



Tusk: US JCOA withdrawal caused no positive effect

# IRAN DAILY



US sanctions obstructing Iran's efforts to fight transnational organized crimes

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## Rouhani urges national unity amid US sanctions



president.ir

President Hassan Rouhani hailed national unity as key to withstanding hardships amid US-imposed sanctions on Iran. "Without doubt we will get through this historic chapter through unity between the government and the people," Rouhani said on Saturday, Press TV reported. The president made the remarks on the advent of Iran's "Government Week", paying tribute along with his cabinet to Ayatollah Rouhollah Khomeini, the late founder of the Islamic Republic, at his mausoleum south of the capital Tehran. Every year starting on August 23, Iran marks Government Week commemorating the late President Mohammad Ali Rajaei and Prime Minister Mohammad

Javad Bahonar along with other government officials who lost their lives in a terrorist MKO bombing in the capital on August 30, 1981. Speaking at the ceremony, Rouhani stressed that Iran's enemies will cease attempting to undermine the country once they lose hope in their ambitions. "The enemy's hope of hope is our great objective. For our nation to gain hope in its future is, however, another and more important goal. As long as this hope endures, this path will also be carried on," he said. Referring to anti-Iran sanctions imposed by Washington after the Trump administration withdrew from the multilateral 2015 Iran nuclear deal last year, Rouhani stressed that "unity, endeavor

and resistance is what will render the enemy hopeless." Rouhani said Iran has striven to achieve good relations with countries of the East and the West, yet Trump's "amateur" government has created much trouble for the people of Iran, the region and the US. The president added that despite Washington's "increased pressure targeting the Iranian population over the past year", the country's situation is showing signs of improvement. "A recent bimonthly report along with statistics released yesterday by the Statistical Center of Iran reported that monthly inflation has decreased compared to previous months," he said.

## Zarif heading to Asia in push against US sanctions



IRNA

Iran's Foreign Minister Mohammad Javad Zarif will head to East Asia on Sunday, his office said, as part of a diplomatic push to win relief from biting US sanctions. Zarif will visit China, Japan and Malaysia, fresh on the heels of a tour of Western European nations, spokesman Seyyed Abbas Mousavi said late on Friday on the ministry's Telegram channel. "Seeking to follow up on and implement the Islamic Republic of Iran's proactive and balanced diplomacy, Zarif will head a delegation to China, Japan and Malaysia in East Asia starting on Sunday," Mousavi said. "Bilateral relations and most importantly regional and international issues are some of the topics our foreign minister will discuss with the aforementioned countries' officials during the trip," said Mousavi. Tehran has long-enjoyed close relations with a number of Asian and East Asian countries as part of a greater policy of diversifying and strengthening its foreign relations. Iran's ties with Asian countries have proven to be vital in countering US attempts to isolate the country, specifically after Washington withdrew from the multilateral 2015 nuclear deal last year and reimposed sanctions. Europe's failure to provide meaningful economic incentives as required under a 2015 deal and protect its trade with Iran against Washington's sanctions has also convinced Iran to further shift to the East. The United States imposed sanctions on Zarif late last month in a bid to target any assets he has in America and squeeze his ability to function as a globe-trotting diplomat. But Zarif hailed his visit to France on Friday following trips to Finland, Sweden and Norway.

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China warns US to stop 'wrong' trade actions or face consequences



Iran wins taekwondo World Cup gold, collects four poomsae medals



Iran's 32nd Nat'l Handicrafts Exhibition to open in Tehran

## Iranian tanker switches destination, heads to Turkey



REUTERS

An Iranian-flagged oil tanker pursued by the US amid heightened tensions between Tehran and Washington changed its listed destination to a port in Turkey instead of southern Greece early Saturday.

The Adrian Darya, formerly called the Grace I, was released from detention off Gibraltar after a five-week standoff over whether it was carrying Iranian oil to Syria in violation of European Union sanctions in mid-August which Iran denied.

The crew of the supertanker updated its listed destination in its Automatic Identification System to Mersin, Turkey, a port city in the country's south and home to an oil terminal.

Previous data had shown that the vessel, which carries 2.1 million barrels of Iranian crude oil worth some \$130 million, was heading to the port of Kalamata in Southern Greece. But new data from MarineTraffic on Saturday showed the vessel will now sail past Greece through the Mediterranean and dock at the southern Turkish port of Mersin. The ship-tracking website showed the Adrian Darya's position as just south of Sicily in the Mediterranean Sea. At current speeds, it estimated the Adrian Darya would reach Mersin in about a week. The United States, which claims the tanker is controlled by the Iran's Islamic Revolution Guards Corps has told countries in the region not to assist it.

