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Iran amasses more enriched uranium than allowed by nuclear deal



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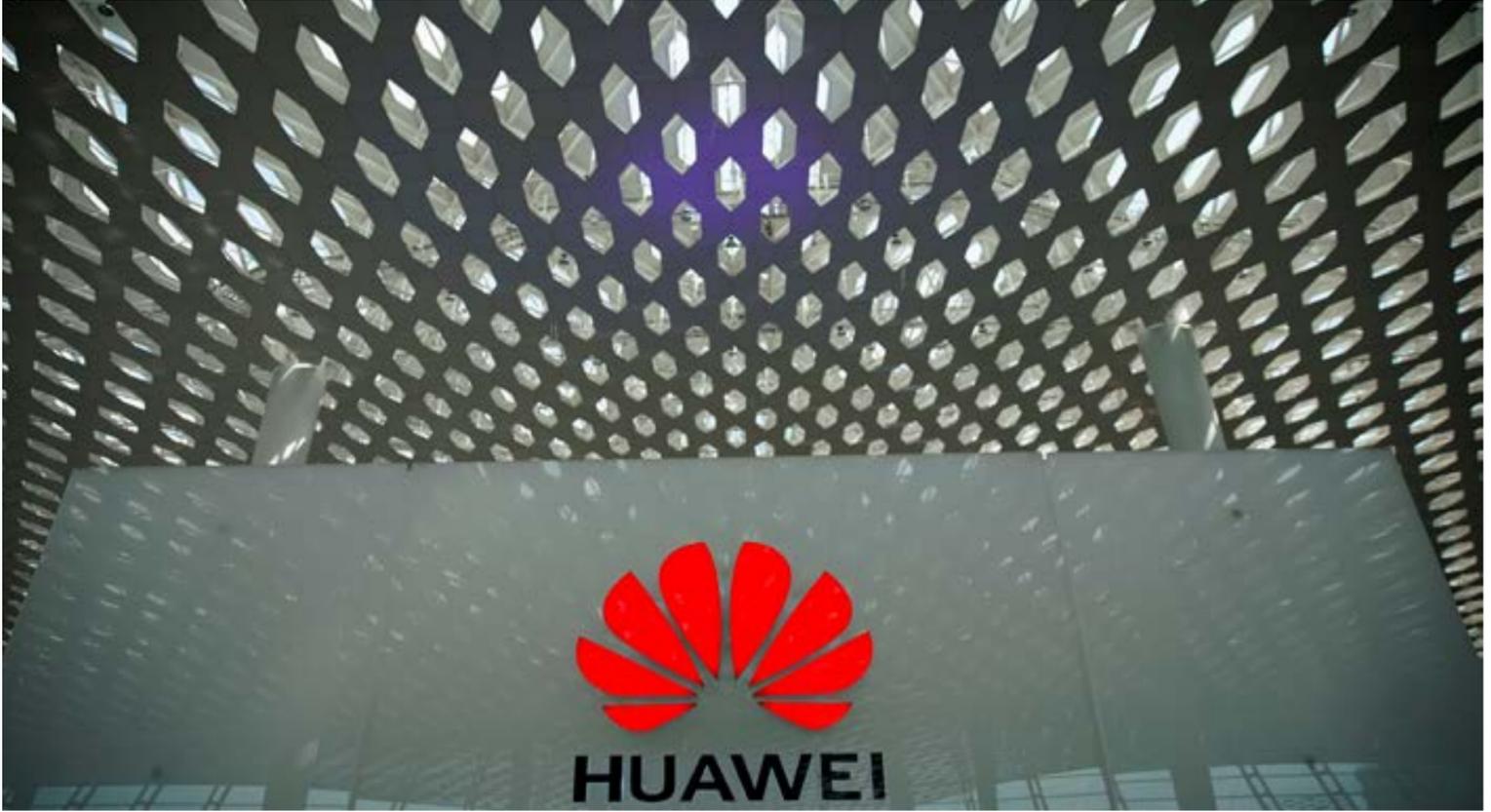
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Editor: John Robbins

Address: 11122 Bellaire Blvd., Houston, TX 77072
E-mail: News@scdaily.com

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Trump talk of easing Huawei ban lifts suppliers' shares despite doubts



FILE PHOTO: Saudi Arabian Energy Minister Khalid al-Falih, speaks during a news conference after an OPEC committee meeting

