



PROPHETIC TIMES

WEEKLY WORLD NEWS UPDATE

OAKLAND, CALIFORNIA

OCTOBER 30 2010

SUPERBUG INFECTION IN BRAZIL HOSPITALS KILLS 18

October 27, 2010 BBC News reports: "Eighteen people have died in the Brazilian capital after contracting a hospital superbug. They were infected with bacteria which produce the enzyme Klebsiella pneumoniae Carbapenemase (KPC), which renders most modern antibiotics ineffective.

It tends to infect hospitalised people whose immune system is already weakened, and those taking antibiotics. Health officials say 183 people have been infected in Brasilia.

The number of those carrying the bacteria has risen sharply over the past three weeks, but a spokeswoman for the capital's health authority said the increase could be due to more rigorous testing.

A similar outbreak is being reported in hospitals in Chicago, in the United States. Denise Cardo, an official with the Center for Disease Control in the US, said she had seen an increase in hospital infections in recent years.

'There is no need to panic, but there is a need for a call for action,' she told the Associated Press news agency.

The bacteria were first identified in the United States in 1999 and studies suggest they kill 40% of the people they infect.

Brazilian health authorities think that the indiscriminate use of antibiotics could have contributed to the spread of the bacteria..."

ENTIRE POLICE FORCE IN LOS RAMONES, MEXICO QUILTS AFTER GUNMEN ATTACK HEADQUARTERS

October 27, 2010 NYDailyNews.com reported: "The entire police force in a small Mexican town abruptly resigned Tuesday after its new headquarters was viciously attacked by suspected drug cartel gunmen.

All 14 police officers in Los Ramones, a rural town in northern Mexico, fled the force in terror after gunmen fired more than 1,000 bullets and flung six grenades at their headquarters on Monday night. No one was injured in the attack. Mayor Santos Salinas Garza told local media that the officers resigned because of the incident.

The gunmen's 20-minute shooting spree destroyed six police vehicles and left the white and orange police station pocked with bullet holes, the Financial Times reported. The station had been inaugurated just three days earlier..."

CHINESE COMPUTER TRUMPS US ONE AS WORLD'S FASTEST

October 28, 2010 cnbcnews.com reported: "A Chinese scientific research center has built the fastest supercomputer ever made, replacing the U.S. as maker of the swiftest machine, and giving China bragging rights as a technology superpower.

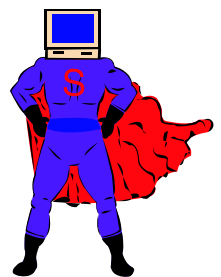
The computer, known as Tianhe-1A, has 1.4 times the horsepower of the current top computer, which is at a national laboratory in Tennessee, as measured by the standard test used to gauge how well the systems handle mathematical calculations, said Jack Dongarra, a University of Tennessee computer scientist who maintains the official supercomputer rankings.

Although the official list of the top 500 fastest machines, which comes out every six months, is not due to be completed by Mr. Dongarra until next week, he said the Chinese computer "blows away the existing No. 1 machine."

He added, "We don't close the books until Nov. 1, but I would say it is unlikely we will see a system that is faster."

Officials from the Chinese research center, the National University of Defense Technology, are expected to reveal the computer's performance on Thursday at a conference in Beijing. The center says it is "under the dual supervision of the Ministry of National Defense and the Ministry of Education."

The race to build the fastest supercomputer has become a source of national pride as these machines are valued for their ability to solve problems critical to national interests in areas like defense, energy, finance and science..."



INDONESIA TSUNAMI TOLL HITS 343 AS BODIES FOUND

October 28, 2010 MyWay.com reported: "Rescuers searching islands ravaged by a tsunami off western Indonesia raised the death toll to 343 Thursday as more bodies were found and said the number is likely to climb higher because hundreds of missing people may have been swept away."

Elsewhere in Indonesia, the volcano that killed 33 people this week began erupting again, though there were no reports of new injuries or damage. Mourners held a mass burial Thursday during a lull in Mount Merapi's rumblings.

President Susilo Bambang Yudhoyono was to meet Thursday with survivors of the twin catastrophes, which struck within 24 hours in different corners of the seismically charged region, severely testing the nation's emergency response network. Officials say a

multimillion-dollar warning system installed after a monster 2004 quake and tsunami broke down one month ago because it was not being properly maintained.

