A Disclaimer:

I want to keep my word with you. I know you understand that I receive interesting and timely news items from friends all over the world. Most of these items appear to have prophetic relevance. Others are of particular interest in the field of Science, Health & Nutrition, Devotional themes and some touches of Humor.

With a bit of hesitation, I am forwarding some of these items to friends like you via email. My concern is this: some persons who will receive or read the items I choose to forward will assume that I endorse, approve or believe every "iota," and that I am endorsing the author or source. This simply is not true! As you read, you must be discerning, choosey, discriminating and use common sense. If you are going to quote someone, quote the source -- I am not the source, I am the reporter . . . --CW

Inside The United States' Secret Sabotage Of Iran

By: Mike Shuster / National Public radio.com / May 9, 2011

May 9, 2011

First in a three-part series

"For years, the United States has been trying to stop Iran's nuclear program and change what it says is Iran's bad behavior in the Middle East and beyond.

"The United States has used economic sanctions, censure by the United Nations, diplomatic engagement and the threat of military action to accomplish these goals -- all with little or no success."
"At the same time, other, unacknowledged activities have been under way. They have included cyberattacks, assassinations and defections. As it turns out, these efforts have had some success.

'A Covert War'

"Covert action is meant to stay just that -- covert, clandestine, in the shadows.

"And in Iran, it did, for quite some time. But in the last year, much has become known about intelligence operations in Iran, says Bruce Riedel, a former CIA official who is now an analyst with the Saban Center at the Brookings Institution.

"'There's little doubt that there's a covert war under way against Iran,' he says. 'There are at least two players in it: the United States and Israel.'

"And often, it appears, those players work together.

"That was especially true with the Stuxnet worm."

"Saudi and Kuwait officials have warned the US that if Iran activates its first nuclear reactor at Bushehr in May as planned, there is a good chance it will blow up and the entire Gulf region suffer a nuclear disaster on the scale of the misfortune at Japan's Fukushima and expose millions to radiation contamination.

"This issue was urgently raised in recent Saudi-US talks -- first on April 4 with US Defense Secretary Robert Gates and again Monday, April 11, with the National Security Adviser to the US President Tom Donilon.

"The king declared angrily that the lax American attitude toward Islamic Republic's nuclear aspirations places the very existence of Saudi Arabia and the Persian Gulf nations in peril."
Italians are fleeing Rome today over fears a giant earthquake is coming following a seismologist's 1915 prediction that "the big one" will strike on May 11, 2011.

By: Nick Pisa / The Telegraph.com / May 10, 2011

"Businesses have reported requests from one in five people to have time off work and many are also keeping children away from school and heading to the beach or country for the day.

"Romans are taking it so seriously that local newspapers have even been publishing survival guides with tips of what to do -- if -- the ground starts to tremble.

"The panic has been fanned by Facebook, Twitter and text messages around a prediction by Raffaele Bendani, a seismologist who forecast in 1915 that a 'big one' would hit Rome on Wednesday.

"He is also said to have predicted other earthquakes which hit Italy during the last hundred years before his death in 1979."

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It's the End of the World -- Again!

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"There's little doubt that there's a covert war under way against Iran," he says. "There are at least two players in it: the United States and Israel."
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- Bruce Riedel, an analyst with the Saban Center at the Brookings Institution
And this worm isn't the first instance of sabotage, Albright says.

"It's one of many efforts that I think are under way to try to constrain Iran from being able to basically, in a sense, either outfit its centrifuge program or to try to actively disrupt it and break things," he says.

Among the parts of the centrifuges that have been sabotaged, according to Albright, are motors and vacuum pumps. Inspectors from the International Atomic Energy Agency discovered equipment at Iran's nuclear facilities that had passed through one of the U.S. national laboratories, Albright says.

"So you had a case where the U.S. government, at least, what it was doing was buying equipment on the open market and apparently modifying it in some way," he says.

Then the equipment was apparently delivered to front companies that in turn sold it to Iran.

It could have been used for sabotage, or if it was bugged equipment, it could provide information on the location of secret nuclear facilities in Iran.

**Building Paranoia**

In any case, Iran's leaders are certainly worried about what they might face next, says Riedel of the Brookings Institution.

"One of the benefits of these kind of programs is that over time it builds paranoia and fear inside the Iranian nuclear program — that they have to be extremely careful that anything they buy may turn out to be a self-destructive pill once it's ingested inside the Iranian program," Riedel says.