HONG KONG/TAIPEI (Reuters) - U.S. President Donald Trump's decision to allow U.S. firms to sell "high tech" products to Huawei led Asian investors to snap up shares in suppliers to the Chinese smartphone maker on Monday, even as some experts wondered what had changed. Huawei was put on a U.S. list in May that restricts U.S. tech firms such as Alphabet Inc's (GOOGL.O) Google from doing business with the Chinese telecom network gear maker, viewed as a security risk by Washington amid trade tensions with Beijing. Trump said on Saturday the ban was unfair to U.S. suppliers, who were upset that they could not sell parts and components to Huawei without U.S. government approval. However, he did not say which U.S. firms could resume supplying Huawei. While analysts had doubts about what it meant for the company, shares in Huawei's smartphone suppliers jumped in Asian trading on Monday as investors saw Trump's comments as a positive sign for its smartphone sales. OLED display panel maker BOE Technology Group (000725.SZ) and Shenzhen Goodix Technology (603160.SS), a maker of fingerprint sensors, climbed 10% to their daily limit. Taiwan's Foxconn (2317.TW), the world's top contract electronics assembler, and contract chipmaker TSMC (2330.TW) rose 3% and 4% respectively. "The White House's apparent U-turn ... is unlikely to give Huawei the products it really needs," Richard Windsor, founder of independent research firm Radio Free Mobile, said in a note. "And even if it did, it is quite possible that fatal damage has already been done to Huawei's smartphone business," he said. Trump's remarks were taken by some here tech bloggers here to mean that Google would be able to restore Huawei's access to Play Store and apps.



A 5G sign is pictured at Huawei's booth at Mobile World Congress (MWC) in Shanghai, China June 28, 2019. REUTERS/Aly Song



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Iran calls U.S. sanctions 'economic war', says no talks until they are lifted

GENEVA (Reuters) - Iran called U.S. sanctions "economic war" on Monday, and said there could be no talks with the United States until sanctions are lifted, a day after Washington suggested it could hold talks without pre-conditions if Iran changed its behavior.

"#EconomicTerrorism against Iran targets innocent civilians. Like this little boy, whose heartbroken mother can't get him prosthetic legs as he grows. They're sanctioned." Foreign Minister Mohammad Javad Zarif tweeted on Monday, with a video clip of a woman saying the prosthetic leg her son needs is sanctioned.

Reuters could not verify the authenticity of the video. "This is @realDonaldTrump's 'economic war'. And war and talks - with or without preconditions - don't go together," Zarif added in the tweet.

U.S. Secretary of State Mike Pompeo said on Sunday that the United States was prepared to engage with Iran without pre-conditions about its nuclear program but needs to see the country behaving like "a normal nation" first.

Tensions between the two foes have escalated in the past month, a year after the United States pulled out of a deal between Iran and global powers to curb Tehran's nuclear program in return for lifting sanctions.

Washington reimposed sanctions last year and tightened them sharply at the start of last month, ordering all countries to halt imports of Iranian oil. It has also hinted at military confrontation, sending extra forces to the region to counter what it describes as Iranian threats.

Iran for its part has responded by threatening to increase its production of enriched uranium beyond limits set in the nuclear agreement, although it has not done so yet. Both sides have made repeated remarks in recent weeks about possible talks to resolve their differences, while saying that the other side must act first.



FILE PHOTO - Iranian Foreign Minister, Mohammad Javad Zarif, speaks during a news conference with Iraqi Foreign Minister Mohamed Ali Alhakim in Baghdad, Iraq May 26, 2019. REUTERS/Khalid Al-Mousily



Iranian President Hassan Rouhani speaks during a meeting with a group of Iranian athletes, in Tehran, Iran, June 1, 2019. Official President website/Handout via REUTERS

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Editor's Choice



Democratic presidential candidate and U.S. Senator Kamala Harris reacts as Alabama State Sen. Linda Coleman introduces her at a meet and greet for women voters in Birmingham



Soccer Football - Women's World Cup - Group B - Germany v China - Roazhon Park, Rennes, France - 2019 Germany's Giulia Gwinn celebrates scoring their first goal with team mates REUTERS/Stephane Mahe TPX IMAGES OF THE DAY



A guard lies on the ground after falling off his horse during the Trooping the Colour parade in central London, Britain REUTERS/Peter Nicholls TPX IMAGES OF THE DAY



U.N. Refugee Agency's special envoy Angelina Jolie speaks people in Riohacha



Fans of the late musician Dr. John march through the Treme neighborhood during a second-line parade celebrating the late New Orleans musician Dr. John in New Orleans



A person smiles during the Gay Pride Parade in Rome, Italy, REUTERS/Yara Nardi TPX IMAGES OF THE DAY



Members of the Coldstream Guards take part in the Trooping the Colour parade in central London, Britain. REUTERS/Peter Nicholls TPX IMAGES OF THE DAY



Students chain up themselves as they protest to demand authorities to scrap a proposed extradition bill with China, in Hong Kong, China REUTERS/Tyrone Siu

Is The Future Of The Burger Vegan?



