



PROPHETIC TIMES

WEEKLY WORLD NEWS UPDATE

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DOLLAR GETS NO RESPECT DESPITE ECONOMIC GAINS

February 16, 2012 cnbc.com reported: "The dollar rose on a flutter of activity earlier Thursday, but after a few positive headlines out of Europe, it reversed course, tipping into negative territory, while the euro edged higher.

"This morning's (gain) was about risk aversion, more problems in Europe and concern this was a problem for global growth," said Robert Sinche, head of global foreign exchange strategy at RBS. The euro had traded down to 1.2978 before rebounding above 1.30.

"We think three cents each side of 1.30" is the euro's current range, he said. The dollar was also weaker against the Canadian and Australian dollars.

On a trade weighted basis, a weaker dollar benefits U.S. companies by cheapening exports, according to some experts, but the weakening dollar is also criticized for indirectly creating inflation.

The euro climbed back Thursday as concerns about Greece's ability to reach a deal on a bailout plan faded. The currency got another leg up before midday, after German newspaper Die Welt said the European Central Bank will swap its Greek bonds for new ones. The tight correlation between the euro and risk assets remains above 60 percent, but down from its high of about 80 percent, according to Marc Chandler of Brown Brothers Harriman. Stocks surged along with the euro in afternoon trading."..."



JAPANESE PM WARNS ISRAEL AGAINST STRIKE ON IRAN

February 16, 2012 YnetNews.com reported: "Japanese Prime Minister Yoshihiko Noda warned Defense Minister Ehud Barak on Wednesday against taking military action in Iran over its nuclear ambitions, the Japanese news agency Kyodo reported, citing local Foreign Ministry officials. According to the report, Noda told Barak in a meeting that launching a strike on the Islamic Republic would be "extremely dangerous" and would "escalate" the situation in the region. He urged Israel to resolve the dispute through diplomatic and peaceful means.

The Japanese prime minister has also asked Barak to exercise restraint following the recent attacks on Israeli diplomatic targets in India and Georgia. He condemned the bombings, calling them 'unacceptable.' Barak refused to answer when asked how Israel is to respond the terror..."

MUSLIMS DEMANDING REVOLUTION, SHARIAH LAW

February 14, 2012 WND.com reported: "Two radical Muslims who have set up a base of operations in the United Kingdom are calling for a revolution in India, the installation of Shariah Islamic law there and the implementation of an Islamic state. The alarming call to action was the subject of a report by MEMRI, the Middle East Media Research Institute, which said the plan is for the destruction of Hindu temples and statues; the elimination of Bollywood, India's movie industry; and the institution of Shariah under which non-Muslims would pay a special tax to be allowed to live there.

'The two leaders of this organization are identified as Sheikh Anjem Choudary and Sheikh Omar Muhammad Bakri,' the report said.

"There is a consensus among all Muslim scholars that it is not permitted for non-Muslims to have authority over Muslims. Allah says in the Quran, 'I have created you (Muslims) a leading Ummah (nation) in order to witness the affairs of mankind...' the campaign's new website explains..."

RUSSIAN ARMY CHIEF IRAN CRISIS TO ENTER NEW PHASE

February 14, 2012 RIA Novosti reported: "The situation surrounding Iran's controversial nuclear program is likely to come to a head by the summer, Chief of the General Staff of the Russian Armed Forces Nikolai Makarov said.

Washington, which suspects Iran is trying to build a nuclear bomb, says that no options have been taken off the table.

'Iran, of course, is a sore spot. Some kind of decision should be taken, probably nearer to summer,' Makarov said. Russia's Defense Ministry is monitoring the situation in Iran and the entire Middle East from a recently created situation center, he said..."

NETANYAHU: IRAN'S TERROR ACTS UNDERMINE THE WORLD'S STABILITY

February 15, 2012 Haaretz.com reported: "Iran's terror operations are now exposed for all to see," Netanyahu said during a Knesset plenum on Wednesday. "Iran is undermining the world's stability and harms innocent diplomats. World countries must condemn Iran's terror acts and draw a red line."

Four Thai civilians were wounded in Bangkok in a series of blasts that began Tuesday when a cache of explosives ignited at a house, apparently by mistake. One explosion blew off the leg of an Iranian who had fled, carrying what looked like grenades.

On Monday, a bombing of an Israeli diplomatic car in New Delhi wounded four people, including a diplomat's wife. A similar bomb found under a car in Georgia on Monday was defused. The Indian police detained five suspects for questioning on suspicion of involvement in the New Delhi attack, India Today reported.

According to the report, the police was able to identify the assailant, who placed the bomb on the car of the wife of the Defense Ministry's

representative in India, Tali Yehoshua-Koren, using footage from CCTV cameras positioned on the embassy's street. The police also identified a red motorcycle believed to have been used by the terror cell.

