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ORUTERS

Watex2019 hosting 260 companies in Tehran

TEHRAN — Some 260 foreign and domestic companies are participating in the 15th Iran International Water and Wastewater Exhibition (Watex 2019) which kicked off on Monday at the Tehran Permanent International Fairgrounds, IRNA reported.

Alongside 247 Iranian companies, 13 exhibitors from Italy, Turkey, Germany, Hungary, China, and Taiwan are showcasing their latest products and services during the four-day event.

Recent achievements in different fields

of water and wastewater industry including pipes and fittings, filtration and desalination equipment, valves, automation and instrumentation systems, measuring systems and laboratory equipment for water and wastewater, as well as industrial equipment are being showcased in this year's event.

Watex is Iran's biggest annual industrial and commercial event in water and wastewater industry which hosts a large number of domestic and foreign companies every year.

Saudis must know they cannot buy security: Zarif

TEHRAN — Iranian Foreign Minister Mohammad Javad Zarif has said that Saudis must know that they cannot buy security from the United States.

"I don't think that militarism will bring security to the Persian Gulf region and I think it will exacerbate tension. Saudi Arabia must understand that it cannot buy security from the United States," ISNA

quoted him as saying in an interview with Al Mayadeen.

In an interview with CNN aired on September 24, Zarif said, "I do not believe that military capability alone can prevent disaster. That's been what we have been trying to tell the Saudis. That they cannot buy security purchasing more war weapons." **→2**

Yemen Houthis free 350 detainees, reviving hopes for talks

TEHRAN — The head of Yemen's National Committee for Prisoners Affairs (NCPA) says the Houthi movement will release 350 prisoners, including three Saudi nationals, in its latest goodwill gesture.

Through the release, the Ansarullah movement of the Houthis and their allies in the Yemeni army seek to underline their commitment to peace negotiations held in Sweden last December.

The talks with Yemen's former Saudi-backed government resulted in an agreement which calls for a ceasefire in Hudaydah, a prisoner exchange and a statement of understanding on the southern city of Ta'izz.

"Our initiative proves our credibility in implementing the Sweden agreement and we call on the other party to take a comparable step," Yemen's al-Masirah TV quoted NCPA head Abdulqader al-Mortada as saying Monday. **→13**



ARTICLE

Ebrahim Fallahi
Tehran Times journalist

A look into Iran's PGPIC after sanctions hit the holding

As Iran's largest petrochemical group which extends to 39 subsidiaries and foreign-based sales agents, Persian Gulf Petrochemical Industries Company (PGPIC) has been considered one of the most profitable entities in the country's economic body.

back in June, the United States hit PGPIC with economic sanctions due to what they claimed to be ties with the country's Revolutionary Guards (IRGC), however the move in fact was aimed to choke off financing to the country's largest and most profitable petrochemical group.

The PGPIC group holds 40 percent of Iran's total petrochemical production capacity and is responsible for nearly 50 percent of the country's petrochemical exports.

After the imposition of the U.S. sanctions, many thought the impact of the sanctions to be very significant on the performance of the holding and consequently on the country's economy, however contrary to expectations, PGPIC is continuing to thrive, and according to the holding's Managing Director Jafar Rabiei its production and exports haven't been affected greatly by the U.S. sanctions.

To take a more detailed look at PGPIC's current condition, Tehran Times conducted an interview with Pejman Alidousti, which is a public relations officer and economic assessment consultant at PGPIC.

What follows is a summary of Alidousti's comments on the current situation of this company and the impact of U.S. sanctions.

■ The U.S. sanctions on PGPIC

The main issue which we should consider is that we were sanctioned even before the U.S. officially declared sanctions on PGPIC in June.

For doing any business activity, there are four basic factors which must be present, first you need to produce and supply your products or services; you also need to have costumers which are willing to be provided with your products. There is then the issue of logistics and transportation which is the linkage between the previous factors and finally the financial factor which is one of the most important players in any business transaction. **→5**

Trump's close-call diplomacy with Rouhani

By Robin Wright

On the evening of Tuesday, September 24th, the President of France, Emmanuel Macron, went to see his Iranian counterpart, Hassan Rouhani, at the Millennium Hilton Hotel, across the street from the UN headquarters, in New York. The hotel is one of only three places that the Iranian leader could go in the city, because of U.S. sanctions. Macron intended to set up a three-way telephone conversation with Rouhani and President Trump.

A team of technicians arrived to set up a secure line, in a meeting room on Rouhani's floor, for the call at 9:30 P.M. The telephone conversation was supposed to cap twenty-four hours of frenetic diplomacy—including personal appeals to Rouhani by the British, Japanese, and Pakistani Prime Ministers and the German Chancellor—after months of quiet French diplomacy.

