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Editorial Dept. Tel.: 33911561, 33110251-9

Ext.: 2334, 2336, 2337

Advertising Dept.: 33110251-9 Ext. 2336

Subscription Ext.: 2322

Facsimile: 33114228 & 33111120

Website: www.kayhan.ir/en

E-mail: kayhanintl@yahoo.com

P.O. Box: 11365/9631

Address: Martyr Shah Cheraghi Street, Ferdowsi Avenue,

Tehran – Islamic Republic of Iran

In the Name of the Most High Viewpoint

The Johnson Dilemma: To Save or Sink Britain

By: Kayhan Int'l Staff Writer

Benjamin Disraeli was the only British prime minister of Jewish birth, but was raised as an Anglican since his father Isaac, the British-born son of a migrant Jew from Italy, had left Judaism and become a Christian.

Little did the imperialists in London know that a century-and-a-half after the premiership was entrusted to Disraeli – despised by the right-honourable gentlemen – as a person of Semitic stock – Britain would elect a prime minister of Turkish Muslim origin.

Though a self-confessed atheist with no faith in Christianity, Boris Johnson happens to be the grandson of Osman Ali, the British-born son of Ottoman writer and diplomat Ali Kemal, who after the death of his Anglo-Saxon wife returned to Istanbul, entrusting his son to the boy's maternal grandparents who christened him Wilfred Johnson (the father of Boris's father Stanley).

Johnson, like Disraeli, is a member of the Conservative Party, and although he is friendly with Turkish president Rajab Tayyeb Erdogan, supported Ankara's invasion of northern Syria, and shares family ties with his second cousin Selim Kunalalp, Turkey's ambassador to South Korea, we are not sure whether Boris feels proud in defending his Ottoman roots the way Benjamin did in the late 19th century when in reply to a taunt by Irish political leader, Daniel O'Connell, he famously said:

"The ancestors of the right honourable gentleman were brutal savages in an unknown island, while mine were priests in the temple of Solomon."

Anyway, on Thursday in the general elections the Conservative Party beat Jeremy Corbyn's Labour Party by a wide margin of votes, but not before Johnson faced horrors in his own constituency of Uxbridge from 25-year old Ali Reza Milani, a naturalized British citizen of Iranian stock born in Tehran.

Analysts opine that Milani who garnered over 18,000 votes compared to 25,000 polled by Johnson, lost because of the Israeli factor, which plays a decisive role in elections in Europe, and had propagandized this practicing Muslim youngster's remarks a few years ago during an interview with Press TV: "Israel doesn't have the right to exist".

Now it remains to be seen, how Johnson who as foreign minister had opposed his friend US President Donald Trump's relocation of the US embassy from Tel Aviv to the occupied Islamic city of Bayt al-Moqaddas, and questioned the latter's unilateral breach of JCPOA (Joint Comprehensive Plan Of Action) on Iran's nuclear rights, will steer the ship of Britain through the choppy seas of West Asia, where the chronic question of Palestine still persists, where the British Prime Minister shamelessly supports Saudi Arabia's war crimes in Yemen by refusing to block arms sales to the regime in Riyadh, and where in the Persian Gulf waters, he has made the unwise decision of assisting American lawlessness against the Islamic Republic of Iran.

At home, the former London Mayor known for his gaffes, faces serious challenges that could bring down his government well before the 5-year term.

Johnson who cruised to victory in the third general election held in Britain in a matter of only five years, largely by assuring that the United Kingdom will leave the European Union in a matter of months, would find it difficult to preserve the unity of the kingdom, since his party has failed to fare well in Scotland where the pro-Europeans led by Nicola Ferguson Sturgeon of the Scottish National Party (SNP), are calling for complete independent from England.

It is a tough test for a person known for his lack of political insight and refusal to grant the right of referendum to the Scottish people. He might succeed in his Brexit bid with no proper plans to halt the declining trend of the national economy, but would have to use enormous pressure, if not military might, similar to the situation in Northern Ireland, in order to prevent Scotland's possible exit from the United Kingdom.

SNP has won almost every seat in Scotland in last Thursday's elections, which Scotland will soon be another country.

Johnson, who seems to regularly change his opinion on political issues and is mocked for his "ideological emptiness", may find his pal Trump to be on his side, but it is another question whether the opportunist Donald whose mother was Scottish and who owns lands in Scotland, would support Boris or backstab him by backing the disintegration of the United Kingdom.

Economic Terrorism Targets Iran's Food Industry



Officials say drugs have intentionally been inserted in various Iranian confectionery products.

TEHRAN (Press TV) -- Iran on Saturday described as an act of "sabotage" drugs intentionally inserted in various Iranian confectionery products, saying its food industry was targeted in a bid to spread "terror."

The remarks by the country's Food and Drug Organization spokesperson, Kianoush Jahanpour, came after inserted drugs had been found in the products of up to 12 Iranian confectionery brands.

"It's the standing of the whole food and confectionery industry that has been targeted as one of the country's excellent industries," he said.

Jahanpour added the drugs had "not undergone any changes in their color and composition, signaling that the drugs were placed in various packages after production and during distribution stages."

No narcotics or rumored aluminum phosphide tablets have been found inserted in any of the products, the spokesperson noted.

"Most of the examined drugs have been household drugs such as acetaminophen, brufen, cetirizine, hydroxyzine, metoclopramide and even empty blister packs."

More than a month has passed since initial media reports emerged alleging that drugs have been placed in confectionery products such as cakes, biscuits and wafers.

The drugs have so far led to the intoxication of limited number of people. No fatalities have been reported.

Sabotaged products have so far been confirmed to have been found in Iran's eastern provinces of Kerman, Hormozgan, Sistan and Baluchistan near the Pakistani border and the western Ilam province,

which borders Iraq, according to officials.

