

## France Pushes \$15 Billion Credit Line Plan for Iran, If U.S. Allows It

PARIS/DUBAI - France has proposed offering Iran about \$15 billion in credit lines until year-end if Tehran comes fully back into compliance with its 2015 nuclear deal, a move that hinges on Washington not blocking it, Western and Iranian sources said.

French Foreign Minister Jean-Yves Le Drian said talks on the credit arrangement, which would be guaranteed by Iranian oil revenues, were continuing, but U.S. approval would be crucial. The idea is "to exchange a credit line guaranteed by oil in return for, one, a return to the JCPOA (Iran nuclear deal)...and two, security in the Gulf and the opening of negotiations on regional



security and a post-2025 (nuclear program)," Le Drian told reporters. "All this (pre)supposes that President Trump issues waivers." European leaders have struggled to dampen brewing confrontation between Tehran and

Washington since U.S. President Donald Trump pulled out of the deal, which assures Iran access to world trade in return for curbs on its nuclear program. The United States reimposed sanctions on Iran

last year and tightened them sharply this year. Iran has responded by breaching some of the limits on nuclear material in the deal, and has set a deadline for this week to take further steps. French President Emmanuel Macron has spent the summer trying to create conditions that would bring the sides back to the negotiating table. At a G7 meeting in France last month, Trump appeared open to the idea of credit lines, though U.S. officials later ruled out lifting sanctions as a condition for new talks.

An Iranian delegation was in Paris on Monday, including oil and finance officials, for talks to fine-tune details of ...*(More on P4)...(10)*

### U.S. Vice President Urges EU to Negotiate 'In Good Faith' on Brexit

DUBLIN - U.S. Vice President Mike Pence used a visit to Ireland on Tuesday to urge the European Union to negotiate "in good faith" with British Prime Minister Boris Johnson and reach a Brexit deal that respects British sovereignty. "The United States supports the United Kingdom's decision to leave the European Union but we also recognize the unique challenges on your border and I can assure you we will continue to encourage the United Kingdom

and Ireland to ensure any Brexit deal respects the Good Friday Agreement," Pence told a joint news conference with Irish Prime Minister Leo Varadkar. "But as the deadline for Brexit approaches, we urge Ireland and the European Union as well to negotiate in good faith with Prime Minister Johnson and work to reach an agreement that respects the United Kingdom's sovereignty and minimizes disruption to commerce." (Reuters)

VLADIVOSTOK - Russian Deputy Prime Minister Konstantin Chuychenko on Tuesday praised Russian-Chinese cooperation in the media sector. "Russian-Chinese media cooperation is an important component of the comprehensive partnership and strategic interaction between our countries," Chuychenko said at the fifth China-Russia Media Forum here. He noted that the Pacific port city of Vladivostok has become the "com-

mon media capital" of the two countries, where leaders of the largest media groups "who define the information picture in the space from Murmansk to Hainan" gathered. According to him, the number of organizations participating in Russian-Chinese media cooperation increased to 50 from 30 in the past 12 months. Last year, there were 60 joint events, but media organizations plan to double this number to 120 this year, including the third Russian-

### Russian Deputy PM Hails Media Cooperation with China



Chinese forum of new media in Wuxi, east China's Jiangsu Province in November, Chuychenko said. He said the two coun-

tries have been actively conducting cooperation in the field of movies and Russian films took the fourth place among ...*(More on P4)...(11)*

### UK Parliament Takes on Pivotal Day on Brexit



LONDON - Lawmakers returned from their summer recess Tuesday for a pivotal day in British politics as they challenged Prime Min-

ister Boris Johnson's insistence that the U.K. will leave the European Union on Oct. 31, even without a withdrawal agreement to cushion

the economic blow. Amid loud cries from protesters on the streets surrounding the House of Commons, the lawmakers turned to a key piece of legislation on their agenda that would prevent an immediate no-deal exit. If it passes this week, Johnson's Downing Street office said he'll call an early election - taking his role as Brexit champion directly to the people. Johnson, who took power in July, has tried to crack down on members of his Conservative Par-

ty who oppose his Brexit plans, warning they would be expelled from the party if they supported the parliamentary efforts to block or delay the withdrawal. The so-called rebels, many of whom have been among the party's lions for decades, are responding with acerbic commentary on TV, social media and the newspapers. Dominic Grieve, who was attorney general in David Cameron's government, says the expulsion threats ...*(More on P4)...(12)*

