



PROPHETIC TIMES

WEEKLY WORLD NEWS UPDATE

OAKLAND, CALIFORNIA

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ISRAEL AIR FORCE SHOWED FRACTION OF CAPABILITIES IN GAZA OP

December 27, 2012 DEBKAfile.com: “In last month’s Pillar of Defense anti-terror operation in Gaza, “the Israeli Air Force displayed only a fraction of its capabilities,” said IAF chief Maj. Gen. Amir Eshel at the passing-out parade of the flyers’ course at Hatzerim Thursday. The IAF has the range for striking at any would-be aggressors with a force that would resound across the Middle East.

Maj. Eshel added: “It is worth remembering that more than one line connects Gaza and Iran.” DEBKAfile: This was a reference to the Iranian arms smuggling line to the Gaza Strip and a warning that if it continued, Israel would hit back at Tehran itself.”

NYC CRIME RATE UP FOR THE FIRST TIME IN 20 YEARS — THE REASON WHY MIGHT SURPRISE YOU

December 27, 2012 theblaze.com reported: “NYC Crime Rate Up for the First Time in 20 Years — the Reason Why Might Surprise You The overall crime rate for New York City has risen for the first time in 20 years, but what is driving up crime might be surprising.

The Wall Street Journal reported that crime rose 3 percent in the city due to the theft of Apple products, like the iPhone. New York Police Department spokesman told WSJ there would have been a “slight decline” in overall crime among the city’s five boroughs if Apple product thefts had stayed constant, but it rose.

More specifically, as of December 9 grand larceny, which includes Apple products, was up 9 percent compared to the same timeframe in 2011, according to WSJ.

Although this statistic isn’t necessarily favorable, homicides in the city for the year were the lowest ever since similar records began being kept in 1963.”

EGYPT'S ISLAMIST PRESIDENT: NEW CONSTITUTION USHERS IN NEW REPUBLIC

December 27, 2012 Haaretz reported: “Egypt’s president said Wednesday that the disputed constitution just approved in a referendum establishes a new republic and he called on the opposition to join a dialogue to heal rifts over the charter and shift the focus to repairing the economy.

In the first speech since official results a day earlier showing the constitution was approved, Mohammed Morsi said he acknowledges the ‘respectable’ proportion that voted against the constitution drafted by his Islamist allies. But he offered no concrete gestures to an opposition that has so far rejected his offer of dialogue and vowed to fight the charter.

‘As we set on a new phase moving from the first republic to the second republic, a republic that has this constitution as its strong base. ... I renew my pledge to respect the law and constitution,’ Morsi said, repeating his oath of office based on the new charter.

Morsi’s comment signaled a break with the governing system in place in Egypt since 1952, when a military coup pushed out the Western-backed king, and Egypt was declared a republic.

The constitution is Egypt’s first since the ouster of authoritarian leader Hosni Mubarak in February 2011. The opposition questioned its legitimacy, arguing it passed with a very low turnout of around 33 percent and without a national consensus. They say the charter restricts freedoms, ignores rights of minorities and women and enshrines Islamic rule.

Morsi countered that argument, saying it was the country’s first constitution passed and drafted through a popularly approved process. He said the charter respects human dignity and enshrines values of moderation. It protects freedoms and ensures the right to work, to education and to health, he said...”



Egypt

PM: ISRAEL'S LONG ARM WILL STRIKE THOSE THREATENING IT

December 27, 2012 The Jerusalem Post reported: “Prime Minister Binyamin Netanyahu reiterated Thursday that Israel was carefully following the developments in Syria, and will do everything necessary to fend off any potential threats from the north. Netanyahu’s comments came at a ceremony for new Air Force cadets at the Hatzerim air base in the Negev.

‘Everyone sees what is happening in Syria,’ he said. ‘The Syrian air force hits hundreds of Syrian civilians and doesn’t resist using any means. Israel is following the developments in Syria and will do everything against that – or any – threat.’

Netanyahu told the cadets that they have now become a part of ‘Israel’s long arm.’

'We have strengthened many muscles and tendons in that arm,' the prime minister said. 'Israel's hand is extended in peace to those who want peace, and those who threaten us should know that our long arm will strike forcefully to defend the state of Israel.'..."