Earlier in the day, Macron, alongside the British Prime Minister, Boris Johnson, had urged Rouhani to talk with Trump. Their exchange was

captured on video. "If he leaves the country without meeting President Trump, honestly, this is a lost opportunity," Macron directed an interpreter to tell Rouhani, amid a scrum of diplomats and photographers. "Because he will not come back in a few months and President Trump will not go to Tehran." Rouhani threw his head back and laughed. "So they have to meet now!" Macron insisted. Johnson chimed in, as cameras flashed, "You need to be on the side of the swimming pool—and jump at the same time." **→3**

Iran look for first ever FIVB World Cup podium

TEHRAN — Iran, who have never won a medal at the International Volleyball Federation (FIVB) Men's World Cup, will start the campaign on Tuesday with a match against the tournament's most decorated team Russia.

Team Meli have traveled to Japan with their main players, however the team can participate at the competition with young players.

The 13 World Cup tournaments have been won by six different national teams. Russia have won six times (four as Soviet Union). The other World Cup winners are Brazil and United States, with

two titles each; and Cuba, Italy and Germany (as East Germany), with one title each.

"We want to continue our winning way, that's why we are here. Iran have recently won the Asian Championship and we are ready to show our good performance in the competition," opposite spiker Amir Ghafour said.

"We have difficult task in the competition because the teams have come here with their best players. Also, playing 11 matches in 15 days is very difficult, as well as time difference between Iran and Japan. Anyway, we are here to do our best," he added.

Palestinians in Gaza mark 19 years since al-Aqsa Intifada

TEHRAN — Palestinians in the Gaza Strip marked the 19th anniversary of the second Intifada.

Back in September 2000, the then-Israeli opposition leader Ariel Sharon made a provocative visit to Haram al-Sharif or Temple Mount in Jerusalem al-Quds along with hundreds of Israeli forces, in a move widely denounced by Palestinians.

The visit triggered a popular uprising against Israel where several thousands of Palestinians were killed and many more were injured before the up-

rising ended in February 2005 following a truce.

On Sunday, Palestinian political figured took part in a seminar to remember the intifada. Palestinians believe the intifada is still ongoing as they are not hesitant about sacrificing their lives defending Palestine. They say resistance is the only means for Palestinians to protect Jerusalem al-Quds from Israeli violations.

Palestinians say they are determined to defend Jerusalem al-Quds by all means and at all costs.

In Gaza, people stage weekly rallies to demand their right of return to their homeland.

Israeli forces have killed hundreds of protesters during the weekly rallies so far and injured many more.

According to Press TV, people here say Israel's violations and its use of excessive force against peaceful protesters won't stop them from speaking out against Israeli crimes. They say intifada is still alive in their hearts and minds and they will continue to defend their rights.

International police equipment exhibition underway in Tehran

TEHRAN — The 18th International Police, Security and Safety Equipment Exhibition (IPAS 2019) kicked off in the capital city of Tehran on Monday, IRIB news agency reported.

The exhibition is held annually in Iran to showcase the latest technologies, accessories and equipment of the police, safety and security sectors, as well as promoting usage of safety equipment and reducing financial loss or death toll caused by accidents. **→12**



ISNA / Erian Khoshkhoo

Six-day sacred defense exhibition in Qom ends in all its glory

By Huda Z

QOM — One thing I absolutely love about Iran is how the Iranians remember their history and retell it over and over again.

If you're thinking this is some kind of war going on, you're wrong. This is an exhibition that was held this week near the popular Jamkaran Mosque.

The show started at 21:00 hours with a heartfelt speech by Mahdi Yadgari, one of the generals who had fought gallantly protecting the Iranian borders in the 1980 war.

"The flag of the martyrs is up high," General Yadgari said.

"Imam [Khomeini] hadn't lied to us. Whatever Imam had predicted, happened. That Saddam went for Kuwait. That Saddam went up the gallows. And now, whatever Agha [Ali Khamenei] had predicted, is happening. He says that we will pray in the Bayt al-Muqaddas," he continued, standing on a raised platform just before the show began.

"Where is Saddam now? Tell me, where is he? ... Saddam and the 18 nations, who had imposed fighting upon us," said Yadgari as the crowd listened tearfully.

Once he finished his speech, it was time for the re-enactment to begin.

"Javad, Javad, Reza!" blasted from the speakers followed by analog voice, as if someone was talking over a handheld transceiver. "Javad, Reza!" the man said again, to which another replied with the same words before the instructions for the operation were issued.

As the spotlight lit up the soldiers stealthily making their way towards the operation area, a bomb detonated right in the middle of the ground, to which, the crowd responded with a huge unanimous gasp. After that, a series of bombs were detonated, punctuated by shots that were fired from either of the two sides of the field.

The operation show continued for twenty minutes, giving the civilians a taste of what it is like to be in a war zone. It ended with people standing up for the national anthem of Iran as it's tune played in the background with the soldiers raising the flag of Iran and waving back at those who waved at them from the crowd.

The show was conducted under the supervision of the army and the IRGC, whom the crowds of people went to thank afterwards. It was astonishing to know that all the bombs and ammunition used was real. **→13**