The Adrian Darya had put its intended destination as Kalamata, Greece, even though the port did not have the infrastructure to offload oil from the tanker. The US State Department then pressured Greece not to aid the vessel.

The Adrian Darya's detention and later release by Gibraltar have added fuel to the growing tensions between Washington and Tehran, after Trump unilaterally withdrew America from Iran's 2015 nuclear deal with world powers over a year ago. The US reimposed and created sanctions largely blocking Iran from selling crude oil aboard, a crucial source of hard currency for the Islamic Republic.

AP and Reuters contributed to this story.

US President Donald Trump and EU leaders exchanged trade war threats Saturday as they arrived in France for a G7 summit of wealthy democracies overshadowed by trans-Atlantic tensions before it had even begun. "Trade wars will lead to recession, while trade deals will boost the economy," EU Council President Donald Tusk said in Biarritz, the chic Atlantic resort chosen by French host President Emmanuel Macron to stage the annual meeting, AFP reported. Trump flew into Biarritz on Air Force One hours after promising to impose punishing tariffs on French wine imports if Macron doesn't withdraw a tax on US tech giants. And Tusk vowed that the EU "will respond in kind."

"The last thing we need is a confrontation with our best ally, the United States," he said. "This is not our initiative, this trade and tariff struggle, but we have to be ready and we are ready."

It was a combative opening to the G7 summit, traditionally a forum for frank yet cordial discussions among leaders from the world's leading economies - but much less so since Trump's election.

European leaders are also using the summit to mount a tough push for action against fires in the Amazon rainforest, despite Brazilian right-wing President Jair Bolsonaro's angry re-

## Trump, EU clash over trade at G7 opening

### US president to face EU pressure over Iran nuclear deal

sponse to what he sees as outside interference.

Echoing a warning from France, Tusk said Bolsonaro's response to the fires and his downplaying of climate change threw into question a major EU-South America deal.

"We of course stand by the EU-Mercosur agreement, which is also about protecting the climate and the environment," he said.

"But it is hard to imagine a harmonious process of ratification by the European countries as long as the Brazilian government allows for the destruction of the green lungs of planet Earth."

### 'People mobilized'

G7 leaders were greeted by a mass protest outside Biarritz, though 13,000 police have been deployed to keep them far from view.

Organizers said 15,000 people rallied around 30 kilometers (20 miles) south of the G7 gathering at the border town of Hendaye for a march over the Bidassoa River toward the Spanish town of Irun.

Red, white and green Basque flags waved above a crowd that included anti-capitalists, environmental activists as well as a few dozen of France's "yellow vest" anti-government protesters, according to AFP journalists at the scene.



AP

"It's important to show that people are mobilized and do not accept the world they're offering us," said Elise Dilet, 47, of the Basque anti-globalization group, Bizi.

The rally was peaceful so far, after police said 17 people had been arrested as of Friday night amid clashes with protesters camped out near Hendaye.

### Escalating threats

Talks in the beach resort, known for fierce rainstorms that blow in from the Atlantic, will also be dominated by the darkening clouds over the world economy.

Wall Street stocks slumped Friday after Trump escalated his trade war

with China that is seen as responsible for a global slowdown.

"We don't need China and, frankly, would be far... better off without them," Trump tweeted on Friday, saying US companies were "hereby ordered to immediately start looking for an alternative to China."

His outburst came after China imposed tariffs on US imports worth \$75 billion in response to an earlier round of American measures.

Trump hit back immediately, raising tariffs still further.

And as he left for Biarritz, Trump also fired a salvo at France, threatening to slap heavy tariffs on its wine in response to its move to impose a sales tax on tech giants like Facebook, Ap-

ple and Google.

"Those are great American companies, and frankly, I don't want France going out and taxing our companies. Very unfair," he told reporters at the White House.

"And if they do that, we'll be taxing their wine... like they've never seen before."

In a televised address ahead of the summit, Macron said his goal was "to convince all our partners that trade tensions are bad for everyone".

### Iran nuclear program

Trump is likely to find himself under pressure from the Europeans, particularly Macron, to ease off on his policy of "maximum pressure" on Iran over its nuclear program.

Since pulling out of the landmark 2015 nuclear agreement limiting Tehran's nuclear program, Trump has slapped sanctions on the Iranian economy.

Macron wants him to put a "pause" on the policy, an aide said recently, which would enable talks to find a new diplomatic solution to the crisis.

Iranian Foreign Minister Mohammad Javad Zarif said on Friday that Macron's "suggestions" to find a way out of the current impasse were "moving in the right direction."