MORSI SIGNS CONTENTIOUS ISLAMIC-DRAFTED CONSTITUTION INTO EGYPTIAN LAW

December 26, 2012 Haaretz reported: "Egyptian President Mohamed Morsi has signed into law a new Islamist-drafted constitution he says will help end political turmoil and allow him to focus on fixing the fragile economy. Anxiety about the deepening economic crisis has gripped Egypt in past weeks, with many people rushing to take out their savings from banks and the government imposing new restrictions to reduce capital flight.

Results announced on Tuesday showed Egyptians had approved the text with an overwhelming 63.8 percent, paving the way for a parliamentary election in about two months.

The win gives Islamists their third straight electoral victory since veteran autocrat Hosni Mubarak was toppled in a 2011 revolution, following their earlier wins in parliamentary and presidential elections.

The presidency said Morsi signed a decree enforcing the charter late on Tuesday after the official announcement of the result of a referendum approving the basic law, Egypt's first constitution since Mubarak's overthrow.

The text has sharpened painful divisions in the Arab world's most populous nation and prompted often violent protests on the streets of Cairo..."

AL JAZEERA: ASSAD UNLEASHED CHEMICAL WEAPONS

December 24, 2012 Israel National News reported: "Syrian President Bashar Assad has dropped bombs containing toxic gases, killing six people and blinding others in Homs, Al Jazeera reported Monday. Opposition forces released a video showing a victim struggling to breathe after the attack.

At least 181 people were killed on Sunday in attacks by loyalists to Assad, who may have dealt himself a suicide blow by using chemical warfare, a move that the President Barack Obama has warned would justify US military intervention in the uprising that has erupted into civil war.

Russia, which is a major supplier of chemical weapons to Syria, claimed on Sunday that Assad had moved its chemical weapons stockpile to a 'safe' place. Al Jazeera said six people were paralyzed and four others were blinded by the toxic gas bombs, and 63 others suffered other injuries. Syrian activists reported that Assad's forces had committed a "horrible massacre" in the bombing of a bakery, killing more than 100 people.

They also said cluster bombs exploded in several towns as Assad desperately tried to fend off an increasingly armed opposition, beefed up by Islamic terrorists."..."



CHRISTIANITY 'CLOSE TO EXTINCTION' IN MIDDLE EAST

December 24, 2012 The London Daily Telegraph reported: "The study warns that Christians suffer greater hostility across the world than any other religious group. And it claims politicians have been 'blind' to the extent of violence faced by Christians in Africa, Asia and the Middle East. The most common threat to Christians abroad is militant Islam, it says, claiming that oppression in Muslim countries is often ignored because of a fear that criticism will be seen as 'racism'.

It warns that converts from Islam face being killed in Saudi Arabia, Mauritania and Iran and risk severe legal penalties in other countries across the Middle East. The report, by the think tank Civitas, says: 'It is generally accepted that many faith-based groups face discrimination or persecution to some degree.

'A far less widely grasped fact is that Christians are targeted more than any other body of believers.'

It cites estimates that 200 million Christians, or 10 per cent of Christians worldwide, are 'socially disadvantaged, harassed or actively oppressed for their beliefs.'..."

S. KOREA SAYS NORTH 'ROCKET' COULD REACH US

December 23, 2012 SpaceDaily.com reported: "North Korea's recent rocket launch amounted to the test of a ballistic missile capable of carrying a half-tonne payload as far as the US west coast, the South Korean defence ministry said Sunday. North Korea launched its three-stage Unha-3 rocket on December 12, insisting it was a purely scientific mission aimed at putting a polar-orbiting satellite in space.

Sunday's estimate was based on analysis of an oxidiser container -- recovered from the rocket's first-stage splashdown site -- which stored red fuming nitric acid to fuel the first-stage propellant.

"Based on our analysis and simulation, the missile is capable of flying more than 10,000 kilometres with a warhead of 500-600 kilograms," a defence ministry official told reporters. The estimated range of 10,000 kilometres (6,200 miles) covers the whole of Asia, eastern Europe and western Africa as well as Alaska and a large part of the US west coast including San Francisco."..."

*Compiled by L. Jim Tuck, Pastor
UCGIA Oakland, San Jose, Santa Rosa, Stockton, and Hawaii
ljt5053@sbeglobal.net*