Finance minister Yanis Varoufakis met with International Monetary Fund chief Christine Lagarde in Washington on Sunday (5 April) and assured her that Greece would "meet all obligations to all its creditors, ad infinitum". Greece must repay a €450 million loan to the IMF on Thursday (9 April), amid fears that it would run out of money by that date. Interior minister Nikos Voutsis warned earlier last week that if the country had to choose between paying the IMF back and paying salaries and pensions, it would choose the latter.

His declaration, suggesting that Greece could default, fueled speculations over contingency measures such as capital controls, nationalisation of banks, and issuance of IOUs to temporarily replace the euro. But in an interview with Greek newspaper Naftemporiki, Varoufakis swept aside talks of default or Grexit.

"Anyone who examines such plans or discusses even their prospects offers very bad services to Europe," he said. Varoufakis added that Greece now expects a funding agreement with its Eurozone partners on 24 April.

"At the Eurogroup [meeting] of April 24 there must be a preliminary conclusion [of the talks], as per the Eurogroup accord on February 20," he said, referring to an accord extending the €240 billion Greek bailout on condition that Greece presents a list of reforms. The list was presented last Wednesday to the European Commission, the European Central Bank and the IMF."...

If it is satisfactory, it could then be validated at the next ordinary Eurogroup meeting on 24 April. Eurozone finance ministers would then unblock a €7.2 billion tranche of funds. The list of reforms is said to include measures to fight tax evasion, privatisations of state assets, and labour reforms. Greek government sources denied on Monday (6 April) that the list included an increase on VAT for touristic Greek Islands and that Lagarde had requested a cut in early retirement pensions."...

As if to demonstrate that it could find alternative solutions to a EU deadlock, Greece is openly nurturing links with Russia and China. "On Wednesday (8 April), prime minister Alexis Tsipras will meet Russian president Vladimir Putin in Moscow. The two leaders will discuss relations between the European Union and Russia, tourism, energy, investment and trade."…"

HEZBOLLAH HAILS IRAN DEAL AS VICTORY FOR 'AXIS OF RESISTANCE'

April 5, 2015 The Times of Israel reported: "A senior Hezbollah official congratulated Iran on Saturday for a framework deal reached with the six world powers over its nuclear program, hailing it a victory for the 'axis of resistance.'

Deputy Secretary-General Naim Qassem said the deal cements Tehran's position in the world, and dominance in the region, the Lebanese al-Manar TV reported.

'The Lausanne nuclear understanding is the triumph of right, stability and will of free nations as well as the axis of resistance under the leadership of the Islamic Iran,' Qassem was quoted as saying, referencing the Iran-Syria-Hezbollah alliance.

Under an agreement reached Thursday between the Islamic Republic and the six world powers, known as the P5+1, economic sanctions on Tehran will be relaxed in exchange for a partial curtailment of Iran's nuclear infrastructure. The world powers and Iran have until June 30 to hammer out a final accord..."

OBAMA, CONGRESS TILT OVER IRAN DEAL

April 3, 2015 spacedaily.com reported: "President Barack Obama now has a framework nuclear deal with America's Iranian foe, but as he tries to build it into a binding accord he faces enemies closer to home. Can he prevent the US Congress from torpedoing his diplomatic efforts to contain Tehran?..."



The president has not denied Congress' role in the process. His aides regularly troop to Capitol Hill to inform and consult members of the Republican-controlled legislature. His chiefs of diplomacy, defense, the Treasury, and the military have all appeared before the Senate and the House of Representatives to address lawmakers' qualms over the negotiations.



On Thursday, the outlines of a final deal were unveiled in Switzerland after negotiations between six world powers and Iran. A final deal is to be completed by June 30.

But US lawmakers have proven tough to win over and still have deep reservations -- some real, some perhaps politically opportunistic.

Opponents of a deal believe Obama is obsessed with his place in history, and has made too many concessions, abandoning US allies Israel and Saudi Arabia in the process."..."