

### 'U.S. Budget Deficit to Exceed \$1 Trillion Next Year'

WASHINGTON (AP) – The U.S. federal budget deficit is expected to balloon to more than \$1 trillion in the next fiscal year under the first projections taking into account the big budget deal that President Donald Trump and Congress reached this summer, the Congressional Budget Office reported.

The return of \$1 trillion annual deficits comes despite Trump's vow when running for office that he would not just balance the budget but pay down the entire national debt, AP reported.

### 'Zarif to Visit China on Sunday'

Beijing (Dispatches) – Chinese Foreign Ministry spokesman Geng Shuang said that Iranian Foreign minister Mohammad Javad Zarif is scheduled to have a trip to Beijing on Sunday.

Addressing a regular press conference, Shuang said Zarif's tour will last for three days.

He added that Zarif is to hold talks with his Chinese counterpart Wang Yi.

Referring to four decades stable and developing relations between two countries, he said Iranian and Chinese top diplomats will review regional and international issues.

Beijing is ready to continue its joint efforts with Iran to maintain peace and stability in the Persian Gulf.

VOL NO: LV 10963 TEHRAN / Est.1959 Saturday, August 24, 2019, Shahrivar 2, 1398,Zil-Hajjah 22, 1440, Price 30,000 Rials

**Only Regional States Can Maintain Persian Gulf**




**Iranian Workforce Compete at Russia's WorldSkills Kazan**



**Volleyballers Defeat Bulgaria at FIVB Volleyball U-19 World Championship**



**Syrian Army Purges Northern Hama of Terrorists**



## Putin Orders 'Symmetrical Response' to U.S. Missile Test

MOSCOW (Dispatches) – Russian President Vladimir Putin has ordered the government to elaborate measures in response to the U.S. test of a missile previously banned by the Intermediate-Range Nuclear Forces (INF) Treaty.

"I instruct the Defense Ministry and the Foreign Ministry as well as other relevant departments to analyze the level of threat caused by the U.S. action to our country and take comprehensive measures to prepare a symmetrical response," Putin said at a Russian Security Council meeting.

"At the same time, Russia is still open to equal and constructive dialogue with the United States to restore confidence and strengthen international security," Putin added, according to a Kremlin transcript. Last Sunday, the United States test-launched a ground-based cruise missile, which hit a target at a distance of over 500km.

This happened after the INF Treaty officially collapsed on Aug. 2 with the withdrawal of the United States and Russia from the landmark arms-control pact following mutual accusations of violations.

The INF Treaty, which was signed by Washington and Moscow in 1987, banned the United States and Russia from owning or developing land-based missiles with a range of 500 km to 5,500 km.

Putin said the U.S. test launch took place only 16 days after the termination of the treaty initiated by Washington, which proved that "the United States has long been engaged in the creation of weapons prohibited by the INF Treaty."

He recalled that the United States had organized a propaganda campaign about Russia's allegedly non-compliance with the provisions of the treaty.

The only purpose of this campaign was to cover up the work carried out by Washington in violation of the treaty and its intention to withdraw from it, Putin said.

The true plans of Washington are to deploy previously forbidden missiles in various regions of the world, including in the Asia-Pacific region, which would affect Russia's fundamental interests, he said.

Russia has never wanted, does not want and will not get involved in a costly, destructive arms race with the United States, Putin said, adding that however, Russia is forced and obliged to ensure the security of its nation and people.

'World on Verge of New Arms Race'

The Russian envoy to the United Nations says the world is on the verge of a new arms race as the U.S. has already started the test launch of a formerly banned missile after it recently abandoned a landmark arms control treaty with Moscow.

Deputy Russian Ambassador to the United Nations Dmitry Polyanskiy made the warning at the emergency session of the Security Council — requested by Russia and China — on Thursday.

## 'Iran's Bavar-373 Much Better Than U.S. Patriot, S-300'



A handout picture provided by the Iranian president's website shows Iranian-made air defense missile system Bavar 373 ("faith" in Persian) during a ceremony in Tehran on August 22, 2019.

TEHRAN (Dispatches) – The domestically-built missile defense system "Bavar-373" enjoys more features and capabilities than the U.S. Patriot system and its Russian counterpart S-300, said Brigadier General Shahrokh Shahram, the head of Iranian Defense Ministry's Organization of Electronic Industries.

"The system has been designed

and developed considering the country's need for a defense system with a long range," Brigadier General Shahram told Iran's state TV on Thursday night.

Bavar-373 missile system was developed as Iran "needed a missile system stronger than the Russian S-300, given the increasing threats" against the Islamic Republic, he

added. According to General Shahram, the Iranian system has a longer interception range and a greater combat power compared with the Russian counterpart, and enjoys over 10,000 compound eyes, each of which serves as a radar.

