

NEW YORK (Dispatches) -- U.S. Secretary of State Mike Pompeo pushed the UN Security Council on Tuesday to indefinitely extend an arms embargo on Iran before it expires in October.

Earlier this month, the United States circulated a draft resolution on the measure to the 15-member council, but council veto-powers Russia and China have already signaled their opposition to the move.

TEHRAN (Dispatches) -- A roadside bomb hit two Islamic Revolution Guards Corps (IRGC) vehicles in south-east Iran, the official IRIB news agency reported, citing a parliamentarian from the region.

A local IRGC commander was wounded in the explosion in Sistan and Baluchistan province, Fadahassein Maleki, a parliamentarian from the city of Zahedan in Sistan and Baluchistan province, told IRIB. He said the so-called Jaish al-Adl terrorist group had issued a statement taking responsibility for the attack.

Viewpoint

CENTCOM Terrorists' Presence Destabilizing Iraq

Gen. Soleimani Award Presented at Resistance Theater Festival



Esteghlal Held by Saipa, Sepahan Beat Gol Gohar: IPL



Partial or Complete...

Palestine Rejects Zionist Annexation Plan



Trump Retweets Video of Guns Pointed at Protesters

WASHINGTON (Dispatches) -- President Donald Trump, again accentuating racial tensions in America, on Monday posted a video showing a Missouri couple brandishing guns towards protesters who were calling for police reforms.

Without comment, Trump retweeted an ABC News video showing a white couple responding to Black and white protesters marching past their St. Louis mansion. In the video and others on social media, some protesters can be seen pausing to film or photograph the couple, while others can be heard to shout, "Keep moving!" and "Let's go!"

Mark McCloskey, 63, who lives in the mansion with his wife, Patricia McCloskey, said they feared for their lives and that protesters damaged a wrought-iron gate at an entrance to the wealthy neighborhood. Both are personal-injury lawyers.

"This is all private property," he said in an interview with KMOV4 local news. "There are no public sidewalks or public streets. I was terrified that we'd be murdered within seconds, our house would be burned down, our pets would be killed. We were all alone facing an angry mob."

Kimberly Gardner, the city's chief prosecutor, said she was alarmed by the videos and that her office was investigating.

"We must protect the right to peacefully protest, and any attempt to chill it through intimidation or threat of deadly force will not be tolerated," she said in a statement.

The protesters had been heading to the home of St. Louis Mayor Lyda Krewson to demand her resignation after she read out the names and addresses of people calling for police reform in a Facebook Live event last week. Krewson apologized and took the video down.

On Sunday, Trump drew swift condemnation for retweeting video of a Florida supporter shouting "white power," a phrase used by white supremacist groups, and later deleted it. The White House said Trump had not heard the slogan.

Trump also blasted Princeton University's weekend announcement that it was removing former U.S. President Woodrow Wilson's name from its schools over his racist remarks and policies.

"Incredible stupidity!" Trump tweeted.

Opinion polls show the Re-

publican Trump trailing his likely Democratic rival in the Nov. 3 election, former Vice President Joe Biden, and an increasing number of Americans sympathizing with protesters and support policing reforms.

The Princeton decision is part of a sweeping reassessment of historical icons and monikers amid growing calls for racial justice following the killing of Black Americans, including George Floyd, whose death under the knee of a white police officer roused world protests.

Critics have highlighted Trump's hostile response to protests against racial injustice and actions like Princeton's, even as Mississippi on Sunday voted to remove the Confederate flag symbol from its state flag. Walmart stopped selling the Confederate flag, and NASCAR banned the Civil War-era symbol.

Twitch Suspends Trump's Campaign Account

Twitch, the popular video game streaming website, on Monday announced that Trump's Team Trump campaign account has been temporarily suspended for "hateful conduct."

"Hateful conduct is not allowed on Twitch. In line with our policies, President Trump's channel has been issued a temporary suspension from Twitch for comments made on stream, and the offending content has been removed," the company said in a statement.

Twitch's decision to suspend Trump's campaign account comes after clips from a 2016 campaign rally, as well as the president's recent Tulsa rally, were shared on the platform.

The 2016 video was flagged for Trump's racist remarks about Mexican immigrants.

