

Iran Exceeds Uranium Enrichment Level Set by Nuclear Deal as Europe Fails to Resist US Sanctions

TEHRAN - Iran has officially surpassed the 3.67% uranium enrichment limit set by the 2015 nuclear deal, Reuters has reported, citing a spokesman for the country's nuclear agency. Behrouz Kamalvandi said that Iran's new level of uranium enrichment was at 4.5%, and that Tehran would consider increasing this figure to 20% as a future measure if Europe continues to neglect its commitments under the JCPOA. He urged the deal's European signatories to act quickly before Iran took further steps to pull out from the accord. Tehran announced on Sunday that it would exceed the cap mandated by the accord, warning it would further



scale down its commitments under the deal if its European partners failed to honor the agreement. Under deal, known as the JCPOA, Iran agreed to limit its nuclear activities and to allow

international inspections of its nuclear facilities, in exchange for sanctions relief. Iranian Foreign Minister Javad Zarif has argued that Iran is fully within its rights to increase its uranium enrichment, noting that a dispute resolution mechanism contained in the JCPOA allows Tehran to "cease performing its commitments" if the Islamic Republic believes any of the other signatories have failed to uphold their own side of the deal. Vice President Eshaq Jahangiri said in a separate statement that Washington had prevented Tehran from benefitting from its full compliance with the deal. ...*(More on P4)...(11)*

Neighbor News

Iranian Scientists Accused of Violating US Sanctions

ATLANTA — When a respected Iranian scientist left Tehran bound for the U.S. last fall, he had plans to complete the final stage of his research on treating stroke patients as a visiting scholar at the prestigious Mayo Clinic in Minnesota. Instead, when professor Masoud Soleimani touched down on U.S. soil, federal authorities armed with a secret indictment arrested him on charges that he had violated trade sanctions by trying to have biological material brought to Iran. Nine months later, as tensions escalate between the two countries, Soleimani sits in a detention center just south of Atlanta embroiled in a legal fight over the application of sweeping U.S. sanctions that have caused prices to skyrocket in Iran. His lawyers say Soleimani — who works in stem cell research, hematology and regenerative medicine — seized on a former student's plans to travel from the U.S. to Iran in September 2016 as a chance to get recombinant proteins used in his research for a fraction of the price he'd pay at home.

But federal prosecutors say the attempted transport was illegal and secretly obtained an indictment against Soleimani in June 2018. Government officials revoked his visa and arrested him in October when he landed in Chicago. Soleimani and two of his former students are accused of conspiring and attempting to export biological materials from the U.S. to Iran without authorization. The two counts each carry a maximum penalty of 20 years in prison. Lawyers for the three scientists say their clients did nothing wrong. They argue no specific license was required because the proteins are medical materials and that bringing them to Iran for noncommercial purposes doesn't amount to exporting goods. The U.S. attorney's office in Atlanta declined to comment, but prosecutors have argued in court filings that the comprehensive sanctions in place for years do not allow goods to be exported to Iran except under very limited conditions that don't apply in this case. (AP)

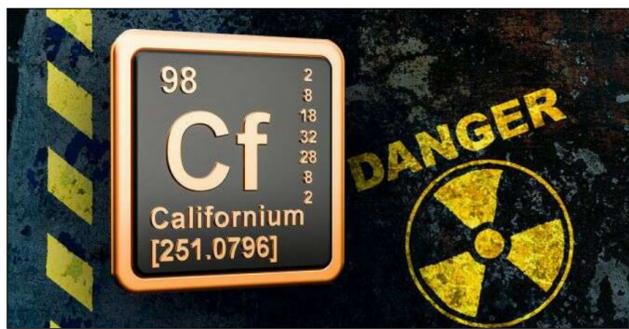
Indian Air Force Chief to Fly Cutting-Edge Yak-130 Trainer Jet During Russia Visit

NEW DELHI - The commander of India's Air Force is heading to Russia for visits to an array of facilities and to try the country's newest subsonic jet trainer, just as India's military looks to upgrade its fleet of combat aircraft. India didn't reveal much about Air Chief Marshal Birender Singh Dhanoa's "goodwill visit" to Russia, but said the top-tier commander will visit some "operational and training units" and will have talks with his Russian counterparts.