Muhammad Hossein Azizi, who is in charge of the health ministry's oversight of food products, said no inserted drugs have been discovered in the country's northern provinces and that all confirmed cases happened in the south.

The total number of instances of drugs placed in the confectionery products has been "very low," Azizi said without further elaborating on the numbers.

According to inspections, he said, no instances were reported from factory-sealed confectionery products and that all reported cases had been found in previously opened packages.

The ministry's food oversight chief added that the act of sabotage could have been perpetrated (Continued on Page 7)

Pompeo Threatens Iran After U.S. Bases Attacked in Iraq

WASHINGTON (Dispatches) -- Secretary of State Mike Pompeo has threatened Iran with a "decisive" response if U.S. interests were harmed in Iraq, after a series of rocket attacks on bases.

"Iran must respect the sovereignty of its neighbors and immediately cease its provision of lethal aid and support to third parties in Iraq and throughout the region," he said.

The United States is alarmed by a flurry of recent attacks on bases used by American troops in Iraq.

Two rocket attacks this week targeted a compound near Baghdad International Airport, which houses U.S. troops, with an incident Monday wounding Iraqi troops.

Pompeo pinned the blame for the latest attacks squarely on what it called "Iran's proxies".

By proxies, the top U.S. diplomat means popular Iraqi forces which are currently integrated into the coun-

try's army. Washington regards them a thorn in its side because of their crucial role in routing Daesh and other terrorist groups in Iraq.

The forces, instead, feel beholden to Iran for training and preparing them at a time when the United States and other countries had left Iraq at the mercy of terrorists who had once reached the gates of capital Baghdad.

President Donald Trump's administration, which is close to Saudi Arabia and the occupying regime of Israel, has been trying to pressure the Iraqi government into shunning popular forces.

The United States last week imposed sanctions on three leaders of Hashd al-Shaabi.

Pompeo's threats came in the wake of a Friday report by The Wall Street Journal which said Saudi Arabia is quietly seeking to mend ties with Iran amid economic (Continued on Page 7)

Iran Condemns U.S. Ballistic Missile Test

Kayhan Int'l Political Desk

TABRIZ – Iran on Saturday denounced a recent ballistic missile test by the United States which was previously prohibited under the Intermediate-range Nuclear Forces Treaty (INF).

"We voice concern over this new missile test by the United States and announce that United States' unilateral withdrawal from INF treaty will lead to instability in the world," Foreign Ministry spokesman Abbas Mousavi told a news conference in this northwestern Iranian city.

The United States carried out the test on Thursday. Washington formally withdrew from the 1987

INF pact with Russia in August after claiming that Moscow was violating the treaty, an accusation the Kremlin has denied.

It was the second test by the United States that would have been prohibited under the INF treaty and took place as the future of another major nuclear arms control treaty between Russia and the United States is under question.

The United States is staunchly opposed to Iran's conventional missile capabilities which the country has indigenously developed for exclusively defensive and deterrent purposes.

Mousavi on Saturday stressed that the United Nations Security

Council has not banned Iran from testing conventional missiles as per Resolution 2231 endorsing a 2015 nuclear agreement with the Islamic Republic.

The U.S. has escalated tensions in the Middle East by deploying additional troops and military assets to the Persian Gulf, citing unspecified threats from Iran.

Mousavi said Iran supports Japan's de-escalation efforts, which include the country's decision to possibly host Iranian President Hassan Rouhani this month.

"Japan is a friendly country that seeks to meet all the interests of the regional countries and hence, it has started taking some measures which Iran supports," the

The Holy Qur'an

Then Allah sent down His tranquillity upon His Apostle and upon the believers, and sent down hosts which you did not see, and chastised those who disbelieved, and that is the reward of the unbelievers.

The Holy Qur'an (9:26)

PRAYER TIMINGS

Noon (Zohr)	11:59
Evening (Maghreb)	17:12
Dawn (Fajr) "Tomorrow"	05:36
Sunrise "Tomorrow"	07:06

Haniyeh: Hamas Seeks to Strengthen Iran Ties

ISTANBUL (Dispatches) -- Hamas political bureau chief Ismail Haniyeh has said the Palestinian resistance movement seeks to further deepen ties with Iran, but it is not interested in talks with the U.S. despite Washington's request for negotiations.

Haniyeh made the comments during a press conference in this Turkish city, marking his first trip outside Gaza ever since he took over his current post in 2017.

He said no "communication channels" exist between the movement and the Trump administration despite numerous American attempts to contact Hamas.

Haniyeh also expressed gratitude to Iran, Turkey and Qatar for supporting besieged Palestinians in Gaza and Hamas.

The Hamas leader described relations with Tehran and Hezbollah as good, saying he wished to deepen ties with Iran.

Hamas is also seeking to renew warm ties with Syria, exploring new channels for negotiations between the two sides.

Hamas ruptured its ties with Damascus in 2012 after anti-government protests took place in the country.

Hamas is currently marking the 32nd anniversary of its establishment. The group is part of a larger regional formation of countries and movements known as the "axis of resistance".

Hezbollah, Yemen's Houthi movement along with Syria, Iraq and Iran are the other members.

spokesman said.

Reports say Japan and Iran are making final arrangements for President Rouhani and Japanese Prime Minister Shinzo Abe to hold talks on Dec. 20.

Rouhani is reportedly planning to arrive in Japan on the evening of Dec. 19 for a three-day visit after stopping in Malaysia, where he is expected to attend a conference.

Abe has said his government — through its own diplomatic initiative — wants to help ease tensions in the Middle East.

Mousavi said Japan has put forward some proposals for de-escalation, hoping Rouhani's visit to Japan would be fruitful.