

Army Unveils Homemade Chopper Equipment

TEHRAN – Iran's Army Ground Force on Sunday unveiled a series of homegrown equipment for the helicopters of its airborne division, including radar jamming systems and missile warning receivers.

Commander of the Army Ground Force's Airborne Division General Yousef Qorbani said at least 40 choppers have been equipped with chaff and flare countermeasure systems. A laser missile warning system and an infrared (thermal) jamming system were also unveiled.

Kayhan International

Bolton Sounds Alarm Over Iran-Saudi Détente

WASHINGTON (Dispatches) -- Former U.S. national security adviser John Bolton on Sunday sounded the alarm following a China-brokered deal between Iran and Saudi Arabia to restore diplomatic ties.

Bolton warned the United States against "sitting still" as China expands its role in the world and grows closer to Russia, Iran and Saudi Arabia. "We're sitting still, and the Chinese, the Russians, Iran, North Korea, and several others, are moving to shore up their relations and threaten us in a lot of different places," Bolton, a U.S. foreign policy hawk, said.

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Viewpoint

Suicidal US Moves in the Korean Peninsula

President: Iran Seeks Strong Ties With Neighbors



Amir Ghalenoei Appointed Iran Football Coach



3 Palestinians Martyred in West Bank



Massive Protests Hit Occupied Cities Again

TEL AVIV (Dispatches) -- Hundreds of thousands of protesters marched across several cities throughout the occupied territories for a 10th straight week, expressing alarm at the occupying regime of Israel's extremist direction.

The biggest demonstration was held in the coastal city of Tel Aviv, attracting what the Zionist media estimated at around 100,000 people.

Some 50,000 also rallied in the northern city of Haifa and 10,000 in Beersheba in the central part of the occupied territories. Media reports said the crowds that gathered for new protests were the largest ever since early January when the demonstrations began.

Residents in the occupied territories are angry at so-called legal reforms which hardline prime minister Benjamin Netanyahu is pushing for, giving him unprecedented powers.

The reforms would give the 120-member parliament - which is filled with many extremists - the power to overrule the court's decisions with a simple majority of 61 votes.

Observers say the changes can potentially enable the Knesset to annul a set of corruption charges that Netanyahu is being tried on. The prime minister is being sued for bribery, fraud, and breach of trust.

On Thursday, the regime's President Issac Herzog called on the coalition to halt the legislation. The cabinet is, however, pre-

paring to press on with its agenda next week, shunning calls for a pause to allow for negotiations on the divisive plan.

The new extremist direction has plunged the illegal entity to its most serious crisis, with several Zionist leaders warning that it may lead to internal strife and ultimate disintegration of Israel.

On Saturday, former Mossad chief Tamir Pardo was quoted warning that the occupying regime is facing "disastrous" and "unprecedented" danger.

"Israel reached a very dangerous situation regarding the internal segregation that happened due to the right-wing plan to weaken the judicial system and turn Israel into a dictatorship," Pardo warned.

"I am 70 years old. I had never imagined that we would reach this point. This is the most existential danger since the independence," he added.

The former intelligence official said that the occupying regime of Israel "does not need a nuclear bomb to be destroyed", adding the entity "has decided to experience a self-destruction method".

President Herzog has warned that mounting political polarization had left the occupying entity "on the brink of constitutional and social collapse".

Netanyahu's cabinet which unites his Likud party with an array of ultrareligious and ultranationalist groups and is widely regarded as the most rightwing in Israeli history.

Iran FM: Exchange of Prisoners With U.S. Likely

TEHRAN – Iran's foreign minister on Sunday signaled that an exchange of prisoners with the United States could happen soon after he said an initial agreement has been reached on the long-standing issue.

"We reached an agreement in the past few days and if everything goes well on the American side, I think we will witness a prisoner exchange in the short term," Hussein Amir-Abdollahian said.

"An agreement was signed between us and the American side during indirect talks in March last year, but the grounds to implement it have now been prepared. In our point of view, everything is ready. The American side is engaged in its own final technical coordinations."

The comments by Iran's top diplomat come as his deputy, Ali Bagheri Kani, who is also the country's top nuclear negotiator, has travelled to Oman - which has acted as a mediator between Tehran and Washington on prisoner exchange talks.

In October, 85-year-old Iranian Baquer Namazi left Iran onboard a Royal Air Force of Oman jet after Tehran decided to free him due to poor health.

His son, Siamak Namazi, is one of three known U.S. prisoners left behind bars in Iran, where all of them have been arrested on espionage charges.

Earlier this week, Namazi had an interview with U.S. outlet CNN from inside the Evin prison in Tehran, and directly implored U.S. President Joe Biden to secure his release, along with that of 58-year-old Emad Sharghi and 67-year-old Morad Tahbaz.

Neither side has confirmed details of a potential agreement, but it is believed that in addition to the release of an unknown number of Iranian prisoners in the U.S., \$7 billion of Iranian money frozen by South Korea due to US sanctions could also be released.

Iran has repeatedly blamed the U.S. for a delay in both the prisoner exchange talks.

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Oil Exports Hit Highest Level Since 2018



Minister of Petroleum Javad Owji talks to reporters in Tehran.

TEHRAN -- Iran's oil exports have reached their highest level since the reimposition of U.S. sanctions in 2018, the country's Minister of Petroleum Javad Owji said on Sunday.

