

TEHRAN (Dispatches) – Government officials are reviewing France's plan to reduce tensions between Iran and the United States, President Hassan Rouhani's Chief of Staff Mahmoud Vaezi said on Wednesday. Speaking to the official news agency IRNA, Vaezi declined to give away any details on the plan saying that publicity shouldn't hinder "a very significant matter, about which talks are under way." He said, "Iran and France have their own views on the matter. We are having consultations in Tehran while France is consulting with EU. So, let us discuss the details after the agreement is finalized."

# Kayhan International



TEHRAN (Dispatches) -- President Hassan Rouhani called on Iranians on Wednesday to unite to overcome an "economic war" waged by the United States. "We need to unite to fight against and to win this economic war that America has launched against Iran," Rouhani said. Iran's government spokesman Ali Rabie said on Wednesday: "Taking into account Donald Trump's personal traits, we don't trust him; however, Iran has never abandoned diplomacy but we are determined to pursue it as an equal (of the United States)."

VOL NO: LV 10968 TEHRAN / Est.1959 Thursday, August 29, 2019, Shahrivar 7, 1398, Zil-Hijjah 27, 1440, Price 30,000 Rials

**Viewpoint**

**No End to Plight of Rohingya Muslims, While Criminal-in-Chief Remains Unindicted**

**Seoul Keen On Cinematic Joint Production With Tehran**

**Iran Volleyballers Beat Cuba at FIVB U-19 World Championship**

**Taliban Say Near Agreement on U.S. Withdrawal From Afghanistan**

## Vindicating Iran's Distrust: U.S. Imposes New Sanctions After Call for Talks

WASHINGTON (Dispatches) -- The United States imposed sanctions on Wednesday on two "networks" it claims helped boost Iran's nuclear program and evade U.S. sanctions, the Treasury Department said. The U.S. Treasury Department accused one of them using a Hong Kong-based company to avoid sanctions and target U.S. technology and components on behalf of people tied to Iran's government and its Islamic Revolution Guards Corps. The other "network", the department claimed, obtained aluminum alloy products controlled by the Nuclear Suppliers Group on behalf of companies owned or controlled by Iran's defense ministry. The U.S. Treasury Department also slapped sanctions on individuals connected to the two networks. The sanctions are part of a U.S. campaign to raise economic pressure on Tehran over its nuclear program. Washington ditched a 2015 nuclear deal with Iran and five other countries, and has ratcheted up sanctions on Tehran, including imposing penalties

on Iran's Foreign Minister Muhammad Javad Zarif. On Monday, U.S. President Donald Trump said at a news conference that he would be open to meeting with Iran's President Hassan Rouhani, but Rouhani has since said he would only be open to talks if Washington drops its sanctions against Tehran. Trump claimed that he wanted to see a strong Iran and that he was not seeking regime change in Tehran. "I'm looking at a really good Iran, really strong, we're not looking for regime change," he told reporters after meeting with other leaders of the G7 group. Later at the news conference, the mercurial president suggested Iran would meet "violent force" if it followed through on what it called its threats and said he was not open to giving Iran compensation for sanctions on its economy. "They can't do what they were saying they were going to do because if they do that, they will be met with really very violent force. So I think they are going to be good," he said.

## Johnson 'Coup' Shocks UK, Enrages Opposition

LONDON (AFP) -- Prime Minister Boris Johnson on Wednesday announced the suspension of parliament in the final weeks before Britain's EU departure date, enraging anti-Brexit MPs. The pound slid on the surprise news, which opponents branded a "coup" and a "declaration of war", although U.S. President Donald Trump weighed into the row by praising Johnson as "great". The Conservative leader's move to close parliament for a month will give pro-EU lawmakers less time than they expected to try to thwart his plans for a possible no-deal Brexit on October 31. Queen Elizabeth II has approved the request to close what has been the longest session of parliament in nearly 400 years, and reopen it on October 14 setting out Johnson's fresh legislative program. Seemingly caught on the hop, incensed anti-Brexit MPs were left scrambling for a way to stop the move. Johnson's announcement came after six opposition parties said on Tuesday they would first seek to legislate to prevent leaving the EU without a deal when parliament returns from a summer recess next week. Jeremy Corbyn, the leader of

the main opposition Labor Party, has said he wants to call a vote of no-confidence in Johnson's government, which commands a majority of just one seat. John Bercow, the speaker of parliament's lower House of Commons, described the closure as a "constitutional outrage" designed to stymie debate on Brexit, with Britain currently on course to crash out without a divorce deal. An EU summit on October 17-18 could decide whether Britain ends its four decades of membership without a withdrawal agreement that governs future trade relations and citizens rights. Johnson said there would be "ample time" either side of the summit for MPs to debate Brexit. And he said it was "completely untrue" that the move was designed to stop MPs blocking his Brexit strategy. Johnson said it was to "bring forward a new, bold and ambitious domestic legislative agenda for the renewal of our country after Brexit". The government's chief Brexit adviser David Frost was in Brussels for talks on Wednesday. In the seismic 2016 referendum on Britain's EU membership,

(Continued on Page 7)

## Sheikh Qassem Says Aggression Will Not Pass Hezbollah Vows 'Surprise' Response to Zionists



This file photo shows the occupying regime of Israel's soldiers carrying a casualty after an attack in the Lebanese border area.

