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Explosive eruption at Kilauea summit sends ash plume 30,000 feet into air

May 17, 2018 HawaiiNewsNow.com reported: "An explosive eruption at Kilauea's summit Thursday morning sent an ash plume soaring 30,000 feet into the air, and officials warn that ongoing emissions — and future eruptions — could send ash falling over significant portions of the Big Island.

Michelle Coombs, of the Hawaiian Volcano Observatory, said the explosion about 4:15 a.m. at Halemaumau Crater was powerful but short-lived, which meant levels of ash dropping on surrounding communities were not as significant as officials had feared. But she stressed that additional steam-induced eruptions are possible.

"It's a real dynamic situation up there," Coombs told reporters Thursday. "The one this morning is definitely the biggest we've seen so far."

The National Weather Service has issued an ashfall advisory for parts of the Big Island, saying ash accumulation less than one quarter of an inch was possible through at least 6 p.m. Meanwhile, Hawaii County Civil Defense officials say wind could carry the ash plume toward Ka'u, Volcano, Mountain View, Keaau and as far as Hilo.

Coombs said the eruption Thursday morning was "consistent" with a steam-induced explosion — lava interacting with the water table. Geologists have been warning about such an explosion for days, and have said previous thick emissions from the crater were likely due to rockfalls or gas explosions. Volcanic activity at the summit has been ticking up in recent days.

On Wednesday, at least 125 shallow quakes rattled Kilauea's summit and neighboring communities, causing minor damage to roads and buildings. The strongest quake in the area was a magnitude 4.4, and dozens more have been upwards of magnitude 3. Also on Wednesday, Hawaiian Volcano Observatory said rocks up to 2 feet wide were hurled from the crater to a parking lot hundreds of yards away."

'Explosive increase' in Ebola outbreak in Congo— UN considers declaring a 'health emergency of international concern'

May 17, 2018 dailymail.co.uk reported: "Experts fear an 'explosive increase' in Ebola cases after an outbreak in Congo entered a 'new phase' and spread to a city. The deadly virus was detected in the northwest city of Mbandaka, with a population of about 1 million people, the country's health minister revealed last night.

So far, the 23 deaths believed to have been caused by Democratic Republic of Congo's latest Ebola outbreak were in more isolated areas, giving authorities a better chance of ring-fencing the virus.

The first urban case to be announced threatens to change that. The World Health Organisation, which on Wednesday deployed the first experimental vaccines in the vast central African country, will decide tomorrow whether to declare a 'public health emergency of international concern'. Such a declaration by the Emergency Committee would trigger more international involvement, mobilising research and resources, WHO spokesman Christian Lindmeier said.

Putin: New Weapons Will Maintain Russia's Might for Decades

May 16, 2018 voanews.com reported: "Russia's new weapons, including an array of new nuclear systems, will ensure the country's security for decades to come, President Vladimir Putin said Tuesday at a meeting with top military brass.

Speaking in Sochi, Putin said the new systems unveiled this year would significantly increase Russia's military capabilities and 'ensure a strategic balance for decades.'

The Russian leader presented an array of new nuclear weapons in March that he said couldn't be intercepted. They included a new heavy intercontinental ballistic missile; a nuclear-powered global range cruise missile; and an underwater drone designed to strike coastal facilities with a heavy nuclear weapon.

Putin said at Tuesday's meeting that the development of the weapons would remain a high priority..."

Iranian group offers \$100,000 for bombing US Jerusalem Embassy

May 16, 2018 Arutz Sheva 7 reported: "An Iranian group said it will pay a \$100,000 reward to anyone who destroys the newly transferred American Embassy in Jerusalem.

The US embassy in Jerusalem, Israel officially opened yesterday. Palestinian Authority chairman Mahmoud Abbas condemned the Embassy, calling it a 'settlement'. The Arab League will hold emergency talks tomorrow to discuss what it called Washington's 'illegal' decision to move the embassy from Tel Aviv to Jerusalem..."

Turkey Calls Summit, Urges Islamic World to Review Ties to 'Terror State' Israel

May 15, 2018 Breitbart.com reported: "Turkey has called on all Islamic countries to review their ties with 'terror state' Israel ahead of an extraordinary summit of the world's main pan-Islamic body to protest Israel's actions in defending itself against deadly Gaza riots.

'Islamic countries should without fail review their relations with Israel,' Turkish Prime Minister Binali Yildirim told his ruling party in parliament Tuesday. The Islamic world should move as one, with one voice, against this massacre..."

Fiery cleric, paramilitary leader surge at Iraq elections

May 14, 2018 spacewar.com reported: "An alliance headed by nationalist cleric Moqtada Sadr and a rival bloc of pro-Iranian former fighters appeared to surge Monday in surprise preliminary results from Iraq's first poll since the defeat of the Islamic State group.



