

TEHRAN (Tasnim) – The Iranian Navy's indigenized version of the Phalanx, a close-in weapon system (CIWS) on military vessels used for defense against anti-ship missiles, is undergoing tests, a top Navy commander said on Saturday.

Rear Admiral Mahmoud Mousavi pointed to the manufacturing process of the Iranian version of the CIWS and said it has not been delivered to the Navy since the system is in testing phases. The commander added that it has been decided to employ the indigenized Phalanx after testing the system.

ARBIL (Tasnim) – The former president of Iraq and leader of the Patriotic Union of Kurdistan (PUK) Jalal Talabani plans to pay a visit to Iran next week, a report on the party's official website said on Saturday.

Talabani plans to stay in Iran for a few days and hold talks with senior officials of the country on issues of mutual interest. The trip would come against the backdrop of a recent announcement by the Iraqi Kurdistan that it would vote on whether to split from the rest of Iraq and form an independent region.

Viewpoint

By Kayhan Int'l Staff Writer

U.S. Killing of Civilians Continues Apace

P. 2

UNESCO

Recognizes Iran's Efforts in Preserving Historical Sites

P. 3



Taftian Claims Iran's Third Gold in Asian Athletics Championships

P. 6



Iraqi Gov't Forces Fully Recapture Mosul

P. 8



Pregnant Syrian Raped, Bludgeoned to Death in Turkey

ANKARA (Dispatches) -- A Syrian refugee in Turkey was raped and bludgeoned to death by rock-throwing attackers just days before she was due to give birth, and her 10-month-old baby strangled, in a brutal double murder that has sparked outrage.

Turkish authorities have detained two men who reportedly confessed to what officials have branded a barbaric attack in a country that is home to nearly 3 million refugees from the Syrian conflict. The suspects broke into the woman's home and grabbed her and her baby boy, taking them to a forest in the western city of Sakarya where villagers found their bodies Thursday, Dogan news agency reported. The two men worked at a factory with the victim's husband who they had argued with a few days earlier, Dogan reported. The young woman was due to give birth Friday.

Family Minister Fatma Betul Sayan Kaya condemned the "barbarity" of the attack. Women's rights organization We Will Stop Femicide Platform called on Twitter for "the heaviest punishment" for the killers. The attack came after racist hashtags

went viral on Twitter in Turkey including #SuriyelilerEvineDonsun (Syrians should go home) and #SuriyelilerSinirdisiEdilsin (Syrians should be deported).

Sakarya Mayor Zeki Tocoglu vowed on Twitter that the perpetrators of the "brutal massacre" would be punished.

Earlier this week, Interior Minister Suleyman Soylu was forced to respond to media reports and postings blaming Syrians for an alleged escalation in crime in Turkey.

He dismissed the claims, saying the annual rate of Syrians involved in crimes between 2014 and 2017 was just over 1 percent.

Prime Minister Binali Yildirim said any Syrian refugees involved in crimes would be deported, but pointed to the "very valuable" and well-educated Syrians in Turkey, including many who had careers in neighboring Syria before fleeing the conflict.

The murders also came amid increasing levels of violence against women in Turkey. Figures from We Will Stop Femicide showed that last year 328 women were killed compared with 121 in 2011 and 210 in 2012.

Muslim Leaders Tour Europe to Condemn Violence

PARIS (Dispatches) -- Dozens of religious leaders boarded a bus on the Champs Elysees in Paris on Saturday to kick off a European tour of the sites of recent Takfiri attacks to remember the victims and condemn violence.

Imams from countries including France, Belgium, Britain and Tunisia were joined by representatives of other religious communities at the spot where French policeman Xavier Jugele was shot dead in April.

Tour stops will include Berlin, where organizers say they hope to meet German chancellor Angela Merkel, Brussels and Nice, with a return to Paris for July 14, the first anniversary of the Nice lorry attack.

Daesh claimed responsibility for both the Nice attack in which a lorry killed 86 people celebrating Bastille Day on the city's seafront and the lorry attack on a Christmas market in Berlin in December last year that killed 12.

The imam of Drancy, an area in Paris's northeastern suburbs, and French writer Marek Halter had the idea for the tour.

"We are here to say that our religion and the values of Islam are

opposed to those assassins," said Imam Hassen Chalghoumi.

Some 30 people boarded the bus on Saturday with more expected to join along the way, bringing the total number of participants to 60.

It came as a French judicial source said a 42-year-old man had been charged in connection with the January 2015 terror attack on a kosher supermarket in Paris.

