

TEHRAN (Dispatches) – Iranian President Hassan Rouhani said Wednesday the first presidential debate between U.S. presidential candidates Joe Biden and Donald Trump laid bare the dire situation the U.S. government is facing, pointing to Washington's failure in handling domestic and foreign policy issues. It is natural for the U.S. to be seeking to divert the numerous problems from inside to the outer world, that's why it is hatching plots against Iran, Rouhani said. "Today, the U.S. has adopted the most hostile, most criminal and most terrorist-like policies against the Iranian nation with a population of 84 million."

TEHRAN (Tasnim) – Iranian President Hassan Rouhani on Wednesday paid tribute to the late emir of Kuwait, Sheikh Sabah Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah, for his role in promoting moderation in the region. In a message to the new emir of Kuwait, Rouhani offered condolences on the "heart-breaking" death of Sheikh Sabah Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah. The president also praised the late emir's prominent role in establishing balance and moderation in the region. "I hereby condole you, the Kuwaiti government and nation on the demise of the late emir, who played a significant role in establishing regional balance and moderation," Rouhani said.

Viewpoint
Netanyahu Unmasked as a "Shameless Liar"

Long-Short Film Award Goes to Iran's 'Weekend' in U.S.

Djokovic Eases Through, Serena Williams Withdraws From French Open

To Discredit Yapping Zionist PM Hezbollah Takes Media to Alleged Missile Site

Rouhani Tells Armenian Counterpart: Region Cannot Endure Another War

YEREVAN (Dispatches) -- Armenia on Wednesday rejected Russian offers to mediate peace talks with arch-rival Azerbaijan as fighting raged for a fourth day over the breakaway Azerbaijani region of Karabakh. Armenian and Azerbaijani forces are engaged in the heaviest clashes in years over Karabakh that broke away from Azerbaijan during the collapse of the Soviet Union in the 1990s. The long-simmering conflict erupted on Sunday with the two sides trading heavy fire and blaming each other for the outbreak of violence. Nearly 100 people are confirmed to have died in the most recent flare-up and both sides are claiming to have inflicted heavy losses on opposing forces. There has been increasing international pressure for a ceasefire as fears grow that the conflict could escalate into a devastating all-out war and draw in regional powers like Turkey and Russia. Moscow, which has a military pact with Armenia but also good ties with Azerbaijan, has repeatedly called for an end to the fighting and offered to help with negotiations. But Armenian Prime Minister Nikol Pashinyan said Wednesday that talks with Azerbaijan were not yet on the table. "It isn't very appropriate to speak of a summit between Armenia, Azerbaijan and Russia at a time of intensive hostilities," Pashinyan told Russia's Interfax news agency. "A suitable atmosphere and conditions are needed for negotiations." There has been no let-up in the fighting since the weekend, with both sides reporting new clashes on Wednesday. Officials in both countries have made claims of huge losses for the other side, but these have not been possible to verify. Azerbaijan has released no information on its military casualties, while the Armenian side has registered 81 deaths. A total of 17 civilians have been reported dead by both sides. Azerbaijan's defense ministry said Wednesday that "intense fighting was continuing", claiming that its forces have killed 2,300 Karabakh separat-

ist troops since hostilities broke out. The ministry said its troops had "destroyed 130 tanks, 200 artillery units, 25 anti-aircraft units, five ammunition depots, 50 anti-tank units, 55 military vehicles". It said Karabakh's separatists had "shelled the city of Terter, targeting civilians and civilian infrastructure." Pashinyan discussed the conflict with Iranian President Hassan Rouhani in a phone call on Wednesday, Armenia's government press office said. Iran shares borders with both Armenia and Azerbaijan. "Iran's president expressed concerns on the tension between its two bordering countries and continuing military actions," the Armenian government statement said. "Our region cannot endure further instability and a new war," Rouhani told the Armenian president. "The cessation of clashes is important to us, and we expect Armenia and Azerbaijani to choose this path while acting tactfully and exercising restraint," he said. Rouhani also reiterated Iran's readiness to mediate between the two sides in whatever capacity deemed constructive by Armenia and Azerbaijan to help settle the dispute. "We wish for an immediate halt to clashes, and we should all seek to settle regional issues through diplomacy and international regulations," he said. The flare-up is due to the failure of diplomatic negotiations within the framework of the Organization for Security and Cooperation in Europe (OSCE) Minsk Group, led by France, the U.S., and Russia. The key sticking point is Azerbaijan's demand that Armenia withdraw its military forces from Karabakh, while Yerevan is apparently satisfied with the stalemate because it allows the status-quo to continue. Karabakh is internationally recognized as Azerbaijani territory but has been under the control of ethnic Armenians backed by the Armenian government since 1994 at the end of a separatist war following the breakup of the Soviet Union three years earlier.

Trump, Biden Peel Veneer From U.S. Political Façade Lies, Insults, Cross Talk, Mockery



The first debate between President Donald Trump and Democratic challenger Joe Biden erupted in contentious exchanges Tuesday night.