Following the United States' exit from a 2015 nuclear deal and its reimposition of sanctions on Tehran in 2018, Iranian oil exports and revenues took a hit as fewer countries continued to purchase Iranian crude.

Owji said that 83 million more oil barrels in the current year starting 21st March 2022 were exported com-

pared to the previous Iranian year running March 2021-2022.

This represents 190 million more barrels than two years prior according to Owji, who added that gas exports increased by 15% in 2022-23 compared to the previous Iranian year.

The United States on Thursday imposed sanctions on 39 entities, including many based in the United Arab Emirates and Hong Kong, that Washington said facilitate Iran's access to the global financial system, describing them as a "shadow banking" net-

work that moves billions of dollars.

In January, Iran's media reports said the country's overall exports of crude oil, petroleum products, gas, condensates, liquids and LPG had reached 2.23 million barrels of crude oil per day (bpd), which was the same figure as before the sanctions.

They totaled \$14.35 billion in the first quarter of the current Iranian year which ends on March 20, averaging \$154 million a day, one report said, citing the National Iranian Oil Company (NIOC) figures.

"Assuming crude at \$80 a barrel, this amount of revenue is equivalent to the export of 1.92 million barrels of oil a day," it added.

Iran's draft state budget is based on shipments of 1.4 million bpd, according to Fars news agency.

Following former President Donald Trump's removal of the United States from the nuclear deal and reimposition of sanctions, Iran's crude exports fell back to as little as 100,000 bpd at times in 2020 from over 2.5 million bpd in 2018.

Exports have risen during the term of President Ebrahim Raisi, and hit the highest since 2019 on some estimates.

The White House has said the Biden administration's enforcement of the sanctions on Iran remains robust, rejecting claims that the current U.S. regime was not as strict as its predecessor.

While part of Iran's oil has been available to the market, its petrochemical exports have been crucial to the country's sanction-busting effort.

Iranian officials say the wide variety of petrochemical products and huge international demand for them because of their quality and price make the industry un-sanctionable.

The Iranian economy minister has said the country's income from oil and condensates exports was 580% higher in the first four months of the Iranian year (March 21 to July 21) in 2022 compared with the same period a year ago.

Thousands Protest in London; Czechs Hold Anti-War Demos

LONDON/PRAGUE (AP) — Thousands of protesters marched through London to the British prime minister's residence to support health care workers who have held a series of strikes over pay and conditions in the state-funded National Health Service.

Almost 40,000 junior doctors, who form the backbone of hospital care, are due to walk out across England for three days starting Monday.

NHS England said the doctors' strike would be even more disruptive than recent walkouts by nurses and ambulance staff.

Thousands of NHS appointments and procedures will be canceled during the 72-hour strike.

A wave of strikes has disrupted Britons' lives for months, as workers demand pay raises to keep pace with double-digit inflation. As well as health care workers, teachers, train drivers, airport baggage handlers, border staff, driving examiners, bus drivers and postal workers have all walked off their jobs to demand higher pay.

Unions say wages, especially in

the public sector, have fallen in real terms over the past decade, and a cost-of-living crisis fueled by sharply rising food and energy prices has left many struggling to pay their bills.

Britain's annual inflation rate was 10.1% in January, down from a November peak of 11.1% but still a 40-year high. The Conservative government argues that giving public sector staff pay increases of 10% or more would drive inflation even higher.

In the Czech Republic, thousands of people rallied against the government, protesting high inflation and demanding an end to the country's military support for Ukraine.

A new political group, PRO, organized the rally at Prague's Wenceslas Square as an anti-poverty event. As participants called on the coalition government to resign, party leader Jindrich Rajchl said they want "a government to care first of all about the interests of the Czech citizens."

His group, whose name translates in English to Law, Respect, (Continued on Page 7)

Crisis From U.S. Bank Collapse Spreads to UK

LONDON (FT) -- The UK chancellor is preparing a dramatic intervention to provide a cash lifeline to scores of tech businesses next week as he seeks to contain the damage caused by the collapse of Silicon Valley Bank.

Jeremy Hunt was looking to "avoid or minimize damage to some of our most promising companies in the UK", the Treasury said in a statement.

"We will bring forward immediate plans to ensure the short-term operational and cash flow needs of Silicon Valley Bank UK customers are able to be met," the Treasury said.

Hunt has ruled out a bailout of the UK arm of SVB and is instead focusing on supporting the cash flow of the many tech groups with deposits at the bank. They could struggle to pay wages and bills next week.

The chancellor is holding talks with Andrew Bailey, Bank of England governor, and Rishi Sunak, prime minister, to finalize a plan, which could be in place as soon as Monday.

More than 200 UK-based tech company executives have urged Downing Street to step in, warning that many companies faced an "existential threat" because they banked with the UK arm of SVB.

Sunak says he wants to turn Britain into "the next Silicon Valley" and is said by government insiders to be determined to contain the fallout for the tech sector from the bank's collapse.

The Bank of England announced on Friday that Silicon Valley Bank UK was set to enter insolvency, following action taken by its parent company in the U.S., adding that it had a limited presence in the UK and did not perform functions critical to the financial system.

But the Treasury said: "The government and the Bank understand the level of concern that this raises for customers of SVB UK, and especially how it may impact on cash flow positions in the short term."

"The UK has a world leading tech (Continued on Page 7)