Interestingly, the Air Marshal, who also chairs the Chiefs of Staff Committee, is expected to fly the Yakovlev Yak-130 jet trainer. The aircraft's properties are remarkable as it can replicate characteristics of several 4++ generation fighters as well as the fifth-generation Sukhoi Su-57. The Indian Air Force (IAF) has been relying on Russian hardware for decades since the Cold War. 249 Sukhoi Su-30MKI and 66 MiG-29 ...*(More on P4)...(16)*

\$72M Worth of Radioactive Element Used in Nuclear Reactors Reportedly Seized in Turkey

ISTANBUL - Authorities in Turkey reportedly discovered \$72 million worth of a radioactive element — used in nuclear reactors and found in the fallout of nuclear explosions — from a car. The 18.1 grams of californium were seized in the northern Bolu province of the country, law enforcement officials said Saturday, according to the Daily Sabah. Five people were being investigated in regards to the incident. The substance was seized by local anti-



smuggling authorities and sent to the Turkish Atomic Energy Authority, officials said. Californium is a rare,

man-made radioactive element. First created in 1950 at the University of California at Berkeley, it's used primarily in nuclear reactors. Only the U.S. and Russia have created californium. In March 2018, investigators ...*(More on P4)...(12)*

Ukraine's Zelensky Offers to Meet Putin for First Talks



KIEV - Ukraine's recently elected President Volodymyr Zelensky on Monday offered to meet his Russian counterpart

Vladimir Putin for their first talks, calling for Western leaders to mediate. "Now I want to address

the Russian President Vladimir Putin. We need to talk? We do. Let's do it," Zelensky said in a video address. The former comic actor who was elected with a landslide in April's presidential polls called for a meeting with the Russian strongman that would involve US President Donald Trump and other Western leaders. He proposed discussing Russian-annexed Crimea and the conflict in eastern Ukraine where Ukrainian forces are battling Russian-

backed separatists. Zelensky said on his inauguration in May that ending the war in the east and returning the annexed territory to Ukraine were his priority. - 'Will be considered' - So far Zelensky has not met Putin and the Russian leader has commented that Zelensky's acting talent does not make up for lack of political experience. "Let's discuss who Crimea belongs to and who isn't in the Donbass ...*(More on P4)...(13)*

Post-Brexit UK Passports May End Up Being Printed... In Poland?

LONDON - Britain's new post-Brexit passports will be printed by a French-Dutch company, which has reportedly outsourced the job to Poland. Now Britons risk being reminded of their economic independence from Europe every time they travel. The UK government awarded the contract for its new passport production to Gemalto, a French-Dutch firm, which won the £260 million (\$326 million) tender to make the documents. The Home

Office defended the move, claiming that the deal was cost-effective and would create 70 new jobs in the UK, at sites in Fareham and Heywood. British workers are less than pleased by the news, however. According to Louisa Bull, an officer with labor union Unite, an estimated 170 skilled printing jobs will be lost in the UK due to the decision. To add insult to injury, Bull claims that Gemalto will ...*(More on P4)...(17)*

Pakistan Sent 55,000 Workforce to Qatar Under 100,000 Quota

ISLAMABAD - Ministry of Overseas Pakistanis and Human Resource Development has sent as many as 55,000 skilled and semi-skilled workforce to Qatar for prospective job opportunities in construction and other sectors since 2015.

Qatar had announced to hire 100,000 Pakistan's workforce in 2015 and the target could not be accomplished due to inefficiency and poor lobbying on part of Pakistan's previous government abroad, the official sources told APP. (Monitoring Desk)

Turkmenistan Participates in EU's Rule of Law Platform Regional Project

ASHGABAT - Turkmenistan participates in the EU's regional project titled "Rule of Law Platform", with seminars, trainings and other events set to be organized as a part of it, Trend reports referring to Neytralni Turkmenistan newspaper. This project was discussed during the meeting in the Turkmen Parliament with the High Representative of the EU for Foreign Affairs and Security Policy Federica Mogherini, who paid a working visit to Ashgabat. During the meeting, it was noted that a solid legislative and legal framework have been created in Turkmenistan, which take into account the interna-

tional experience of lawmaking and generally accepted norms of international law, which are actively implemented in the national legislation. The work being carried out, along with adherence to the most important UN Conventions, comprehensively promotes the effective integration of the country into the international legal space. Emphasis was made on the importance of regular consultations and meetings of fellow parliamentarians, which contribute to the formation of a modern platform for enhancing the multifaceted relations of Turkmenistan with member states of the EU, the report said. (Trend)

Mali PM Vows Heightened Security in Restive Central Region

BAMAKO - Mali Prime Minister Boubou Cisse on Sunday ended a five-day tour of the restive central region where he has vowed to beef up security, days after the UN humanitarian coordinator decried the "drastic toll" from violence there.