In fact, just last week, one of Iran's key nuclear officials disclosed that another computer virus had hit Iran.

The Iranians are calling it the "Stars" virus. They say they have taken care of it.

So far its existence has not been confirmed by computer security specialists outside of Iran. Nevertheless, the effort to sabotage Iran's nuclear program, through cyberattacks or other methods, is certain to continue.
April 12, 2011

**Saudi Arabia: Second Fukushima if Iranian Bushehr activated in May**

**DEBKAFile Exclusive Report**

Saudi and Kuwait officials have warned the US that if Iran activates its first nuclear reactor at Bushehr in May as planned, there is a good chance it will blow up and the entire Gulf region suffer a nuclear disaster on the scale of the misfortune at Japan’s Fukushima and expose millions to radiation contamination.

This issue was urgently raised in recent Saudi-US talks – first on April 4 with US Defense Secretary Robert Gates and again Monday, April 11, with the National Security Adviser to the US President Tom Donilon.

The two high-level US official visits to Riyadh in six days attest to the fierce discord between Saudi King Abdullah and the administration - not just over Iran and its nuclear activity but the entire gamut of US Middle East policy.

When he met the defense secretary, the king took Gates charged that the White House ignored Saudi intelligence evidence passed to the CIA that Tehran and Hizballah were actively fomenting the unrest in Bahrain with a view to igniting parallel disturbances in the eastern Saudi oil regions among the two million Shiites living there. Abdullah complained bluntly that no matter what evidence is put before President Obama, he refuses to budge from his course of engagement with regard to Iran.

The king declared angrily that the lax American attitude toward Islamic Republic's nuclear aspirations places the very existence of Saudi Arabia and the Persian Gulf nations in peril.

Washington had twisted Saudi arms to refrain from challenging the Bushehr nuclear plant when preparations for its activation were completed last year, despite its harmful potential for the region. (debkafile reported last August that similar pressure was applied to Israel.)

Even the Iranians, Abdullah told Gates, were scared to switch it on out of concern for their own people.

It was the first time the Saudi monarch linked the Iranian plant with the Japanese nuclear calamity. Tuesday, April 12, Japan raised its severity to maximum seven the same as Chernobyl.

Four months ago, on Jan. 26, Moscow acted outside the rules of conventional diplomacy when Russian ambassador to NATO Dmitry Rogozin publicly demanded a NATO investigation into the effects of the Stuxnet malware on the Bushehr reactor. He repeated a previous warning to President Mahmoud Ahmadinejad that "The virus attack on a Russian-built nuclear reactor in Iran could trigger a nuclear disaster on the scale of Chernobyl."
debkafile's intelligence and Russians sources report that Russian concerns focused on the discovery of the unexplained entry of small pieces of metal into the cooling system. This told them that the Iranians had not managed to stop Stuxnet or its impact on the reactor's control systems and there was no guarantee that more malfunctions capable of causing the plant to blow up had been were not in store.

These warnings were initially heeded: Russian-Iranian preparations to active the reactor were suspended and it was emptied of nuclear fuel.

But then Friday, April 8, the fuel was reloaded the fuel. The next day, the head of Iran's Nuclear Energy Commission Fereydoun Abbasi said: "Even before the earthquake and nuclear contamination crisis in Japan, Iran had accepted Russian experts' proposal to revise its plant to load fuel into the core of the Bushehr power plant's reactor."

Iran had never before referred to the Fukushima in relation to Bushehr.

Our sources add that the Abbasi statement clearly held Moscow responsible for any potential nuclear disaster that may beset the Iranian facility. It also confirmed the Saudi claim. Riyadh has accordingly demanded that Washington act without delay and by all means possible to prevent Bushehr going on line next month according to plan.

Such US action would be diametrically opposed to the Obama administration's Iran policy at present. However, failure to meet the Saudi demand will deepen the acute crisis in Saudi-US relations and mistrust sparked by the overthrow of Egyptian President Hosni Mubarak - with effect on other related issues such as Yemen and even Pakistan.
Italians are fleeing Rome today over fears a giant earthquake is coming following a seismologist's 1915 prediction that "the big one" will strike on May 11, 2011.

By Nick Pisa, Rome
4:21PM BST 10 May 2011

Businesses have reported requests from one in five people to have time off work and many are also keeping children away from school and heading to the beach or country for the day.