### Singapore Hotels See Best Month in Years Amid Hong Kong Turmoil

SINGAPORE - Singapore's hotel occupancy rates have climbed to their highest in over a decade as travelers and business events switched from Hong Kong, where pro-democracy protests have slammed tourist numbers and wider business sentiment. Data released on Monday by Singapore's tourism board showed average occupancy rates in the city-state's hotels hit 93.8% in July, the highest in records going back to 2005, and

up from 92.5% a year ago. The data also showed the highest revenue per room in almost four years, a trend analysts and hoteliers said was helped by conferences switching from rival business hub Hong Kong as protests that started in mid-June turned increasingly violent. "Singapore may benefit twice as much from the Hong Kong fallout as both these destinations share similar ...*(More on P4)...(15)*

### Italian Parties Agree Agenda to Form New Government; 5-Star Votes on Deal

ROME - Italy's anti-establishment 5-Star Movement and center-left Democratic Party (PD) unveiled a shared policy program on Tuesday for their mooted coalition, putting an expansionary 2020 budget at the top of their agenda. 5-Star, created a decade ago out of opposition to the PD, has agreed to form a new administration with its former foes to head off a snap election after its previous coalition with the far-right League collapsed last month. Supporters of 5-Star are holding an on-line ballot on whether to support the proposed coalition and results are due by 1730 GMT. Shortly after the voting started, the parties published a 26-point program that would underpin the planned government. "This is a very delicate moment for the country. It must be tackled by focusing on the interests and needs of citizens, of the community that we all form together," ...*(More on P4)...(16)*

### Mexican President Says Spending on Security Will Increase in 2020

MEXICO CITY - Mexican President Andres Manuel Lopez Obrador said on Tuesday that the federal budget for security will increase next year, as the government seeks to curb high levels of violent crime. Lopez Obrador, who was speaking at his regular morning news conference, did not provide more details. The 2020 budget plan is due to be presented to Congress by Sept. 8. (Reuters)

### Pence Aide Defends Stay at Trump Property in Ireland

DUBLIN - A top aide to U.S. Vice President Mike Pence is defending Pence's decision to stay at one of President Donald Trump's properties in Ireland amid criticism by Democrats that he is enriching Trump at taxpayers' expense. Marc Short, Pence's chief of staff, told reporters aboard Air Force Two on Tuesday that the decision to stay at Trump International Golf Links in Doonbeg was made at Trump's "suggestion" and that Pence and his entourage will not be staying



for free. But Short said Pence's office followed official protocol and received State Department sign-off, adding that the club is the "one facility" in the Doonbeg area that can accommodate a group of their size. Pence, who is traveling with his wife, mother and sister, coincidentally has deep family ties to the village of Doonbeg and visited with his children in 2013. He had originally planned to visit the village at the end of his trip, ...*(More on P4)...(13)*

### Turkish Minister Threatens Istanbul Mayor Over Ousted Kurdish Mayors

ANKARA - Turkey's interior minister on Tuesday threatened "to devastate" the mayor of Istanbul over his support for three Kurdish mayors who were replaced by state officials over alleged terror links less than five months after the trio were elected. Last month, Turkey replaced pro-Kurdish Peoples' Democratic Party (HDP) mayors in Diyarbakir, Van and Mardin with state officials, and detained more than 400 people over suspected militant links, in a move sharply criticized by the opposition. Istanbul Mayor Ekrem Imamoglu -

who dealt President Tayyip Erdogan the biggest defeat of his career when he defeated the ruling AK Party (AKP) in June local elections - has slammed the move as illegal and undemocratic and called for it to be reversed. At the weekend Imamoglu - of the main opposition Republican People's Party (CHP), who was backed by HDP when he was elected in June - visited Kurdish town of Diyarbakir and met with two of the ousted mayors. Erdogan ...*(More on P4)...(14)*

### Tanzania Lawmakers Protest Against Expulsion from Parliament of Critic of President

DAR ES SALAAM - Opposition lawmakers in Tanzania on Tuesday boycotted the swearing in of a ruling party lawmaker who replaced a fierce critic of the president following his expulsion from parliament. Tundu Lissu, who survived an assassination attempt in September 2017 when he was shot 16 times by unknown gunmen, was dismissed from parliament in June over absenteeism and ethical issues. Parliamentary chief whip of the main opposition party CHADEMA, Lissu was initially treated for his wounds in Kenya but since January 2018 has been recuperating in Belgium. His expulsion resulted in a by-election for his parliamentary seat, won last month by a ruling CCM party candidate who ran unopposed. A vocal opponent of President John Magufuli, Lissu was arrested on several occasions and charged with incitement before the gun attack in broad daylight in 2017. A former British colony of 57 million people, Tanzania has long been regarded as one of Africa's most stable democracies. But critics accuse Magufuli's government of cracking down on dissent. His administration has suspended some newspapers, arrested opposition leaders and restricted political rallies. The government has rejected the criticism. Lissu's expulsion could further weaken the opposition's voice in parliament, ...*(More on P4)...(17)*