Despite military help from France and the United Nations, Mali's government is struggling to calm violence that began in the north of the country in 2012, sparked by radical Islamist and Tuareg militias.

Ethnic violence in central Mali surged after a predominantly Fulani jihadist group led by preacher Amadou Koufa emerged in 2015. ...*(More on P4)...(18)*

Ancient Murals Discovered in East China

JINAN - An ancient tomb with delicate murals was discovered in east China's Shandong Province, according to the institute of archaeology in Jinan, Shandong's capital.

Located in Jinan's Changqing District, the brick-chambered tomb was believed to date back to the Yuan Dynasty (1271-1368), according to Guo Junfeng with the institute.

The underground part of the tomb is a Mongolian yurt-like rotunda. Its dome was carved with relief in the shape of a lotus flower. The walls were painted with cloud-like patterns, which is believed to bring good luck in Chinese culture. The date of the tomb was also written on the wall.

"The tomb is very valuable as very few tombs with ...*(More on P4)...(19)*

Qatar's Multibillion-Dollar Plan to Win Back Friends in The U.S.

WASHINGTON - Two years ago, Qatar was out in the cold — shunned by a new administration in Washington and the subject of an economic blockade by its neighbors.

But now Doha sees an opening. Particularly in the last six months, Qatar has enlisted and deployed officials across the world as part of a public relations campaign to mold a new image with a focus on underlining to Washington the country's geostrategic value and economic might, according to two U.S. officials and three other individuals with knowledge of Qatar's efforts.



Since the beginning of 2017, Qatar has spent at least \$24 million on U.S. lobbying efforts, according to the Center for Responsive Politics.

"Qatar remains very isolated in the Arab Gulf region until now," said Hussein Ibish, a senior resident scholar at the Arab Gulf States

Institute in Washington, "They've found a set of functional workarounds that allow the country to endure, with some costs, but until something bigger changes, like a conflict with Iran, other major regional unrest, or a new U.S. policy, the ...*(More on P4)...(14)*

1,100-Pound US Bomb from WWII Defused in Germany after Mass Evacuation

BERLIN - A 1,100-pound World War II bomb was defused in Germany hours after thousands of people were evacuated from the surrounding district Sunday.

Frankfurt officials called on about 16,500 people to leave their homes in the Ostend area east of the city's downtown on Sunday morning before emergency workers tackled the American bomb.

It had been found during construction work last month.

More than 70 years after the end of the war, unexploded bombs have turned up frequently in Germany. Disposing of them sometimes has entailed large-scale precautionary evacuations such as the one on Sunday.

Officials chose Sunday to defuse the bomb to allow preparation and to minimize ...*(More on P4)...(15)*

Sudanese Say US Pressure Was Key to Reaching Transition Deal

CAIRO — The power-sharing agreement reached between Sudan's military and pro-democracy protesters last week came after the United States and its Arab allies applied intense pressure on both sides amid fears a prolonged crisis could tip the country into civil war, activists and officials said.

The agreement, which raised hopes of a democratic transition following the military overthrow of long-ruling autocrat Omar al-Bashir in April, was announced days after the protesters held mass marches through Khartoum and other areas.

But those familiar with the negotiations say the main breakthrough happened at a secret meeting the day before the protests, when diplomats from the U.S., Britain, Saudi Arabia and the United Arab Emirates pressed the two sides to accept proposals from the African Union and Ethiopia.

"It was a tense but crucial meeting. It melted the ice," a leading activist said on condition of anonymity to discuss the back-room negotiations. "The meeting was the cornerstone of Friday's deal."

The two sides agreed on a jointly run sovereign council that will rule for a little over three years while elections are organized. A military leader will head the council for the first 21 months followed by a civilian leader for the next 18.

They also agreed on an independent Sudanese ...*(More on P4)...(20)*