If confirmed, the outcome would throw open the race to become the next prime minister, as internationally favoured incumbent Haider al-Abadi lagged behind after a vote hit by record abstentions.

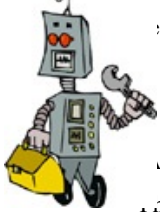
According to partial results seen by AFP, the Marching Towards Reform alliance of Shiite cleric Sadr and his communist allies was ahead in six of Iraq's 18 provinces and second in four others.

Sadr has reinvented himself as an anti-graft crusader after rising to prominence as a powerful militia chief whose fighters battled US forces after the 2003 invasion.

While long railing against the United State, the nationalist firebrand has also distanced himself from its key rival Iran, drawing closer to regional Sunni powerhouse Saudi Arabia.”...”

Why one-third of American working-age men could be displaced by robots

May 14, 2018 marketwatch.com reported: “One third of able-bodied American men between 25 and 54 could be out of job by 2050, contends the author of “The Future of Work: Robots, AI and Automation.”



“We’re already at 12% of prime-aged men without jobs,” said Darrell West, vice president of the Brookings Institution think tank, at a forum in Washington, D.C. on Monday. That number has grown steadily over the past 60 years, but it could triple in the next 30 years because of new technology such as artificial intelligence and automation.

It could be even worse for some parts of the population, West argued. The rate for unemployment of young male African Americans, for instance, is likely to reach 50% by 2050.

“That, my friends, is a catastrophe,” West said. A lot of things can be done to avert such a problem and rethinking education is one of them, West said. “Schools need to change their curriculum so that students have the skills needed in the 21st century economy.”

Molly Kinder, senior adviser at progressive think tank New America, said the current state of manufacturing tells a story that will be seen across many occupations. Jobs that don’t require advanced education will be replaced by automation, displacing low-wage, low-skilled workers.

Public policymakers need to make education, especially in technology, for low-skill workers a priority to combat the potential for soaring unemployment rates, she said.

Many are already hurt by the technology shift. Some 6% of all adults say they lost a job or had their pay or hours reduced because of automation, according to a Pew Research study published in October. And 65% of adults believe most stores will be fully automated in 20 years and require little human interaction.”...”

US embassy opens in Israel’s capital

May 14, 2018 Arutz Sheva 7 reported: “The US embassy in Jerusalem, Israel officially opened Monday afternoon. US Ambassador to Israel David Friedman spoke at the opening ceremony.

“On this exact day 70 years ago, at almost this exact time, David Ben Gurion declared Israel’s independence. Just 11 minutes later, President Harry Truman caused the United States to be the first nation to recognize the reborn State of Israel. He later regretted that he waited so long,” Ambassador Friedman said.

“70 years since that memorable event, almost to the minute, the United States finally takes the next step: a step awaited, voted upon, litigated, and prayed for for all these years. Today, we open the United States embassy in Jerusalem, Israel,” he declared.

The ambassador credited US President Donald Trump for having the courage to open an embassy in Israel’s capital. “Today’s historic event is attributed to the vision, the courage, and the moral clarity of one person to whom we owe an enormous and eternal debt of gratitude, President Donald J. Trump.”

“Today, we keep our promise to the American people, and we extend to Israel the same right that we extend to every other nation, the right to designate its capital city. A capital city, I should add, which houses all three seats of government, with a 3,000 year old history dating back to the time when King David made Jerusalem the capital of ancient Israel...”

China sends fighter jets and bombers near Taiwan in latest show of force

May 14, 2018 SinoDaily.com reported: “China sent fighter jets and other military aircraft near Taiwan Friday in the latest of a series of drills which Beijing has said are aimed at the island’s ‘independence forces’.

Taiwan’s defence ministry said multiple H-6K bombers, reconnaissance planes and transport aircraft flew over the Bashi Channel, south of Taiwan, and over the Miyako Strait, near Japan’s Okinawa Island, in a drill Friday morning.

It was the first time that China’s Su-35 fighters were sent over the Bashi Channel, the ministry said, while J-11 fighters and early warning aircraft also took part.

The ministry assured the public in a statement that it was able to fully monitor Chinese naval and air drills and ‘take effective responsive measures to ensure defence security’.

China sees democratically governed Taiwan — which has never formally declared independence from the mainland — as a renegade part of its territory to be brought back into the fold, and has not ruled out reunification by force...Beijing has stepped up military patrols around Taiwan and used diplomatic pressure to isolate it internationally since President Tsai Ing-wen, of the traditionally pro-independence Democratic Progressive Party, took office in 2016.”

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