



PROPHETIC TIMES

WEEKLY WORLD NEWS UPDATE

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BODY SUIT MAY SOON ENABLE THE PARALYZED TO WALK

October 6, 2011 The LA Times reports: "In a busy lab at Duke University, Dr. Miguel Nicolelis is merging brain science with engineering in a bid to create something fantastical: a full-body prosthetic device that would allow those immobilized by injury to walk again.

On Wednesday, Nicolelis and an international group of collaborators declared that they had cleared a key hurdle on the path toward that goal, demonstrating they could bypass the body's complex network of nerve endings and supply the sensation of touch directly to the brains of monkeys.

Nicolelis and his collaborators — engineers, neuroscientists and physiologists from Brazil, Switzerland, Germany and the United States — are working toward an ambitious objective: On the opening day of the 2014 World Cup soccer tournament in Brazil, they hope to send a young quadriplegic striding out to midfield to open the games, suited up in the 'prosthetic exoskeleton' they aim to build

Nicolelis, a Brazilian-born physician and neuroscientist with a tinkerer's bent, calls that goal a "Brazilian moon shot." ..."

STRESS 'IS TOP CAUSE OF WORKPLACE SICKNESS'- DUBBED THE 'BLACK DEATH OF THE 21st CENTURY'

October 5, 2011 DailyMail.co.uk reported: "Stress has become the most common reason for a worker being signed off long-term sick, a report reveals today. Experts said the psychological condition had become so widespread that it was the '21st century equivalent of the Black Death'. Stress has even eclipsed stroke, heart attack, cancer and back problems, according to the report from the Chartered Institute of Personnel and Development.

Jill Miller, an adviser to the institute, says the report 'highlights the heightened pressure many people feel under in the workplace as a result of the prolonged economic downturn'. Stress was found to be especially common at firms that have announced redundancies. Long-term absence is defined as taking four weeks or more off at one time because of sickness.

Cary Cooper, the co-author of a recent book about stress, *The Science of Occupational Health*, drew a distinction between pressure and stress. He says the former is 'stimulating and motivating' but becomes stressful when 'it exceeds your ability to cope with it'.

Professor Cooper, who is based at the Lancaster University management school, said stress was signalled by changes in behaviour. Typically, these include finding it difficult to focus, losing your sense of humour or losing your temper more quickly than normal.

In later stages, stress can manifest itself in over-eating or under-eating as well as smoking or drinking to excess. Short periods of it are manageable, but it can lead to serious health problems, such as heart disease or stomach and bowel problems, if it persists."..."

ASSAD WARNS TO SET FIRE ON MIDDLE-EAST IN CASE OF US ATTACK

October 4, 2011 Fars News Agency reported: "The Fars News Agency reports: "Syrian President Bashar al-Assad in a meeting with Turkish Foreign Minister Ahmad Davutoglu threatened the western countries that if Syria comes under a NATO attack, it would set fire on the Middle-East, especially Israel.

'If a crazy measure is taken against Damascus, I will need not more than 6 hours to transfer hundreds of rockets and missiles to the Golan Heights to fire them at Tel Aviv,' Assad said after Davutoglu conveyed the United States' warning message to him.

He also reiterated that Damascus will also call on Hezbollah in Lebanon to launch such an intensive rocket and missile attack on Israel that the Israeli spy agencies could never imagine.

'All these events will happen in three hours, but in the second three hours, Iran will attack the US warships in the Persian Gulf and the US and European interests will be targeted simultaneously,' Assad said..."

ALARM RISES OVER MISSING LIBYAN MISSILES

October 4, 2011 SpaceDaily.com reported: "Air assets of the U.S. Africa Command are being reassigned to monitor Libya's borders in the hunt for missiles looted from Moammar Gadhafi's arsenals.

U.S. Army Gen. Carter Ham, head of AFROCOM, said those assets include unmanned surveillance and reconnaissance vehicles but that a number of Libya's shoulder-fired, anti-aircraft missiles may have been smuggled out of the country and could end up in the hands of terrorist groups.

The general's comments, in remarks at a forum at the Center for Strategic and International Studies in Washington, comes amid growing concern among NATO members that al-Qaida and its affiliates could come into possession of weaponry that could down civilian as well as military aircraft.

Reports from Libya say tens of thousands of heat-seeking surface-to-air missiles, including Russian-made SA-7s, have are missing from

former Gadhafi arsenals amid the chaos of the dictator's ouster by rebel forces and continuing battles against Gadhafi loyalists.

