



Syrian FM defends Iran's advisory role

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Three corrupt individuals handed death penalty

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Persepolis full of belief ahead of Al Sadd match

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Resistance film festival receives submissions from 73 countries

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Trump succeeded to isolate U.S.



© File photo

Aluminum production up 10% in 5 months yr/yr

ECONOMY **TEHRAN**— Iran's major aluminum producers produced 151,691 tons of aluminum during the five-month period from March 21 to August 22, which shows 10 percent growth from the figure of the same period of time in the past year, according to the data released by the Iranian Mines and Mining Industries Development and Renovation Organization (IMIDRO). IMIDRO data put the output of these

producers at 137,473 tons during the five-month period of the past year, IRIB reported. Last month, the head of IMIDRO announced that a large aluminum production plant will be put into operation in the south of country by the end of current Iranian calendar year (March 20, 2019). Mehdi Karbasian said that the 300,000-ton capacity plant will be the largest and most modern aluminum production plant in Iran.

30 orbital slots in Iran's name: ISA

TECHNOLOGY **TEHRAN** – Iran possesses 30 geostationary orbital slots, head of the Iranian Space Agency (ISA), Morteza Barari, announced on Sunday, Mehr reported. The country plans to provide infrastructure for filling the slots in the near future, he added. According to International Telecommunications Union (ITU), the slots are

time-bound and in case that Iran cannot fill the slots seven years after application, it would be given to other countries, he added. He stressed the important role of the private sector in paving the way for filling the orbital slots. There are over 140 technologies in the field of space, which have the capacity to be commercialized in the form of spin-off in other industries, he said. ➔10

Idlib pullout begins but U.S.-backed militants not leaving

The first militant group has begun withdrawing its members and heavy arms from a recently-declared buffer zone in Syria's Idlib Province, a Britain-based monitoring group says. The so-called Syrian Observatory for Human Rights (SOHR) said on Sunday that the Turkey-backed Failaq al-Sham (Sham Legion) militant outfit was the

first to abide by the terms of the Moscow-Ankara agreement on the Idlib demilitarized zone. "The group is withdrawing its forces and heavy arms in small batches from southern Aleppo countryside, adjacent to Idlib Province, which is part of the demilitarized zone towards the west," SOHR head Rami Abdulrahman said. ➔13



ARTICLE
Hamid Bayati
Tehran Times journalist

Putin's S-300 winging to Syria: Tel Aviv's nightmare

A Russian Ilyushin-20 military aircraft with 15 servicemen on board was brought down on September 17 by Syrian anti-aircraft S-200 air defense system systems in northwestern Syria. Moscow blamed Tel Aviv for the incident, and the Zionist authorities fought to cast blame elsewhere.

Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu last week sent a delegation, led by Air Force commander Maj. Gen. Amikam Norkin, to Moscow to present its findings about the incident, but the meeting was brief and the delegation was fast sent back to Tel Aviv after the Russians rejected the Israeli explanations.

According to information leaked to media outlets, the meeting of the Russian Air Force commander with his Israeli counterpart, who had presented details about the incident and claimed innocence, was a complete failure. The Russian general left the meeting and threatened to drop any Israeli fighter close to the Syrian coast and the official spokesman for the ministry, Gen Igor Konashenkov, said that Israel is "fully to blame".

"After the first attack, the Israeli jets pulled back, moving to an area 70 kilometers west of the Syrian coast, turning their radar jamming devices on and apparently making preparations for another attack. The Israeli fighter jets used the Russian Il-20 aircraft as cover against missiles. The Israeli F-16 fighter jets' pilot knew that Russia's aircraft would be the unidentified preferred target for Syrian air defenses," he added.

After the incident, the Zionist authorities, including the Israel's Avigdor Lieberman, did not give up and talked about continuing attacks on Syria. The Russians were also reluctant to announce it will supply Syria's government with sophisticated S-300 air defense systems because they knew it would create controversy. Both the U.S. and Israelis objected. Netanyahu's office in a statement called the transfer of advanced weapons to the Syrian government "major mistake" that will increase the dangers in the region, adding that Israel will continue to defend its security and interests. ➔7

U.S. running a real risk to international trading system: Lord Lamont

By Marjohn Sheikh

TEHRAN (MNA) — UK PM Trade Envoy to Iran Lord Norman Lamont said in an exclusive interview with Mehr News that U.S. President Trump's extensive use of the sanctions regime is running a real risk to the international trading system.

Mehr News's Marjohn Sheikh sat down for an exclusive interview with the former UK Chancellor and UK PM Trade Envoy to Iran Lord Norman Lamont at the British embassy in Tehran on Wednesday.

Lamont criticized the extensive use of the "weapon of sanctions" by U.S. President Donald Trump, whether against Iran, Russia, Turkey, or even the threat of sanctions against European allies, saying that the "United States is running a real risk of danger to the international trading system."

