

# 'Iran Written All Over It': Trump Accuses Tehran of Carrying Out Tanker Attacks

WASHINGTON - US President Donald Trump has accused Iran of being behind the recent attacks on oil tankers in the Gulf of Oman, claiming that the evidence points squarely towards Tehran. Speaking about the attacks on the Fox and Friends show on Friday morning, Trump said the evidence gathered by the US about them has "essentially got Iran written all over it." Trump made the comments when asked what evidence Washington had been found to prove Iran was behind the attacks, and what the US response would be. The president pointed to footage of the reportedly "exposed" Iranian authorities remov-



ing an unexploded mine from one of the evacuated vessels overnight. "You saw the boat at night trying to take the mine

and they successfully took it off," Trump said, adding that Iran didn't want to leave any evidence behind. "I guess they don't know that

we have things that...can detect in the dark." When pressed on what the US response would be to Iran's alleged attacks, Trump said "We're going to see, but we're not going to take it lightly." After two tankers were attacked near the Strait of Hormuz on Thursday, Trump's secretary of state Mike Pompeo cited unspecified US "intelligence" and the type of weapons used in the attacks as evidence of Iranian involvement. "It is the assessment of the United States government that the Islamic Republic of Iran is responsible for the attacks," Pompeo said before accusing Iran of attacking...*(More on P4)...(15)*

## Neighbor News

### Xi-Imran Regular Meetings Fully Reflective of High Level of China-Pakistan All-Weather Strategic Partnership: China

BEIJING - Chinese President Xi Jinping Friday pointed out that his three meetings with Prime Minister Imran Khan in the last eight months were fully reflective of the high level of China-Pakistan all-weather strategic partnership and both countries should carry out closer coordination and cooperation under the changing regional and international situation. "Xi Jinping pointed out that in the past eight months, I met with the Prime Minister three times. This fully reflects the high level of China-

Pakistan all-weather strategic partnership," a statement said issued by Chinese foreign minister here after the meeting between President Xi Jinping and Prime Minister Imran Khan on the sidelines of SCO summit in Bishkek, Kyrgyzstan. The Chinese president also remarked that under the changing international and regional situation, China and Pakistan should carry out closer coordination and cooperation to build a closer community of shared destiny. (Monitoring Desk)

### Turkmenistan to Organize Cultural Festival in Tehran

ASHGABAT - Turkmenistan Culture Minister Atagely Shamuradov is scheduled to attend an opening ceremony, which will be held at Vahdat Hall on Sunday, Iran's Islamic Culture and Relations Organization (ICRO) announced on Thursday. Groups of Turkmen dancers and musicians will give performances during the festival. Exhibitions, which are scheduled to be organized at the Iranian Artists Forum, will showcase artworks by Turkmen artists. In addition, Turkmen costumes and handicrafts will be on view at showcases at the forum.

"Ruhnama" (The Book of the Soul), a book written by Saparmurat Niyazov, the president of Turkmenistan from 1990 to 2006, will be introduced in a special meeting, which is to be organized at the National Library and Archives of Iran. The forum will also host workshops and meetings which will be organized by a group of Turkmen and Iranian artists on Monday. A lineup of movies by Turkmen filmmakers will also be screened during the festival, which will end with a roundtable on the Silk Road at the Sadi Hall of the Milad Tower. (Agencies)

### Hong Kong Police Use Tougher Tactics against Protesters

HONG KONG - Hong Kong police resorted to harsher-than-usual tactics to suppress protesters this week in the city's biggest bout of political violence in decades. Police fired rubber bullets and beanbag rounds at the crowds, weapons they haven't widely used in recent history. Human rights groups criticized the tough tactics, while police said they were necessary against crowds of people who broke through

barriers outside government headquarters and the legislature on Wednesday. The violence left 81 people injured, Hong Kong's Hospital Authority said. Police said 22 officers were among the injured. Officers at one point "had no choice but to escalate the use of force to disperse the crowd," Stephen Lo, the Hong Kong commissioner of police, told reporters Thursday. "The behavior of the violent protesters..."*(More on P4)...(17)*