"When Mexico sends its people, they're not sending their best. They're not sending you. They're not sending you. They're sending people that have lots of problems, and their bringing those problems with us," Trump says in the footage. "They're bringing drugs. They're bringing crime. They're rapists. And some, I assume, are good people. But I speak to the border guards and they tell us what we're getting. And it only makes common sense. It only makes common sense. They're sending us not the right people."

Iran's Covid-19 Vaccine Ready for Trial on Humans



This file photo shows researchers at the Pasteur Institute of Iran, Tehran.

TEHRAN (Dispatches) -- Iran is preparing to test a homegrown Covid-19 vaccine in people, Health Minister Saeed Namaki said on Tuesday, after a surge in post-lockdown cases of the virus sent fatalities to a record high.

"Most animal tests have been passed and we will work on clinical trials of the vaccine in humans in the very near future," Saeed Namaki said at a pharmaceutical exhibition. Iranian scientists have been developing the vaccine for four months, he said.

Cases have swelled since the government eased lockdown restrictions in April, with a record 162 deaths reported on Monday. Laboratories around the world are engaged in fast-paced efforts to develop treatments and vaccines for the virus.

Iran's coronavirus epidemic is still in its first wave, the government said Tuesday as it announced nearly 150 new deaths a day after reporting a record high daily toll.

Official figures have shown a rising trajectory in new confirmed cases since early May, when Iran hit a near two-month low in daily recorded infections. But officials have repeatedly denied the upward trend amounts to a second wave.

Presidents of Iran, Russia, Turkey to Discuss Syria

MOSCOW/TEHRAN (Dispatches) -- The presidents of Russia, Iran and Turkey will hold a video conference on Wednesday to discuss the conflict in Syria, the Kremlin said on Tuesday.

In Syria's nine-year war, Russia and Iran are the main foreign supporters of President Bashar al-Assad's forces in their battle against terrorists, while Turkey backs anti-government militants. Under a diplomatic process dating back to 2017, they agreed to work to de-escalate fighting.

Wednesday's talks between Vladimir Putin, Hassan Rouhani and Recep Tayyip Erdogan were scheduled for around 1100 GMT, the Kremlin said.

Turkey and Russia agreed in March to halt hostilities in north-west Syria's Idlib region.

Two weeks ago, Russia and Turkey postponed bilateral ministerial-level talks which were expected to focus on Syria and Libya, another country where they support opposing sides.

In a post on his Twitter ac-

country's COVID-19 caseload to 227,662, with 2,457 new infections in the past 24 hours.

Authorities have so far refrained from enforcing full lockdowns to stop the pandemic's spread and the use of masks and protective equipment has been optional in most areas.

Iran closed schools, cancelled public events and banned movement between its 31 provinces in March, but the government gradually lifted restrictions from April to try to reopen its sanctions-hit economy.

The increasing virus caseload has seen some previously largely unscathed provinces classified as "red" -- the highest level on Iran's color-coded risk scale -- with authorities allowed to reimpose restrictive measures if required.

They include Bushehr, Hormozgan, Kermanshah, Khuzestan, Khorasan Razavi, Kurdistan, and West and East Azerbaijan, all located along Iran's borders.

Iran has announced that wearing masks will be made mandatory in covered public spaces as of next week. Authorities have for weeks been urging citizens to use protective equipment.

"Our attempts so far have been to avoid entering the second wave" of the outbreak, Government spokesman Ali Rabiei told a news conference Tuesday.

"Considering the problems the coronavirus has created for the economy, we have no choice but to try to live healthily in co-existence with the virus every day," he added.

'Bitter Joke': Riyadh Backs Extending Iran Arms Ban

TEHRAN (Dispatches) -- Saudi Arabian support for American efforts to extend a UN arms ban on Tehran is a "bitter joke", Iran's Foreign Ministry spokesman Abbas Mousavi said on Tuesday.

Saudi, Bahraini and U.S. officials on Monday urged the international community to extend the UN arms embargo, claiming that letting the ban expire would allow Tehran to destabilize the region.

Speaking at a news conference alongside US Special Representative for Iran Brian Hook in Riyadh on Monday, Saudi Minister of State for Foreign Affairs Adel al-Jubeir claimed that Iran would "become more ferocious and aggressive" if the arms ban were lifted.

"We urge the international community to extend the embargo on selling arms to Iran and on Iran's ability to sell arms to the world," Jubeir said.

Later in the day, Hook traveled to Manama, where he issued a joint anti-Iran statement with Bahraini