He also compared the Iranian system with the U.S.-made Ter-

minal High Altitude Area Defense (THAAD) and Patriot systems, and said Bavar-373 is categorized at a higher class than THAAD and is much better than the Patriot system.

The surface-to-air missile system, dubbed Bavar-373, was unveiled during a ceremony on Thursday morning in the presence of President Hassan Rouhani, Defense Minister Brigadier General Amir Hatami and other senior military officials.

General Shahram's comparison between Bavar-373 and Patriot system came after a recent United Arab Emirates intelligence report said the US-supplied Patriot system has failed to repel Yemeni retaliatory drone strikes against Saudi Arabia.

"Air defenses such as the Patriot are not capable of spotting these drones because the systems are designed to intercept long and medium range Scud missiles," the report wrote.

"Bavar 373 is the most important indigenized missile defense system whose design and manufacturing started a few years ago and can engage multiple targets in high altitudes," General Hatami said, addressing the unveiling ceremony.

(Continued on Page 7)

New York Times Confirms:

## Zionist Regime Carries Out Attacks on Iraqi Bases

BAGHDAD (Dispatches) – The Zionist regime has carried out several attacks targeting bases of Iraqi anti-terror forces "in recent days", the New York Times reports.

Two senior American officials told the newspaper that the attacks targeted Iraqi munition storehouses, alleging that the site was being used "to transfer weapons to Syria".

The report comes amid a series of unclaimed strikes in the past month targeting bases belonging to Iraq's pro-government Popular Mobilization Units (PMU), better known as the Hashd al-Sha'abi.

On July 19, a drone was reported to have targeted a PMU base near the town of Amerli in northwestern Iraq.

The New York Times report on Friday cited an unnamed senior Middle Eastern intelligence official as saying that the Zionist regime was specifically behind the July 19 attack.

Earlier this week, another attack rocked a PMU position near a strategic air base north of the capital Baghdad.

'Crushing Response'

The attack prompted second-in-command of Iraq's Popular Mobilization Units Abu Mahdi al-Mohandes to announce that the group held United States fully responsible.

"We have accurate and credible information that Americans brought in four Israeli drones this year via Azerbaijan to operate within the

U.S. fleet to carry out sorties aimed at Iraqi military headquarters," he said.

Following the strike, the PMU vowed to target any unidentified aircraft near its bases.

Iraqi Hezbollah Battalions in a statement held the U.S. responsible for recent attacks on its military positions in Iraq, and warned that Washington will receive a crushing response in case of more attacks.

"We consider the U.S. as solely responsible for raids on our military centers and we are aware that they are planning to launch other attacks either directly or indirectly through Zionists," the statement said.

It noted that the U.S. has now resorted to launching direct attacks on the centers and headquarters of Hezbollah Battalions, and said that the U.S. uses some Iraqi local mercenaries to spy on the country's military centers.

Iraqi Hezbollah Battalions warned Washington that any new attack on Iraq's military centers will receive a rigid response, and said that the U.S. should come to know that commencing any clashes will result in a full expulsion of the U.S. from the entire region.

Meanwhile, Hashd al-Sha'abi traced and targeted on Friday a spy drone over one of its centers near Baghdad.

The Hashd al-Sha'abi in a statement on Thursday announced that the air defense system of the popular forces' Brigade 12 has intercepted a spying drone over its center in Baghdad.

The statement said that Hashd al-Sha'abi prevented the hostile aircraft from conducting its reconnaissance mission.

### Despite U.S.-Supplied Patriot System Saudis Failing to Repel Yemeni Drone Strikes

RIYADH (Press TV) – Saudi Arabia has failed to repel Yemeni retaliatory drone strikes despite relying on systems such as the U.S.-supplied Patriot, a matter which has caused a slump in Saudi troop morale, according to a United Arab Emirates intelligence report.

The Middle East Eye (MEE) reported earlier this week that the UAE report revealed critical weaknesses in Saudi Arabia's ability to thwart the retaliatory attacks.

According to the MEE, the damning report, issued originally in May, had a limited publication intended for top Emirati leadership by the Emirates Policy Center (EPC), a think tank close to the Emirati government and its security services.

"Air defenses such as the Patriot are not capable of spotting these drones because the systems are designed to intercept long and medium range Scud missiles," the

report wrote.

The intelligence assessment highlighted an instance where Saudi Arabia's southwestern Najran airport, which is used in Riyadh's operations against Yemen, was also hit by Yemeni drones despite the deployment of a Patriot battery.

Riyadh and a number of its regional allies, most notably Abu Dhabi, launched a devastating war on Yemen in March 2015, with the goal of bringing the government of former president Abd Rabbuh Mansur Hadi back to power and crushing the popular Houthi Ansarullah movement.

Resistance by Yemen's armed forces, led by the Ansarullah, however, has pushed the Saudi war to a stalemate, with Yemeni forces increasingly using sophisticated weaponry in retaliatory attacks against the Saudi-led coalition.

(Continued on Page 7)