### World Court Rejects UAE Demands for Immediate Measures against Qatar

THE HAGUE - The United Nations' highest court for inter-state disputes on Friday rejected a United Arab Emirates request for immediate measures against Qatar in a dispute over alleged discrimination between the Arab neighbors. In a 15-1 vote, World Court judges rejected the UAE's request for immediate action to keep Qatar from blocking access to a UAE website that allows Qataris expelled from the UAE to obtain permits to return. By not allowing access



to the site, Dubai argued, Doha was aggravating the dispute. (Reuters)

### US Weaponizes Economy with Volleys of Intercontinental Ballistic Sanctions against Bad Guys



WASHINGTON - The US has by far the biggest military on Earth, but Donald Trump's administration is far more interested in weaponizing the US economy to achieve its aims.

Launching intercontinental ballistic sanctions is much less messy than sending in troops and if used correctly can last for decades with minimal effort. The only problem is you can't use sanctions against your allies which is extremely inconvenient, or at least it was, until Trump simply renamed sanctions and started calling them tariffs! Perfect! ICYMI examines the ICBS. (RT)

### Europol Report Details Islamic State Propaganda for Women

THE HAGUE, Netherlands - Islamic State's recruitment and use of women to support its extremist cause could pave the way for more front-line roles for women in jihadi groups in the future, the European Union's police agency said in a report published Friday. In the 34-page report entitled "Women in Islamic State Propaganda," Europol said "female jihadis are as ideologically motivated as their male counterparts and their sense of empowerment lies in contributing to the building of an Islamic state." It concludes that "numerous examples" of women, who either carried out extremist attacks or were arrested preventively, "prove that women are willing to use violence if the ideology allows them to do so. For now, it is not yet their role, but this balance may easily shift according to the organization's strategic needs and..."*(More on P4)...(18)*

### President Stops All CDA Projects at Presidency Under Austerity

ISLAMABAD - President Dr Arif Alvi Friday ordered the Capital Development Authority (CDA) to stop the development projects being undertaken by it at the Aiwan-e-Sadr.

The projects have been stopped in pursuance of the government's austerity drive, spokesperson of Aiwan-e-Sadr said in a statement. (Monitoring Desk)

### President Xi: China to Promote Ties with Iran No Matter What

TEHRAN - Chinese President Xi Jinping says Beijing will continue to promote steady development of ties with Tehran no matter how the situation changes. He made the remarks on Friday during a meeting with Iranian President Hassan Rouhani on the sidelines of the Shanghai Cooperation Organization summit underway in the Kyrgyz capital of Bishkek, the official Xinhua news agency said. Xi condemned Washington's unilateral pullout from the 2015 nuclear deal with Tehran as the main reason behind rising tensions in the region, calling for the promotion of multilateralism. He stressed that Beijing will continue its strategic relations with Tehran in various fields, including fighting terrorism and systematic crimes. Rouhani said Iran and China's resistance in the face of US unilateralism could be in the interest of the two countries as well as the entire world. He further slammed Washington for violating international laws and unilaterally abandoning agreements, including the Joint Comprehensive Plan of

Action (JCPOA). "The US is violating all international norms, and is seeking to establish its dominance over Asia and the entire world," the president said. Iran and China, Rouhani said, have great capacities to develop their relations. "Due to its exceptional geographical location, Iran is ready to play a key role in the development of 'One Belt, One Road' Initiative," he said. Under the "One Belt, One Road" initiative, China aims to create a modern Silk Road economic belt and a 21st century maritime Silk Road to boost trade. Projects under the plan include a network of railways, highways, oil and gas pipelines, power grids, Internet networks, maritime and other infrastructure links across Central, West and South Asia to as far as Greece, Russia and Oman. Heading a high-ranking political delegation, Rouhani left Tehran for Bishkek on Thursday. The Iranian president was about to deliver a speech to the 19th SCO summit and later meet participating leaders, including Russian President Vladimir Putin. (Press TV)