The UK's trade envoy to Iran maintained that the strength of his country's support for



the Iran nuclear deal, officially known as the Joint Comprehensive Plan of Action (JCPOA) in the wake of the U.S.' withdrawal, can be felt in the European country's very different position on the deal from the American administration despite Britain's close ties with the U.S.

He also voiced optimism about the future of Iran-UK economic relations despite the current

setback caused by President Trump's anti-Iran policies, saying that "it is Iran's destiny to be integrated with the world economy."

Below is the full text of the interview:

■ What is the current standing of economic relations between Iran and UK?

A: Well, Britain, historically, has had a lower level of trade with Iran compared to Germany, France or Italy. Nonetheless, from a low level, trade has been increasing in recent years, by over 20 percent per annum. So, before President Trump, trade was increasing at quite a fast rate from a low level. And that was about all one could have expected, anyway. But before President Trump, many firms in Britain were very excited for the opportunities that existed in Iran, which are many; a very big market, sometimes described as the last great emerging market in the world, young and well-educated population, tremendous opportunities. ➔7

Al-Saud are valuable for Trump when they pay money: Adib-Moghaddam

EXCLUSIVE INTERVIEW
By Javad Heirannia

TEHRAN — Professor Arshin Adib-Moghaddam, Chair of the Centre for Iranian Studies at the London Middle East Institute, believes that for the Trump administration, as for most other countries, the al-Saud are only of value when they pay.

Professor in Global Thought and Comparative Philosophies and Chair of the Centre for Iranian Studies at the London Middle East Institute, also says that "the current efforts to bring Qatar back to

the fold are rather more directed at creating a joint front to balance against Iran's regional power."

Here is the full text of the interview:

■ Camp David meeting is scheduled to be held this autumn in the United States to resolve the crisis in Qatar. Can this American initiative lead to solving this crisis?

A: None of the initiatives that the Trump administration has pursued to resolve this crisis have been successful. As I have repeatedly indicated since Trump assumed office in January 2017: This President couldn't be a bigger blessing to the challengers of the United States in

the international system, especially Russia and China, but also Iran. He is mercurial, feeble and impulsive. This is why the political class in the U.S. is so nervous. They know that this President has weakened the position of the country almost beyond repair. The fall-out of the crisis over Qatar which Trump initially fuelled by likening Qatar's behavior to terrorism, has been too severe to patch it up with a few meetings. The erratic changes in the U.S. attitudes which turned from indicting Qatar for funding terrorism to hailing the country as an ally in combating terror movements does not bode well for any serious diplomacy. ➔7



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Street exhibition on Sacred Defense Week

A street exhibition showcasing the military equipment was held in Baharestan square, downtown Tehran, on the occasion of the Sacred Defense Week (September 22- September 28).

The Sacred Defense Week (in Persian hafte defa moqaddas) is held annually to honor the sacrifices of the soldiers and people who resisted the invading Saddam Army in the 1980s. It is marked by military parades as well as exhibitions and commemoration of martyred war veterans.

How did Netanyahu bring fame to Turqzabad?

TEHRAN(MNA) – After the Israeli Prime minister accused Iran of hiding nuclear material at a secret warehouse in Turqzabad, a village in the south of the capital Tehran, Iranians have taken to social media ridiculing Netanyahu's false accusations.

Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu's ridiculous accusations at the United Nations General Assembly once again this year have sparked much debate among Iranian netizens on social media.

For Iranian Persian-language speakers, Turqzabad refers to a remote area in the middle of nowhere, but actually it is a village in the south of Tehran, which became world-famous after Netanyahu's UN address.

Turqzabad is a village in Kahrizak Rural District, Kahrizak District, Rey County, Tehran Province, Iran. According to the 2006 census, it has a population of 2,803, in 669 families. As the residents recall, the village is named after its history of cotton producing business. As they say Turqz stands for a part of cotton flower which used to be separated to produce cotton.

Soon after Netanyahu's UN address, Iranian netizens started looking for the exact location of Turqzabad on Google map.

The social media users produced satirical photos and remarks, laughing at Netanyahu for possibly being fooled by Iranian intelligence authorities who have handed him fabricated documents.

An Iranian filmmaker Esmail Manavi, for example, wrote on his twitter account that "I'm amazed at how that person who gave Netanyahu false information about Turqzabad could have managed to stop himself from bursting into laughter."

"I seriously believe that some people have pulled a prank on Netanyahu and this time they have referred him to Turqzabad," Seyed Abbas Araghchi the political deputy at the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Iran, said in a video on his Instagram account.

Meanwhile, some have taken selfies in front of the alleged site while some others have commented under their photos saying that the site is a carpet cleaning factory showing aerial photos of red carpets being put in the sun to get dry.

Following the Iranian netizens' campaign against Netanyahu, the Israeli army showed photos of precisely-guided missiles factories near a football stadium next to Beirut international airport in retaliation.

This was not the first time that Netanyahu was mocked on social media by Iranians.

He had claimed back in 2013 that Iranians were not allowed to wear jeans. At the time Iranians used social media to mock him.