

Chem-Bio News

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- 2. OUTBREAK OF RARE DISEASE IN THE NETHERLANDS:** *"They took some blood, he says, and they came up with a diagnosis: Q-fever."*
- 3. BOTSWANA - BORDERS TO BE EQUIPPED WITH NUCLEAR DETECTORS BY APRIL:** *"Stephen Williams, Director, Department of Radiation Protection, told the Sunday Standard that the department is awaiting at least 30 pagers from the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA) for detecting radioactive materials, intended for use at specified gazetted entry points into the country by respective user departments."*
- 4. PAKISTAN COURT MAINTAINS CURBS ON AQ KHAN:** *"The Lahore High Court ruled Khan was still not allowed to talk about nuclear weapons technology and must inform security agencies before he leaves his house so they can accompany him wherever he goes, according to his lawyer Ali Zafar."*
- 5. NUCLEAR LABS RAISE DOUBTS OVER VIABILITY OF ARSENALS:** *"In a challenge to the White House, the nation's nuclear weapons laboratories have warned Congress that federal programs to extend the life of the nation's aging nuclear arsenal are insufficient to guarantee the viability of the weapons for decades to come."*
- 6. IRAN 'BUILDING TWO NEW NUCLEAR ENRICHMENT PLANTS':** *"The findings are partly based on anomalies in Tehran's nuclear inventory that were recently identified by inspectors from the United Nations' nuclear watchdog, the International Atomic Energy Agency."*

CB Daily Report

Chem-Bio News

SMOTHERING DIRTY BOMBS

By John Doyle
The New York Post
March 25, 2010

"The blankets come in two models.

One would be thrown over radiation victims to keep them from irradiating others.

Also in the department's arsenal is a "Hi-Energy Nuclear Suppression Blanket," designed to be placed over a dirty bomb about to go off.

It has twice the capabilities of a standard bomb blanket in reducing the force of a blast.

It also traps chemical, biological and nuclear agents, reducing by more than half the distance they can spread, said Ronald DeMeo, CEO of Radiation Shield Technologies.

All of the new equipment is made of Demron, a state-of-the-art fabric blend that blocks chemical, biological and nuclear agents, according to DeMeo."

The full article can be found at:

http://www.nypost.com/p/news/local/smothering_dirty_bombs_dkcdHUhBxmLziIvucCki5J

[Return to Top](#)

OUTBREAK OF RARE DISEASE IN THE NETHERLANDS

The World

March 25, 2010

“The Netherlands is grappling with an outbreak of a rare disease. It normally strikes farm animals, but it’s now sickening hundreds of people who have no contact with farms. While most people get something like the flu or pneumonia for a few weeks, some are sick for months, and a handful have died. The disease is caused by a type of bacteria so resilient that the U.S. government considers it a bioterrorism agent. From the Netherlands, Emily Kopp reports. (images courtesy of VJ Movement).”

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“They took some blood, he says, and they came up with a diagnosis: Q-fever. It’s a bacterial infection, transmitted by livestock. Jos van de Sande is an infectious disease expert at the public health department here in the Dutch province of Brabant. He says, usually, only people who work with farm animals are at risk.

But something has changed. Now, many people here who have no connection to farms are coming down with Q-fever, and the number of patients is growing. Three years ago, the Netherlands had fewer than 200 cases. Last year, it had more than 2000. At least nine people have died. It’s not clear why the disease is spreading. Jos van de Sande says the bacteria may have mutated.

Whatever is causing the disease to spread, officials believe they know where it’s coming from – this country’s growing number of goat farms.”

The full article can be found at: <http://www.theworld.org/2010/03/25/outbreak-of-rare-disease-in-the-netherlands/>

[Return to Top](#)

BOTSWANA - BORDERS TO BE EQUIPPED WITH NUCLEAR DETECTORS BY APRIL

by Gowenius Toka

The Sunday Standard

March 22, 2010

“After one-week intensive training of officers from the security services, including Botswana Defense Force (BDF), early this month, the Botswana Police Services (BPS) and the Directorate of Intelligence and Security (DIS), as well as the Botswana Unified Revenue Services (BURS), the level of security preparedness at the borders is now being remarkably elevated.

Stephen Williams, Director, Department of Radiation Protection, told the Sunday Standard that the department is awaiting at least 30 pagers from the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA) for detecting radioactive materials, intended for use at specified gazetted entry points into the country by respective user departments.