The New Delhi police suspect that the terrorist had followed the Israeli diplomat. A few hours before the blast, the Israeli diplomat met with his wife for lunch in the Khan Market. Security cameras from the market area caught several of the suspects loitering around Tali Yehoshua-Koren's car that was parked nearby.

Moreover, the police have been going over international phone calls made from New Delhi to Iran, Lebanon, and Pakistan during the hours following the bombing. During the half-an-hour from 3:30 to 4:00 P.M on the day of the attack, 115 calls were made to those three countries. Four of them were made from a phone booth near the market where the Israeli couple met. Thirteen of the conversations lasted between eight to ten minutes, and the police are trying to identify the persons who made these calls.

According to the report in India Today, the Israeli intelligence agency, the Mossad, gave its Indian counterpart a list of eight suspects, believed to have been involved in the attack....The investigation of the Iranian terror cell in Thailand is also in progress."..."

ATTACK ON IRAN EASIER SAID THAN DONE

February 16, 2012 Asia Times Online reported: "Despite renewed media speculation regarding possible Israeli attacks against Iran's nuclear facilities as early as this spring, skepticism that such a campaign could actually be successfully carried out remains relatively high, raising the question of whether there is more bark than bite to Israeli threats.

It cannot expect a repeat of 1981 when the Israeli air force destroyed the Osirak reactor at Al-Tuwaythah, just south of Baghdad.

The Iranians are aware of both Israeli capabilities and the US-made precision-guided penetrating munitions in the Israeli inventory. The Iranian program has been dispersed all over the country - estimates range between 12 and more than 20 locations - and the facilities have been built with US and Israeli capabilities in mind and are protected by modern Russian air defense systems.

The single-most critical element of the Iranian program is thought to be the Natanz facility. The heart of the facility is the centrifuge area, located in an underground, hardened structure.

But even if Israel tries to limit the target set, it would still have to attack other facilities besides Natanz. For example, the newer Fordow fuel-enrichment plant near Qom, where Iran has already moved 3.5% enriched uranium from Natanz, is built into the side of a mountain and is heavily fortified. There is a uranium conversion plant at Isfahan, a heavy-water facility being constructed at Arak and centrifuge factories outside Tehran.

The straight-line distance between Israel and Natanz is almost 1,609 kilometers. Since the countries do not share a common border, Israeli aircraft or missiles must fly through foreign - and hostile - airspace to get to the target.

The least risky method of striking Natanz is with Israel's medium-range ballistic missiles, the Jericho II or III. It is believed that the Israeli missiles could reach Natanz. However, to travel that far the missiles will have a limited warhead weight, and it is doubtful that these warheads would be able to penetrate far enough underground to achieve the desired level of destruction.

Thus, an attack by the Israeli air force's US-made fighter-bomber aircraft is the most likely option.

The Israelis have 25 F-15I and about 100 F-16I jets. The F-15I is capable of carrying four tonnes of fuel in its internal tanks, conformal fuel tanks (CFT), and detachable tanks. This enables it to fly about 4,450 kilometers. With midair refueling, the range could be extended further.

The F-15I can carry a very wide range of weapons such as various guided missiles and bombs, as well as iron bombs. All in all, the plane can carry about 10 metric tonnes of munitions. The F-16I has an extended flight range that reportedly allows Israeli forces to attack targets well within Iran without having to refuel. Use of CFT could extend its effective mission range up to 50%. The baseline model has a combat radius of 1,370 kilometers with two 907-kilogram bombs and two air-to-air missiles, with 3,936-liter external tanks.

Assuming an air attack, the question is how will the aircraft fly from their bases in Israel to a target located 322 kilometers miles inside Iran? They could go either through Saudi Arabia or Iraq, possibly even using Jordanian airspace as well. Either route is a one-way trip of about 1,931 kilometers. To overfly Saudi Arabia the strike aircraft would depart southern Israel, enter Saudi airspace from the Gulf of Aqaba or Jordan, fly 1,287 kilometers of Saudi airspace to the Gulf and then 483 kilometers into Iran.

Since the Israeli air force does not operate stealth aircraft, there is a reasonable expectation that at some point the aircraft would be detected over Saudi Arabia. Whether Saudi defenses could - or would - be able to stop the Israelis is uncertain. Given Saudi fears over Iran's nuclear program, perhaps they would turn a blind eye and claim ignorance.

If they chose to traverse Iranian airspace, the strike aircraft depart southern Israel, cross 483 to 644 kilometers of Saudi airspace or a combination of Jordanian and Saudi airspace, and enter Iraqi airspace as soon as possible, continue across 805 kilometers of Iraq to the Persian Gulf and then on to the target. Entering Iran from Iraqi airspace would be politically delicate. Although US troops are no longer there, traversing Iraqi airspace would not be possible without the knowledge, and most likely the permission, of the United States.

The key question is whether Israel's fighter-bombers can conduct this mission without refueling."..."

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