## Neighbor News

### Saudi, UAE Fms to Visit Pakistan amid Kashmir Lockdown

ISLAMABAD - The foreign ministers of Saudi Arabia and the United Arab Emirates are slated to visit Pakistan on Wednesday amid a standoff between Islamabad and New Delhi over the abrogation of the special status of occupied Kashmir and a subsequent lockdown by the Indian forces till date. Saudi Minister of State for Foreign Affairs Adel bin Ahmed Al-Jubeir will be in Islamabad for a day-long official visit, wherein he will hold meetings with Pakistan's top civil and military leadership. According to a statement issued by the Saudi Embassy in Islamabad, the top Saudi diplomat will call upon Prime Minister Imran Khan, Foreign Minister Shah Mahmood

Qureshi and Chief of Army Staff (COAS) General Qamar Javed Bajwa to discuss bilateral matters and the regional situation, including the Kashmir crisis. Meanwhile, Prime Minister Imran and Saudi Crown Prince Mohammed bin Salman (MBS) discussed "latest developments in the region" in a telephonic conversation. According to the agency, the two "reviewed relations between the two countries and the latest developments in the region". Tuesday marked the third time in less than a month when Prime Minister Imran and Saudi crown prince MBS discussed grave rights violations in Indian held Kashmir over the telephone. (Agencies)

### Tourism to Boost as Iranian Mps Endorse Rouhani's Picks for Newly-Formed Ministry

TEHRAN - Iran's Parliament (Majlis) has given its vote of confidence to President Hassan Rouhani's nominees for the Education Ministry and the newly-established Ministry of Cultural Heritage, Tourism and Handicrafts. After extensive debates during a parliament session on Tuesday, Rouhani's picks for the two ministries received the green light from the lawmakers. At the end of the session, Mohsen Haji Mirzaie, the proposed nominee for the Ministry of Education, won the vote of confidence with 200 Iranian lawmakers in favor, 48 against and seven abstentions. The post has been vacant after former minister Mohammad Bathaei

stepped down in June to run for the parliament. Some 163 lawmakers also gave their approval to Ali Asghar Mounesan, the president's pick for the Ministry of Cultural Heritage, Tourism and Handicrafts. Eighty-seven lawmakers opposed him for the post and five abstained. In August, Iran's Guardian Council, a body which vets legislation by the Iranian parliament, passed a bill for the formation of the Ministry of Cultural Heritage and Tourism. The bill submitted to the parliament by the administration of President Rouhani had gained the approval of 143 out of 158 lawmakers in a session in the chamber last month. (Press TV)

### Turkmenistan Takes Measures to Increase Productivity of Fuel, Energy Complex

ASHGABAT - All sectors of the domestic fuel and energy complex of Turkmenistan, in which huge investments are made, should increase their productivity, Trend reports citing Turkmen media. President of Turkmenistan Gurbanguly Berdimuhamedov announced this during a working meeting held on Monday with the participation of leaders of the oil and gas complex and the governor of Ashgabat. The meeting examined

the preparations for the celebration of Independence Day, as well as a number of other issues. Stressing the importance of creating multi-vector export routes for Turkmen energy resources to the world market, increasing the pace of the Turkmenistan-Afghanistan-Pakistan-India gas pipeline project, Berdimuhamedov drew attention to the fact that work in this direction should be carried out on an integrated basis. (Trend)

### Uzbekistan's Companies Are Represented on Electronic Trading Floors in Malaysia

TASHKENT - A number of Uzbekistan's enterprises took part in the exhibition and conference "Development of E-Commerce", organized by the Malaysia's Cloud Union in one of the largest trade and exhibition centers of the capital of the country, Sunway Pyramid Convention Centre. According to the Embassy of Uzbekistan in Malaysia, Cloud Union is engaged in developing special electronic platforms for development of e-commerce in Southeast Asia and today the online platform of seller companies developed by the company has more than 10 million subscribers.

More than 200 companies interested in selling their products through appropriate electronic trading platforms took part in these events, and the number of visitors amounted to about 15 thousand. The Malaysian public was particularly interested in high taste qualities of fruits and honey from Uzbekistan. In addition, those who attended this event expressed great interest in organizing business and tourist trips to the country in order to become familiar with cultural and historical heritage and explore the possibility of establishing trade-economic cooperation. (Agencies)