Actresses Dorothy Sebastian and Joan Crawford, 1925. (Photo/Keystone-France/Gamma-Keystone/Getty)

Compiled And Edited By John T. Robbins, Southern Daily Editor

From every direction, the underpinnings of everyday life are under challenge — from the jobs Americans once held, to the allies we once embraced, to the decorum we tightly observed. Now, it's the hamburger — the very-nearly patriotic staple of every childhood and backyard barbecue — that's under threat.

What's happening: Last week, McDonald's became the latest major fast-food chain to serve plant-based burgers, saying it will test the "Big Vegan TS" in Germany. By the end of the year, such "non-meat burgers" will be in 7,200 Burger Kings, 1,000 Carl's Jrs., and hundreds of other fast-food joints.

•That's a lot of "imposter" burgers, as George Motz, one of the world's premier hamburger experts, calls the boom in laboratory-invented burgers. "If the next generation embraces these 100%, we will lose a sense of what a real burger should be. They are getting away from the real thing."

The big picture: The hamburger goes back to a surge of German immigrants in the 1800s. When they arrived in the U.S., they brought with them a standard cuisine — chopped meat on a plate, with

gravy. In the U.S., it morphed into the Hamburg Steak, a meatball-size dollop of beef between two slices of bread.

•In the decades since, each state and region of the country has made its own twist on the burger. Similar adjustments have happened as the burger has traveled to seemingly every country in the world.

•Now, the international community is embracing the gourmet burger at places like Smashburger, Shake Shack and Five Guys.



The original McDonald's Museum

It may seem like people are eating less and less red meat, but that impression holds only if you compare now with the hamburger's peak years. Beef-eating crashed along with the U.S. economy starting in 2008, but has picked up fitfully year by year and is back up to the equivalent of 229 burgers a year, or 4.4 burgers a week, according to the U.S.

Agriculture Department. It's a global phenomenon — from 2007-2017, the world consumed an average of 1.9% more meat each year, the Economist reports.

The somewhat jarring arrival of faux beef burgers is part of an unlikely shake-up of the country's cultural bedrock:

•There is a potential shift away from gas-guzzling trucks and SUVs to quiet electric.

•American football — versus the international version — is losing its cachet, as teens — their parents worried about permanent injury — drop the sport. More broadly, we have seen the near-demise of the traditional pickup game of basketball (along with street baseball and touch football).

•"Americans are intensely proud of their hamburger heritage. It's one of the only American food inventions in the last 100 years," Motz tells Axios. "Now we have invented the fake hamburger."

The burger is bigger than you might think: Motz, a Brooklyn filmmaker, has built a new globe-trotting career around his expertise with hamburgers, including a movie and four books (last year, he published "Hamburger America").



The first Whataburger

•Brazilians, he says, are absolutely crazy about burgers — he says he is soon traveling to Sao Paolo to demonstrate how to grill a better burger. Then he is on his way to do the same in Copenhagen and Paris, where he is to appear at Holybelly, a diner. "I have more Instagram followers in Buenos Aires and Sao Paolo than

in New York City."

•In the U.S., journalists are positioning the burger in the long culture war, with Republicans placing themselves on the side of beef-eating and suggesting that Democrats "want to kill all the cows." In February, Sebastian Gorka, the acerbic former Trump administration official, equated such thoughts with Stalinism.

Motz feels certain that, even if faux beef is taken up by lots of Americans, it will be only when they feel guilty for environmental reasons, such as the contribution of cows to climate change.

•Even millennials, the killers of mayonnaise, cheddar cheese and other American staples of bad eating, haven't — and won't — abandon the burger, he is certain.

•"Millennials require not just food but a story behind it. They have to have context." Such as nostalgia, which the burger has. (Courtesy axios.com)

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Thousands Are Suing Monsanto Over The Weedkiller Roundup Jury Returns \$2 Billion Verdict Against Monsanto For Couple With Cancer



Alva Pilliod, left, and Alberta Pilliod, third from left, with their lawyers after a jury ordered Monsanto to pay the Pilliods \$2 billion in damages. (Photo/Associated Press)

Compiled And Edited By John T. Robbins, Southern Daily Editor

(CNN) A jury handed an unparalleled \$2.055 billion verdict in favor of a couple in California who say their cancer was caused by long-term exposure to Monsanto's popular weed killer Roundup, according to the plaintiffs' attorneys.