BEIRUT (Dispatches) -- The deputy head of Hezbollah on Tuesday night warned that the Lebanese resistance movement would deliver a "surprise" response in the coming days to the occupying regime of Israel's recent drone incursion into Lebanon. Tensions between Hezbollah and the Zionist regime have skyrocketed since Saturday night, when two of the movement's members were martyred in an Israeli strike in Syria, and drones crashed in a Hezbollah stronghold in Beirut. On Monday, Lebanon said the occupying regime's drones attacked a Palestinian base in the country's east. After Hezbollah chief Sayyed

Hassan Nasrallah on Sunday warned of retaliatory strikes against the Zionist regime, his deputy added a warning of his own late on Tuesday. "We want the strike to be a surprise... and so there is no interest in diving into the details. The coming days will reveal this," Sheikh Naim Qassem said in an interview with Russian channel RT Arabic. Qassem said Hezbollah viewed the Beirut attack as one it is compelled to respond to, since failing to do so would let the occupying regime set its own terms and change the status quo that has reigned since the end of the 2006 Second Lebanon War.

In a televised speech Sunday, Nasrallah said: "I say to the Israeli army along the border, from tonight be ready and wait for us. Do not rest, do not be reassured, and do not bet for a single moment that Hezbollah will allow... aggression of this kind." Nasrallah called the Beirut drones the first such "hostile action" since the Second Lebanon War. The occupying regime's military has reportedly been gearing up for a possible reprisal attack from Hezbollah, deploying extra troops to the Lebanese border and limiting some movement along the frontier. On Monday, a Zionist military official said any Israeli aggression

would be disproportionate, and Israel sent a message to Lebanon via the U.S. that it would not limit its attacks to Hezbollah but would view all of Lebanon as a legitimate target, according to reports by Zionist news outlets. Also Monday, Zionist PM Benjamin Netanyahu bragged that Lebanon, Nasrallah and the head of Iran's Quds Force General Qassem Soleimani had to "be careful" with their words and actions. "I want to say to him and the Lebanese state, which is hosting this organization that aims to destroy us, and I say the same to Qassem Soleimani: Be careful about your words, and even more cautious about your actions," he said. The Russian Foreign Ministry said Tuesday that Lebanese Prime Minister Saad Hariri called Russian Foreign Minister Sergey Lavrov, asking him to use his "influence to prevent a further escalation of tensions between Israel and Lebanon." According to Hariri's office, the Lebanese prime minister told Lavrov that the attack in southern Beirut was "a dangerous act and aggression" and that he was counting on Russia's role to "avoid more escalation and tension and to send message to Israel to stop violating Lebanese sovereignty." Lebanese daily Al-Akhbar reported Tuesday that senior U.S. officials were putting pressure on Lebanon to confront Hezbollah. He also reportedly said of the drone crashes in the Beirut neighborhood of Dahiyeh that "there was no intention to undertake an attack," blaming the issue on a malfunction.

## Biden: Racism in U.S. Is Institutional

WASHINGTON (AP) — Racism in America is an institutional "white man's problem visited on people of color," Vice President Joe Biden said, arguing that the way to attack the issue is to defeat President Donald Trump and hold him responsible for deepening the nation's racial divide. Taking aim at incendiary racial appeals by Trump, Biden said in an interview with a small group of reporters on Tuesday that a president's words can "appeal to the worst damn instincts of human nature," just as they can move markets or take a nation into war. Biden is leading his Democratic challengers for the presidential nomination in almost all polls, largely because of the support of black voters. He has made appealing to them central to his candidacy and vowed to make maximizing black and Latino turnout an "overwhelming focus" of his effort. The interview, more than an hour long, focused largely on racial issues. "White folks are the reason we

have institutional racism," Biden said. "There has always been racism in America. White supremacists have always existed, they still exist." He added later that in his administration, it would "not be tolerated." By highlighting the nation's racial tensions and placing blame on Trump, Biden is showing that he, too, is willing to make race a core campaign issue, but from the opposite perspective of the Republican president. Turnout and enthusiasm among black voters will be critical for the Democratic nominee, notably to try to reclaim states like Pennsylvania, Michigan and Wisconsin. He also emphasized a crossover appeal to both black voters and non-college-educated white voters. To accentuate his appeal to black voters, Biden said that he will advertise in black publications and engage with cultural institutions like the black church, black fraternities and sororities, and histori-

cally black colleges. "The bad news is I have a long record. The good news is I have a long record," Biden said when asked about his enduring support among black voters. "People know me — at least they think they know me. I think after all this time, I think they have a sense of what my character is, who I am." "I've never, ever, ever in my entire life been in a circumstance where I've ever felt uncomfortable being in the black community," he added, suggesting that his familiarity was not matched by many of his competitors for the 2020 nomination. While he did not specify to whom he was referring, Biden said he believes there are "assertions and assumptions" made about black voters that he believes are inaccurate, and he said that "a lot of people haven't spent much time in the community." Without mentioning her by name, Biden also referenced California Sen. Kamala Harris' attack on him

during the first presidential debate on the issue of busing as a solution to school desegregation. "All I know is I don't think anybody in the community thinks I am — what's the phrase?" Biden asked, paraphrasing Harris' comment that "I know you're not a racist, Joe." "I don't think anyone thinks that about me," Biden said. Biden was also asked whether he would select a woman or person of color as his running mate should he become the nominee. He said that while he would "preferably" do so, he is ultimately seeking a partner on the ticket who is "simpatico with what I stand for and what I want to get done." "Whoever I pick would be preferably someone who was of color and who was of a different gender, but I'm not making that commitment until I know that the person I'm dealing with I can completely, thoroughly trust, is authentic, and is on the same page."