

Femtosecond IN THE NEWS

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World News

With the greater acceptance of cryptocurrency comes the realization that ransomware attackers have a way to transfer money [1]. For instance, the JBS meat company fell victim to a cyber-attack and was forced to halt operations [2]. To restore operations, the company was forced to pay \$11 million ransom [3]. Currently, the FBI is investigating approximately 100 ransomware cases [4].

Elsewhere, Iran's largest warship caught fire and sank [5]. Separately, there was a massive fire at an oil refinery near the Iranian capital [6].

China continues to use its military to project force. For example, China is reported to have used military aircraft to violate Malaysian airspace [7]. The incident involved 16 Chinese aircraft and appears to demonstrate China's ability to project force [8]. Moreover, the Chinese navy continues to send government ships into territorial waters claimed by Japan [9]. China also tested its DF-26 carrier killing missile [10]. This comes as the new US military budget will result in fewer Navy ships at a time when China is increasing its numbers [11]. Yet China appears to be sensitive to anything it doesn't like. For instance, Japan's Prime Minister refereed to Taiwan as a country; resulting in China's outrage [12].

This comes as there are warnings that China likely has hacked the genetic information of many Americans and is in a position to design synthetic bioweapons to exploit this information [13]. In the meantime, the US Senate was informed that China is expanding its military at a serious and sustained rate [14].

1. Myre, Greg, NPR, *How Bitcoin Has Fueled Ransomware Attacks*, June 10, 2021.
2. Barrabi, Thomas, FOX Business, *JBS cyberattack forces shutdown all company's US beef plants*, June 2, 2021.

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Wuhan Coronavirus

More information is emerging that the source of COVID-19 was the Wuhan Institute of Virology (WIV). For instance, new intelligence indicates three researchers at WIV required hospitalization in November, 2019 [1]. As a consequence, President Biden ordered the Intelligence Community to dig deeper into the origins of COVID-19 [2]. Furthermore, British Professor Angus Dalglish and Norwegian scientist Dr. Birger Sørensen completed a study

revealing artificial sequences (man engineered) within the COVID virus [3]. The study concludes Chinese researchers have attempted retro-engineering in order to cover their tracks [4].

Another report indicates US State Department officials were advised not to look into the possibility of a WIV leak allegedly because it would focus on US funding of research at the lab [5].

Meanwhile, India continues to be ravaged by the virus. During on 24-hour period,

6,148 COVID related deaths were recorded [6].

Finally, China is using COVID-19 as a political weapon. Case in point, one report indicates Taiwan was blocked by China from getting most of the vaccines ordered from AstraZeneca Plc and Moderna Inc [7]. In partial response, the US is planning to ship Taiwan 750,000 vaccines [8].

1. Fox Business/Wall Street Journal, *Intelligence on sick staff at*

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Special points of interest:

- S&P 500 Record High

Wuhan Coronavirus

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- Wuhan lab fuels debate on COVID-19 origin, May 23, 2021.
2. The Editorial Board, Wall Street Journal, *The Virus Lab Theory's New Credibility*, May 26, 2021.
 3. Connelly, Eileen AJ, New York Post, *Explosive study claims to prove Chinese scientists created COVID*, May 29, 2021.
 4. Boswell, Josh, Daily Mail, *COVID-19 'has NO credible natural ancestor' and WAS created by Chinese scientists who then tried to cover their tracks with 'retro-*

engineering' to make it seem like it naturally arose from bats, explosive new study claims, May 30, 2021.

5. Edson, Rich, and Shaw, Adam, Fox News, *State Department leaders were warned not to pursue COVID origin investigation: former officials*, June 3, 2021.
6. Choudhury, Saheli Roy, CNBC, *India reports more than 6,000 daily Covid deaths – highest ever in the world*, June 10, 2021.
7. Blanchard, Yimou LeeBen, Reuters, *Taiwan says China blocked deal with BioNTech for COVID-*

19 shots, May 26, 2021.