“It is intended that as of April 1st 2010, all the thirty pagers should have been distributed to the borders. In addition, there will also be radiation identifiers, which because they are a bit more expensive, were ordered in less quantity than the pagers, for picking the specific type of substance inside any form of container without having to open it,” said Williams.”

The full article can be found at: http://sundaystandard.info/news/news_item.php?NewsID=7293

[Return to Top](#)

PAKISTAN COURT MAINTAINS CURBS ON AQ KHAN

By Babar Dogar
The Associated Press
March 29, 2010

“Khan, now in his 70s, was pardoned by then-President Pervez Musharraf, but immediately placed under de facto house arrest. Since then, he has challenged that in the courts, and in recent years has been allowed some freedom.

The Lahore High Court ruled Khan was still not allowed to talk about nuclear weapons technology and must inform security agencies before he leaves his house so they can accompany him wherever he goes, according to his lawyer Ali Zafar.

Zafar said the court had slightly eased some of the curbs, saying Khan must now inform authorities a half-day in advance if he wants to travel outside of his home town, Islamabad, as opposed to a full day previously. Within Islamabad, the notice was cut from one hour to a half-hour.

Zafar said there were no plans to appeal the verdict.

The court dismissed another petition filed by the government asking that Khan be questioned over a recent report in The Washington Post based on an account allegedly written by Khan that said Iran had tried to buy nuclear weapons from Pakistan in the late 1980s.”

The full article can be found at:

<http://www.google.com/hostednews/ap/article/ALeqM5hF7ZYNgjRjW0jcpPOK3AcQ7NvuVAD9EO7AU80>
[Return to Top](#)

NUCLEAR LABS RAISE DOUBTS OVER VIABILITY OF ARSENALS

By William J. Broad
The New York Times
March 26, 2010

“In a challenge to the White House, the nation’s nuclear weapons laboratories have warned Congress that federal programs to extend the life of the nation’s aging nuclear arsenal are insufficient to guarantee the viability of the weapons for decades to come.

The warning, which implicitly endorsed the idea of creating an expensive new generation of more reliable nuclear warheads, has no direct bearing on the new arms control agreement reached this week by the United States and Russia.

Rather, it addresses a long-simmering debate on what steps the United States should take to ensure confidence in the destructive capacity of its shrinking nuclear arsenal.”

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“The new warning about the arsenal’s reliability came in letters from the directors of the nation’s three nuclear weapons labs to Representative Michael R. Turner, an Ohio Republican who is the ranking minority member of the Armed Services Committee’s subcommittee on strategic forces. He had asked the directors for their opinions about a federal report, made public late last year, that suggested programs to extend the life of the nation’s nuclear weapons were good enough to guarantee their potency for decades to come.

That finding, from an independent group of scientists that advises the federal government on issues of science and technology, could influence whether the Senate ratifies another nuclear treaty, the

Comprehensive Test Ban Treaty — a prime objective of the Obama administration — or whether the nation instead prepares for the design of new nuclear arms.”

The full article can be found at: <http://www.nytimes.com/2010/03/27/us/27nuke.html?src=me>
[Return to Top](#)

IRAN 'BUILDING TWO NEW NUCLEAR ENRICHMENT PLANTS'

By Adrian Blomfield
The Telegraph (UK)
March 28, 2010

“The findings are partly based on anomalies in Tehran's nuclear inventory that were recently identified by inspectors from the United Nations' nuclear watchdog, the International Atomic Energy Agency.

The inspectors have expressed serious concern that new uranium enriching equipment developed by Iranian scientists has mysteriously disappeared, the New York Times reported. The equipment has not turned up at Iran's main uranium enrichment plant, leading inspectors to believe that it is being stored in secret until it can be installed in an as yet unidentified facility.

Iran recently piqued international interest after the country's atomic energy chief, Ali Akbar Salehi, announced that work was to begin on two new plants to be "built inside mountains". But a European official was quoted as saying that there was "some evidence" to suggest that building was already under way.

US intelligence agencies are studying satellite evidence of a number of suspect sites, while Israel is said to have uncovered evidence of "two Qom look-alikes".

The full article can be found at:
<http://www.telegraph.co.uk/news/worldnews/middleeast/iran/7532846/Iran-building-two-new-nuclear-enrichment-plants.html>
[Return to Top](#)

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