The jury, in state court in Alameda County, reached its verdict two months after a federal jury in San Francisco awarded \$80 million to a man who claimed that Roundup had caused his non-Hodgkin's lymphoma. In August, a state court in San Francisco found that Roundup had caused the cancer of a school groundskeeper, awarding him \$289 million. A judge reduced that figure to \$78 million. That verdict is being appealed. The septuagenarian plaintiffs, Alva and Alberta Pilliod, used Roundup on their Northern California property for decades. In 2011, Mr. Pilliod, now 76, was given a diagnosis of non-Hodgkin's lymphoma. In 2015, his wife, who is 74, learned she had

the same disease. The verdict in Oakland includes more than \$55 million in compensatory damages to the couple and \$2 billion in punitive damages, a statement said.



Monsanto and thousands of plaintiffs are at odds over whether Roundup weedkiller can cause cancer.

The Pilliods' lawyer, R. Brent Wisner, argued in court that a billion-dollar judgment would send a message to the chemical gi-

ant. He based the amount of punitive damages, \$1 billion for each of the Pilliods, on what he said was Roundup's annual profit: \$892 million in 2017.

After the verdict, Mr. Wisner said in a statement, "The jury saw for themselves internal company documents demonstrating that, from Day 1, Monsanto has never had any interest in finding out whether Roundup is safe."

The verdict "is as clear of a statement as you can get that they need to change what they're doing," one of the plaintiffs' attorneys, Brent Wisner, told reporters Monday. It follows several recent losses the company has faced in court concerning Roundup. Thousands of similar cases are pending at the federal or state level.

Another lawyer for the couple, Michael Miller, said homeowners like the Pilliods were more at risk than professional gardeners because they were never told to wear any protective gloves or clothing.

A Bayer spokesman, Chris Loder, said in an interview, "Bayer believes the punitive verdict is excessive and unjustifiable."



A California jury handed an unparalleled \$2.055 billion verdict in favor of Alva Pilliod, left, and Alberta Pilliod, right, who said their cancer was caused by long-term exposure to Monsanto's popular weed killer Roundup.

The active ingredient in the herbicide, glyphosate, is the world's most widely used weed killer. Bayer has repeatedly declared that the chemical is safe, saying health regulators worldwide have come to the same conclusion.

"We have great sympathy for Mr. and Mrs. Pilliod," Bayer said in a statement, but "there is not reliable scientific evidence" to conclude the herbicide was the culprit.

"Bayer is disappointed with the jury's decision and will appeal the verdict in this case," it said in a statement after Monday's verdict. Appearing with her husband at a brief news conference after the trial, Ms. Pilliod said, "We can't do the things we used to be able to do, and we really resent Monsanto for that fact."

Last month, the Environmental Protection Agency issued an interim review that said the agency "continues to find that there are no risks to public health when glyphosate is used in accordance with its current label and that glyphosate is not a carcinogen."

Bayer's stock has taken a beating since the jury verdicts started coming in last summer, losing billions of dollars in value. Shares have fallen roughly 40 percent since Bayer completed its purchase of Monsanto in June.



Bayer, the parent company of Monsanto, insists that glyphosate -- the key ingredient in Roundup -- is safe.

Thousands of additional lawsuits against Monsanto, which Bayer acquired last year, are queued up in state and federal courts.

Bayer said the jury was presented with "cherry-picked findings" inconsistent with a statement last month by the US Environmental Protection Agency, which announced that glyphosate was not a carcinogen and posed no public health risk when used as directed.

"The contrast between today's verdict and EPA's conclusion that there are 'no risks to public health from the current registered uses of glyphosate' could not be more stark," Bayer said.

However, not all groups have mirrored the EPA's announcement. Cases like the Pilliods' surged after a World Health Organization report in 2015 suggested that glypho-

sate might cause cancer. The report, by WHO's International Agency for Research on Cancer, said glyphosate is "probably carcinogenic to humans." Bayer's statement on Monday said the plaintiffs "relied heavily" on the agency's 2015 assessment but called it "an outlier among international health regulators and scientific bodies."

Most lymphoma cases have no known cause, according to the American Cancer Society.



There have also been concerns about whether Monsanto has had undue influence over regulators, with internal company documents playing a key role in Monday's verdict, according to the plaintiffs' lawyers. In the statement, Michael Miller, another of the Pilliods' lawyers, said their case is different from two previous Monsanto trials "where the judges severely limited the amount of plaintiffs' evidence." He said the jury was shown a "mountain of evidence showing Monsanto's manipulation of science, the media and regulatory agencies to forward their own agenda."

Wisner said Monday that this evidence included emails and text messages between Monsanto and EPA officials.

A Monsanto spokeswoman previously denied that the company had ever paid, given gifts to or done anything else to curry favor with anyone from the EPA.

"This is going to continue until Monsanto and now Bayer takes responsibility for its product," Wisner said.

"This is not the end of this litigation," he said. "This is the beginning." (Courtesy cnn.com)

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