8. CNBC/Reuters, U.S. *boosts Taiwan's Covid-19 fight with 750,000 vaccine doses*, June 6, 2021.

Lettin' the cat outta the bag is a whole lot easier 'n puttin' it back in.—Will Rogers

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4. Viswanatha, Aruna, Wall Street Journal, *FBI Director Compares Ransomware Challenge to 9/11*, June 4, 2021.
5. Vahdat, Amir, and Gambrell, Jon, AP, *Iran's largest warship catches fire, sinks in Gulf of Oman*, June 2, 2021.
6. AP, *Massive fire breaks out at oil refinery near Iran's capital*, June 2, 2021.
7. BBC News, *South China Sea dispute: Malaysia accuses China of breaching airspace*, June 2, 2021.
8. Economic Times/ANI, *China's military flight over Malaysia waters 'aimed at showing dominance'*, June

5, 2021.

9. ANI, *Four Chinese ships enter Japan's territorial waters off Senkaku Islands*, May 24, 2021.
10. American Military News, *China tests 'carrier killer' missiles after threatening US over Taiwan*, June 11, 2021.
11. Maritime Executive, *Instead of Countering China, U.S. Navy Plans Another "Rebuilding Year"*, June 10, 2021.
12. Feng, John, Newsweek, *China Outraged After Japanese PM Calls Taiwan 'Country'*, June 10, 2021.
13. Knutzen, Michael, U.S. Naval Institute, *Synthetic Bioweapons Are Coming*, June, 2021.
14. Reuters, U.S. general: *China hiking military capability at "very serious and sustained rate"*, June 10, 2021.

World News

Terrorism

Since the Israel and Gaza conflict, there has been increases of attacks against Jewish people. For example, within the US, anti-Semitism attacked have increased [1].

The US Mexican border appears to be wide open [2]. With the open border comes unusual crime. For example, one report indicates drug cartels are now using weaponized drones to spread terror on both sides of the Mexico-US border [3].

In Africa, at least 132 people were killed by terrorists in Burkina Faso [4]. In Afghanistan, militants killed at least 10 workers clearing land mines [5]. The Islamic State claimed credit for the mine worker attack [6].

1. Harris, Shane, and Shamas, Brittany, Washington Post, 'Who's out protecting us?': Spate of anti-Jewish attacks in the U.S.

draws calls for more forceful response, May 23, 2021.

2. Shaw, Adam, Fox News, *Migrant crossings hit 10 year high this fiscal year amid border crisis, with four months to go, June 12, 2021.*
3. Suárez, Karol, USA Today, *Drug cartels attack enemies and spread terror with weaponized drones in US, Mexico, June 2, 2021.*
4. CNN/Reuters, *Militants kill more than 130 civilians in Burkina Faso village attack, June 5, 2021.*
5. Reuters, *Gunmen kill at least 10 Afghans working for mine-clearing agency, June 9, 2021.*
6. Deutsche Welle, *Afghanistan: 'Islamic State' claims responsibility for attack on mine-clearing workers, June 9, 2021*

As nations can not be rewarded or punished in the next world they must be in this.—George Mason

Economy

The unemployment economic indicators continue to improve. The unemployment rate for May fell to 5.8% [1]. For the week ending May 22, the number of first time unemployment claims reported by the Labor Department was 406,000 [2]. For the week ending May 29, the number reported was 385,000 [3]. Finally, for June 5, the number reported was 376,000 [4]. Additionally, the stock indexes remain high. For instance, on June 10, the S&P 500 reached a new record high [5]. The S&P 500 set another record high on June 11 [6]. However, one concern is the rate of inflation. Case in point, the Consumer Price Index (CPI) from May was 5% higher than a year before; the fastest inflation increase in 13 years [7].

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falls to 5.8% – lowest rate since pandemic erupted, June 4.

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4. Department of Labor, *Unemployment Insurance Weekly Claims*, June 10, 2021.
5. Macheel, Tanaya, CNBC, *Stock futures flat after S&P 500 hits new high, despite rising inflation*, June 10, 2021.
6. McCormick, Emily, Yahoo News, *Stock market news live updates: S&P 500 ekes out record closing high as traders shake off inflation concerns*, June 11, 2021.
7. Cox, Jeff, CNBC, *Con-*

sumer prices jump 5% in May, fastest pace since the summer of 2008, June 10, 2021.

The ideal man bears the accidents of life with dignity and grace, making the best of circumstances—Aristotle