The exact number of missing missiles is unknown but the Gadhafi regime was believed to have possessed as many as 20,000 of the weapons, most of which are unaccounted for. Gen. Mohammed Adia, the National Transition Council officer in charge of armaments, recently told reporters that about 5,000 missiles were missing.

"Unfortunately, some of these missiles could have fallen into the wrong hands," he said."..."

CHINA OR THE US? MAKE YOUR CHOICE

October 3, 2011 By Gideon Rachman: High quality global journalism requires investment. The defining geopolitical drama of the next century will be the battle for power and influence between China and America. That emerging struggle is already posing awkward choices for Asian countries, caught between the two global giants.

On Monday the US Senate was expected to pass a bill allowing for the imposition of tariffs on Chinese goods. Even if the protectionist drive in America now pauses for a while, this confrontational mood in the US poses a dilemma for China's neighbours. China is now the largest trading partner for Japan, India, Australia, South Korea and most of the nations of south-east Asia. But these countries still have their most important military relationship with the US. How long can their economic and strategic interests point in different directions?



High quality global journalism requires investment. Please share this article with others using the link below, do not cut & paste the article. Not for long, if one is to judge by an editorial in the People's Daily last week. The official newspaper of the Chinese Communist party took aim at "certain countries" who "think as long as they can balance China with the help of US military power, they are free to do whatever they want".



The article was probably provoked by a statement from Japan and the Philippines, the previous day, in which the two countries promised to boost naval co-operation and implicitly disputed China's extensive territorial claims in the South China Sea. But China's warning could equally have been aimed at Vietnam, India, South Korea, Australia or Taiwan – all of whom have moved over the past year to strengthen military ties with America.

The irony, of course, is that it is precisely Chinese sabre-rattling, exemplified by that article in the People's Daily, that is sending its neighbours running screaming into the arms of Uncle Sam. Until recently China seemed to be playing an intelligent waiting game – relying on its growing economic strength to draw its neighbours inexorably into a Chinese sphere of influence. Now the People's Republic risks overplaying its hand – and so creating the anti-Chinese alliance that it both fears and denounces.

A more patient policy would make sense for China because it is likely to be the world's largest economy by 2020."..."

'ISRAEL IS THE WEST'S CREATION FOR MIDEAST DOMINANCE'

October 3, 2011 The Jerusalem Post reports: "Israel is a creation of the West so that it could exert control over the Middle East, Iranian President Mahmoud Ahmadinejad said in his closing remarks to the 'Intifada Conference' in Tehran on Sunday. The establishment of Israel, he said, was the 'most heinous historical crime,' PressTV reported.

The Iranian president slammed what he described as a western intolerance for debate over the Jewish state's existence. Israel, he said, has become so sanctified in western capitals that 'any criticism of the Zionist regime is tantamount to being a terrorist,' according to PressTV...

Speaking at the conference on Saturday, Iranian supreme leader Ayatollah Ali Khamenei rejected the Palestinians' UN statehood bid, saying any deal that accepts the existence of Israel would leave a 'cancerous tumor' forever threatening the security of the Middle East."..."

SCIENTISTS USE CLONING TO MAKE HUMAN STEM CELLS

October 5, 2011 Reuters reports: "U.S. scientists for the first time have used a cloning technique to get tailor-made embryonic stem cells to grow in unfertilized human egg cells, a landmark finding and a potential new flashpoint for opponents of stem cell research.

The researchers were trying to prove it is possible to use a cloning technology called somatic cell nuclear transfer, or SCNT, to make embryonic stem cells that match a patient's DNA. The achievement, published on Wednesday in the journal Nature, is significant because such patient-specific cells potentially can be transplanted to replace damaged cells in people with diabetes and other diseases without rejection by the immune system.

This technique could ignite new controversy because some opponents consider it to be cloning, which they fiercely oppose."..."

VENEZUELA'S CHAVEZ EYES NEW OIL CARTEL

October 6, 2011 Breitbart.com reported: "Venezuelan President Hugo Chavez proposed creating a new oil exporters group parallel to OPEC that would include only the "giants" of global petroleum producers. Chavez made the comments on Thursday, while hosting Russia's Deputy Prime Minister Igor Sechin and Energy Minister Sergei Smatko, saying the two countries could be part of such a super-cartel.

"I had an idea, create a new organization... of petroleum giants," Chavez said during a cabinet meeting broadcast on radio and television with the Russian officials present.

"We are not more than four or five" countries, he added. He said that "Russia and Venezuela are two of the oil giants of this planet" and that such a super-cartel could co-exist with the Organization of Petroleum Exporting Countries."..."

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