DNA testing found samples from the man, identified as Abdelaziz S, on one of the weapons used by Amedy Coulibaly, who killed four people after taking shoppers hostage at the Hyper Cacher market.

He was detained in a Paris suburb on Wednesday and is being held on charges of criminal association with terrorists.

"During questioning, the suspect failed to provide any satisfactory explanation about why his DNA was found inside the weapon, but he insists he knew nothing of Coulibaly's plans," the source said.

Two women, aged 23 and 31, who were also detained by investigators earlier in the week, have been released.

(Continued on Page 7)

G20 Concedes to U.S. Contempt for Climate



Riot police run against protesters in Hamburg on the sidelines of the G20 summit on July 7, 2017.

HAMBURG (Dispatches) – U.S. President Donald Trump won key concessions on climate and trade Saturday from world leaders at the most fractious G20 summit to date, in exchange for preserving the unity of the club of major industrialized and emerging economies.

In a final statement agreed by all 20 economies, 19 members including Russia, China and the European Union acknowledged Trump's decision to go his own way on taking the U.S. out of the 2015 Paris climate accord.

But they also accommodated Washington's wish to "work closely with other countries to help them access and use fossil fuels more cleanly and efficiently".

While renewing a key anti-

protectionist pledge, the communication for the first time underlined the right of countries to protect their markets with "legitimate trade defense instruments".

Such wording gives room for Trump to push on with his "America First" policy.

Carried on a wave of public fury over deindustrialization in vast areas of the United States, Trump had promised to "Buy American" and "Hire American".

But that stance had set him against many of America's allies, who warned Trump against an isolationist path.

The German chancellor, Angela Merkel, said she "deplored" the U.S. exit from the agreement and

added she did not share the view of Theresa May, the British prime minister, that Washington could decide to rejoin the pact.

U.S. Arms Exports Set for New Record: Study

WASHINGTON (Dispatches) – U.S. weapon exports to foreign countries this fiscal year is set to equal or surpass the \$69 billion record reached in 2012, according to a new analysis.

American arms sales needing U.S. congressional approval have already totaled \$59 billion, said the report by Roman Schweizer, a managing director and defense analyst at Cowen Washington Research Group.

Add "the big hardware purchases announced during President Trump's visit to Saudi Arabia" and the total is a new record, he said.

Schweizer's study, published in The Fiscal Times on Saturday, cited uncertainty surrounding the Trump administration's foreign policy in Europe, Asia and the Middle East as the driving power pushing up arms sales.

"NATO has increased spending by \$46 billion over the last three years, and 25 of 29 countries plan to increase spending this year," Schweizer noted, adding that the European security dynamic had undergone fundamental changes due to the conflicts in Ukraine.

Schweizer said Asia-Pacific countries were buying more weapons "to counter China's)"

"I think it's very clear that we could not reach consensus, but the differences were not papered over, they were clearly stated," Merkel told reporters at the end of the two-day meeting. "It's absolutely clear it is not a common position."

The communique reads: "We take note of the decision of the United States of America to withdraw from the Paris agreement," adding: "The leaders of the other G20 members state that the Paris agreement is irreversible" and "we reaffirm our strong commitment to the Paris agreement".

Trail of Destruction

Just behind the tightly secured G20 summit venue, charred road barricades, trashed shops and stones, debris and shattered glass bore testimony to an anarchic night, when police commandos with semi-automatic weapons detained militants who hurled rocks from rooftops.

(Continued on Page 7)

Iran Exhibits Weapons Seized From Terrorists

TEHRAN (Press TV) -- Iranian security forces have confiscated a large cache of weapons and an anti-aircraft cannon belonging to the so-called Jaish ul-Adl terrorist group in the Sistan and Baluchestan province, police said on Saturday.

The terrorists' arms depot included 35 Kalashnikov rifles, a 14.5-mm anti-aircraft cannon, nine SPG-9 guns as well as a large amount of ammunition, provincial police chief Hussein Rahimi told reporters.

He added that the depot was discovered and confiscated in the heights of Kouh Sefid near the town of Saravan in the eastern parts of the province on Friday following coordinated efforts and planning by police and security forces and their

complete monitoring of smugglers and opponent groups.

He noted that the terrorists had plans to use the weapons against local civilians in the area.

Jaish ul-Adl is a small Salafist group on the Saudi payroll. It is based near the border with Pakistan, from where it carries out terrorist attacks against Iran. The terrorist group has killed a number of civilians and border guards.

Over the past months, Iranian forces have been engaged in clashes with terror groups, thwarting their terrorist activities on the border and within the country, arresting several of them and confiscating large amounts of explosives and bomb-making materials.

(Continued on Page 7)