WASHINGTON (Dispatches) -- The first presidential debate between President Trump and Joseph Biden unraveled into an ugly melee Tuesday, as Trump hectoring and interrupted Biden nearly every time he spoke and the former vice president denounced the president as a "clown" and told him to "shut up." In a chaotic, 90-minute back-and-forth, the two major party nominees expressed a level of acrid contempt for each other unheard-of in modern American politics. Trump, trailing in the polls and urgently hoping to revive his campaign, was plainly attempting to be the aggressor. But he interjected so insistently that Biden could scarcely answer the questions posed to him, forcing the moderator, Chris Wallace of Fox News, to repeatedly urge the president to let his opponent speak. "Will you shut up, man?" Biden demanded of Trump at one point in

obvious exasperation. "This is so un-presidential." Yet Biden also lobbed a series of bitingly personal attacks of his own. "You're the worst president America has ever had," he said to Trump. The president's bulldozer-style tactics represented a significant risk for an incumbent who's trailing Biden because voters, including some who supported him in 2016, are so fatigued by his near-daily attacks and outbursts. Yet the former vice president veered between trying to ignore Trump by speaking directly into the camera to the voters, and giving in to temptation by hurling insults at the president. Biden called Trump a liar and a racist. Trump peppered his remarks with misleading claims and outright lies, predicting that a coronavirus vaccine was imminent when his own chief health advisers say otherwise, claiming that his rollback of fuel-efficiency standards would not increase pollution and insisting that a political adviser, Kellyanne Conway, had not described riots as useful to Trump's campaign, even though she did so on television. And even as he went on the offensive against Biden on matters of law and order, Trump declined to condemn white supremacy and right-wing extremist groups when prompted by Wallace and Biden. When Wallace asked him whether he would be willing to do so, Trump replied, "Sure," and asked the two men to name a group they would like him to denounce. But when Biden named the Proud Boys, a far-right group, Trump did not do so and even suggested they be at the ready. "Proud Boys? Stand back and stand by," the president said, before pivoting to say, "Somebody's got to do something about antifa

and the left." Trump again invoked the prospect of a "fraudulent election" and disregarded contrary evidence about mail-in voting offered by both Wallace and Biden. And Trump encouraged his voters to "go into the poll and watch very carefully" for any signs of misconduct — an encouragement that could cause disruption on Election Day. "Trump's volcanic performance appeared to be the gambit of a president seeking to tarnish his opponent by any means available, unbound by norms of accuracy and decorum and unguided by a calculated sense of how to sway the electorate or assuage voters' reservations about his leadership," the New York Times wrote. "In an election marked by sharply defined and stubbornly stable opinions about both candidates, the president's conduct was the equivalent of pulling the pin on a hand grenade and hoping that the ensuing explosion would harm the other candidate more," it added. But Trump made no effort to address his most obvious political vulnerabilities, from his mismanagement of the pandemic to his refusal to condemn right-wing extremism, and it was not clear that he did anything over the course of the evening to appeal to voters who have disliked him, including those who reluctantly supported him four years ago, the paper said. The debate, at Case Western Reserve University in Cleveland quickly descended into name-calling and hectoring in the first 15 minutes, derisive attacks that were extraordinary even by the standards of Trump's unruly presidency. When Biden attempted to discuss voters who had lost loved ones to the coronavirus, Trump interjected. "You would've lost far more people," he declared.

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IAEA Says Inspected Second Site in Iran

VIENNA (Dispatches) -- The UN nuclear agency has inspected the second of two former sites in Iran, as agreed with Tehran last month in a deal that ended a standoff over access, the agency said on Wednesday. The International Atomic Energy Agency has not named either of the two undeclared sites but it has described activities it claims took place there in 2003. "As part of an agreement with Iran to resolve safeguards implementation issues specified by the IAEA, the Agency this week conducted a complementary access at the second location in the country and took environmental samples," the IAEA said in a statement. Iran has denounced "attempts to

open an endless process of verifying and cleaning-up of ever-continuing fabricated allegations", strongly suggesting the IAEA was seeking access based on information the occupying regime of Israel claims it seized from Iran. Head of the Atomic Energy Organization of Iran said last month the IAEA had promised that it would not ask for new inspections after visiting two locations in Iran in August. IAEA officials, Ali Akbar Salehi said, have announced that they have no more demands after inspecting the two sites in Iran. Iran announced in late August it would voluntarily allow the IAEA to visit the two sites following a

visit to Tehran by IAEA Director General Rafael Grossi. Grossi told IAEA board members he was hopeful Iran's decision to voluntarily let inspectors into the two sites could lead to greater trust with Tehran. Iran had been permitting IAEA inspectors in to current nuclear sites agreed upon in the landmark 2015 nuclear deal with world powers, but had argued the other two sites dated from before the deal so there was no reason to grant access. The IAEA in March identified the two sites as places where Iran possibly stored and/or used undeclared nuclear material or undertook nuclear-related activities without declaring them to international ob-

servers. Iranian officials have said the country "acknowledges the IAEA's right for asking legitimate questions, seeking transparency or demand of access for its mission," but it "also emphasizes its right as a member state to request that the IAEA provide solid evidence and supporting documents and arguments in this regard." In the past, the UN nuclear agency has been given access to the sites it has demanded to visit, but after getting all questions sorted out it has raised new controversies later based on "fake" intelligence supplied by the occupying regime of Israel or terrorist groups such as the MKO.