### Pope Warns Oil Execs of Need for "Rapid" Energy Transition

VATICAN CITY - Pope Francis warned oil executives on Friday that a "radical energy transition" to clean, low-carbon power sources is needed to stave off global warming as he pressed his environmental message in a closed-door Vatican summit. Francis also told industry leaders from the likes of Britain's BP and Italy's Eni that carbon pricing and science-based transparent reporting of carbon risks were essential to ensure the poorest don't suffer any more from the effects of climate change. Francis told the...*(More on P4)...(19)*

### Spain Court Blocks Jailed Catalan Separatist from Collecting MEP Credentials

MADRID - Spain's Supreme Court on Friday blocked Catalan separatist Oriol Junqueras from leaving jail to collect his credentials for the European Parliament, to which he was elected on May 26. Without the credentials, Junqueras, who is in prison awaiting the conclusion of a high profile trial on Catalonia's bid for independence from Spain, is unable to claim his seat in the European legislature. The court said its ruling did not mean he would permanently lose his European seat and that he must remain in jail while it concludes its deliberations surrounding the trial of 12 Catalan political leaders who led the region's secession push in 2017. Junqueras had been set to temporarily leave the prison...*(More on P4)...(20)*

### UK Leader Race Down to 6 Contenders, Boris Johnson in Front

LONDON - One of seven contenders to replace British Prime Minister Theresa May quit the Conservative Party leadership race on Friday, as front-runner Boris Johnson was accused by rivals of trying to dodge media scrutiny. Health Secretary Matt Hancock said that after the first round of voting it was clear he did not have the backing to win. He came fifth in a vote Thursday among 313 Conservative lawmakers, with 20 votes. Johnson, a former foreign secretary, won Thursday's ballot with 114 votes, more than



the next three candidates combined. Hancock did not say whom he planned to support. The 40-year-old had pitched himself as the face of a younger, modernizing generation in the Conservative Party, promising to deliver an...*(More on P4)...(16)*

### Turkey Says Would Retaliate against U.S. Sanctions Over Russian S-400s

ANKARA - Turkey will "take reciprocal steps" if the United States imposes sanctions over its purchase of Russian S-400 defenses, the Turkish foreign minister said on Friday, marking the latest step toward a standoff between the NATO allies. "If the United States takes any negative actions towards us, we will also take reciprocal steps," Mevlut Cavusoglu, the minister, said when asked about possible U.S. sanctions in an interview broadcast on Turkish TV. Ankara and Washington have sparred publicly for months over Turkey's purchase of the S-400 missile systems, expected to be delivered as early as next month. Washington has said that would trigger U.S. sanctions and sent a letter warning that Ankara would be pulled out of the F-35 jet program. The Turkish lira weakened to as far as 5.93 against U.S. dollar after the comment, to its weakest level in two weeks. "We are determined on the S-400 issue. No matter what the results will be, we will not take a step back," Cavusoglu said, adding it is impossible to cancel the order. The S-400s are not compatible with NATO's defense systems and Washington says they would compromise its F-35s, which Turkey also plans to buy. Turkey has proposed that the allies form a working group to assess the impact of the S-400s, but has yet to receive a response from the United States. (Reuters)

### Perfectly Preserved Head of Ice Age Wolf Found in Siberia

MOSCOW - Russian scientists have found the furry head of an Ice Age wolf perfectly preserved in the Siberian permafrost. The head of a wolf, which died 40,000 years ago, was discovered in the Russian Arctic region of Yakutia. Valery Plotnikov, a top researcher at the local branch of the Russian Academy of Sciences, said the animal belonged to an ancient subspe-

cies of wolf that lived at the same time as the mammoths and became extinct alongside them. Scientists said it was an adult, about 25% bigger than today's wolves, but did not say whether it was male or female. Plotnikov called the discovery unique because scientists previously only had found wolf skulls without tissues or fur, while this head has ears, a tongue and a perfectly preserved brain. (AP)