Romans are taking it so seriously that local newspapers have even been publishing survival guides with tips of what to do – if – the ground starts to tremble.

The panic has been fanned by Facebook, Twitter and text messages around a prediction by Raffaele Bendani, a seismologist who forecast in 1915 that a "big one" would hit Rome on Wednesday.

He is also said to have predicted other earthquakes which hit Italy during the last hundred years before his death in 1979.

Massimo La Rocca, headmaster of a school in the Trastevere district, said: "We have had quite a few parents calling in and saying they will not be sending their children in.

http://www.telegraph.co.uk/news/worldnews/italy/8504936/Italians-evacuate-Rome-over-b...
"I've told them the school will remain open and there is nothing to be scared about but they are adamant – although this is not a justifiable absence for a pupil."

A barman named Massimo said: "People have been talking about this for the last week. I know dozens who are taking the day off – I'm going to sleep in the camper van with the wife to be on the safe side."

Bendandi believed movement of plates and therefore earthquakes were the result of the combined movements of the planets, the moon and the sun and perfectly predictable.

In 1923 he predicted a quake would hit central Italy on January 2 the following year – he was wrong by two days.

For his work Bendandi was even given a knighthood by Fascist dictator Benito Mussolini – and ordered not to make any more predictions on pain of exile as officials feared he would create immense panic.

However seismologists have been quick to step in and say his theories are without any scientific proof and despite his claims earthquakes are completely unpredictable.

Seismologist Alessandro Amato, who works at the Italy's National Geophysical and Volcanology Institute, said:"There is absolutely no evidence to say that an earthquake will hit Rome on 11th May and we have told that to the hundreds of people who have called.

"There is a possibility that on the day in question the country as a whole will have an average of 30 or so tremors but that is perfectly normal and the figure we expect.

"It is not scientifically possible to predict the exact date that an earthquake will occur and that's why we are holding these open days at the Institute to better inform people."

An estimated 20 million people live at risk from earthquakes in Italy, which is also home to some of the most active
volcanoes in Europe.

The Eurasian and African plates meet along a line which runs through North Africa and crosses the Mediterranean near south Italy and Greece. As a result, two main fault lines cut across the Italian peninsula. Memories are still vivid of an earthquake in the central Italian city of L'Aquilam which lies to the north of Rome, in 2009, which killed 300 people.

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It's the End of the World—Again!
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Just a few months into the year, and already the inhabitants of Planet Earth are reeling from a world gone seriously haywire. Most notable on the disaster barometer are Australian floods; Japanese Earthquake and flooding; meltdown in the Middle East—and North American weather. People are shaking their heads and asking, "What in the world is going on?"

It's often so much easier to tolerate famine, flood and earthquake when it's "over there." All we need do is write a check to our favorite charity, turn off the TV, set the dishwasher and coffee-maker, turn out the light and lay our heads on our comfy pillows, safe in the knowledge that the morning will come and our "normal" will continue just like it did today. Eat, drink and be as merry as possible.

Ten years ago this year a new "normal" came knocking when the Towers in New York crumbled to the ground. The world has never been the same since. Thousands of lives later, we are still trying to mop up from a sink that won't stop spilling over. But as long as it's "our boys" "over there" keeping the hotheads busy, we can sleep safe in our beds—right?

But have you noticed? The unruly weather and unruly hotheads are getting closer to our own backyards. Planet Earth has become an even more dangerous place to live lately; and it doesn't look much like stopping, and no one brought some corn for popping. A couple of years past one of the worst financial collapses the planet has ever known we are still wondering how to maintain the constant military monitoring of people with a cause other than ours.

Recently, while the State of Texas burned to the sandy ground, a gigantic weather system made its way across the Southern States. Alabama was the hardest hit and suffered the worst American casualties inflicted by Mother Nature since Katrina hit the coast. After a few minutes of looking at the pictures and watching the footage, the mind takes on a numbness of overload. Many Alabama streets look like a ticker-tape parade just went through, leaving just the debris for the clean-up crews to take care of. Mercifully, the tornadoes went just a little north of us, and we were spared—for now.

The end of the world may not have come by your door, yet. But it will, and one day the end of the world will be here to stay—forever! Things may seem pretty scary right now, but this may be as good as it's going to get for a while. If you have work to do, now would be a good time to be about it.

"It is what you read when you don’t have to that determines what you will be when you can’t help it." —Oscar Wilde

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