In the tsunami-ravaged Mentawai islands, search and rescue teams - kept away for days by stormy seas and bad weather - found roads and beaches with swollen corpses lying on them, according to Harmensyah, head of the West Sumatra provincial disaster management center.

Some wore face masks as they wrapped corpses in black body bags on Pagai Utara, one of the four main islands in the Mentawai chain located between Sumatra and the Indian Ocean. Huge swaths of land were underwater and houses lay crumpled with tires and slabs of concrete piled on the surrounding sand.

Ferry Faisal, of the West Sumatra provincial disaster management agency, raised the official toll Thursday to 343 from 311 earlier in the day. He said 338 people are still missing.”...”

MOHAMMED IS NOW THE MOST POPULAR NAME FOR BABY BOYS AHEAD OF JACK AND HARRY

October 28, 2010 DailyMail.co.uk reported: “Mohammed has become the most popular name for newborn boys in Britain. It shot up from third the previous year, overtaking Jack, which had topped the list for the past 14 years but was relegated to third spot.

Olivia topped the list for little girls for the second year in a row, behind Ruby and Chloe.

A total of 7,549 newborns were given 12 variations of the Islamic prophet Mohammed’s name last year, such as Muhammad and Mohammad. The second most popular boy’s name, Oliver, was given to 7,364 babies. Harry and Alfie came in fourth and fifth place respectively.

The official list, which covers all births in 2009 in England and Wales, has —Mohammed at number 16 but this does not include the many different spellings, which are all ranked separately.

When they are added in, Mohammed zooms all the way up to top spot for the first time.

In order of popularity, the variant —spellings used during the year were: Muhammad, Mohammad, Muhammed, Mohamed, Mohamad, Muhamed, Mohammad, Mahamed, Muhamad, Mahammed and Mohmmmed.

There are still other possible spellings but these were not used for births in England and Wales in 2009. Regionally, the single spelling of Mohammed came top of the list for the West Midlands.”

IMF SAYS DOLLAR 'OVERVALUED'

October 29, 2010 The Agence France Presse reported: “The International Monetary Fund on Thursday said the dollar was overvalued on currency markets, while the euro, yen and pound were in line with fundamentals.

“The real effective exchange rates of Japan, the euro area, and the UK all appear broadly in line with medium-term fundamentals, while the US dollar is on the strong side of fundamentals,” the IMF said in a report to the Group of 20 economic powers.

The IMF noted that recent government interventions in the foreign-exchange market had contributed to the imbalance, which has sparked fears of “currency wars” to protect exports amid the global economic recovery.

“While advanced economies have generally avoided intervening in currency markets, some have intervened more recently to limit rapid appreciations, contributing to the above-mentioned tension on this issue.”

The IMF reiterated its view that China's currency, the yuan, remained “substantially undervalued.”

The IMF prepared the report for a G20 meeting of financial ministers and central bank governors in South Korea on October 22-23, in preparation for a G20 summit in mid-November. Since then the dollar has been relatively stable. The US currency had weakened sharply between mid-September and mid-October amid expectations that the Federal Reserve would restart major large-scale asset purchases to support a flagging recovery, effectively printing money.

In a final statement the G20 finance chiefs agreed to “refrain from competitive devaluation of currencies” and aim for “more market-determined exchange rate systems.”

The IMF was empowered to police the agreement, which however lacks teeth in the absence of numerical targets for countries such as China to lower their swollen trade surpluses. The IMF noted tensions among the G20 developed and developing members stemming from currency imbalances in part propelled by large capital inflows to fast-growing emerging economies as investors seeking higher-yielding returns.

Key emerging surplus economies, notably in Asia, have responded to the capital inflows by intervening in foreign-exchange markets to accumulate reserves and limit currency appreciation, the Washington-based institution said.

Those actions were contributing to “continuing significant exchange rate misalignments relative to fundamentals -- for instance, the Chinese renminbi remains substantially undervalued.”

Meanwhile, some other emerging economies, notably South Africa and countries in Latin America, have allowed their currencies to appreciate “substantially,” boosting real-effective exchange rates to levels that appear increasingly overvalued, it warned.”...”

