

MEDIA HIGHLIGHTS



Iran ready to boost security cooperation with Iraq: envoy

POLITICS TEHRAN — The Iranian ambassador to Baghdad has said Tehran is prepared to strengthen cooperation with Iraq in the fight against Daesh.

During a meeting with Nouri al-Maliki, former Iraqi prime minister and current chief of Islamic Dawa Party, in Baghdad on Sunday, Hassan Danaeifar said Tehran seeks to broaden its amicable relations and cooperation with Baghdad in all spheres, including security issues, Press TV reported.

He also congratulated Iraq on the recent liberation of the western city of al-Khalidiya from the grip of Daesh. Maliki, for his part, praised the Islamic Republic for its support to Iraq in the fight against terrorism.



Italian military delegation visits Iran's army units

POLITICS TEHRAN — An Italian military delegation visited different units of the Iranian Armed Forces, Nasim reported on Monday.

The five-member delegation, headed by a high-ranking general from the Italian Army General Staff, arrived in Tehran on Sunday for a four-day official visit. Besides visiting various units of the Iranian army the Italian military team will hold talks and exchange views with Iranian officials on military cooperation.



MPs to visit nuclear sites in Arak, Isfahan soon

POLITICS TEHRAN — An MP announced that several members of the Majlis National Security and Foreign Policy Committee will pay visits to the country's nuclear facilities in the provinces of Markazi and Isfahan.

Speaking to the Tasnim, Mojtaba Zonnoor, head of the nuclear board at the National Security and Foreign Policy Committee, said the MPs will visit the Arak heavy water reactor and Isfahan's UCF (uranium conversion facility).

The lawmakers' trip to the nuclear sites in Arak will be made in the next two weeks, he added.



Enemies seeking to confront Iran through hybrid warfare: commander

POLITICS TEHRAN — The Iranian Ground Forces chief said on Monday that enemies are seeking to confront the Islamic Republic of Iran by resorting to hybrid warfare.

Ahmadreza Pourdestan said enemies are using all kinds of threats, sanctions, economic pressures as well as soft warfare to get to their objectives in the region, IRNA reported.



Inspection office demands eviction of dual nationals

POLITICS TEHRAN — The General Inspection Office of Iran has asked the three legislative, executive, and judicial branches to dismiss staff with dual nationality, Hamshahri reported on Monday. In a letter to the heads of the branches on Saturday "I asked the heads of branches to eject these forces from office," GIO chief Nasser Seraj said on Sunday.



Larijani calls for ramped-up fight against goods smuggling

POLITICS TEHRAN — Iranian Parliament Speaker Ali Larijani has called for a relentless and inclusive fight against goods smuggling.

Pointing to the destructive impact of smuggled goods on the country's economy, Larijani said in order to defeat goods smuggling, police should use all of its power and capacity.



'Govt. prioritizes job creation in underprivileged regions'

POLITICS TEHRAN — First Vice President Es'haq Jahangiri said on Monday that the government has prioritized creating occupation in underdeveloped regions. During a meeting of the resistance economy headquarters, he said that unemployment can bring many negative consequences.

The government should support investment in the underprivileged regions of the country in a way that the investors become motivated economically to capitalize in such regions, he said. Jahangiri also said that the economy should be evaluated within the framework of resistance economy.

Iran asks UN to be impartial about regional crises

POLITICS TEHRAN — Deputy Foreign Minister Hossein Jaber Ansari said on Monday that the UN should be neutral in its efforts to settle crises in the Middle East region.

The UN is expected to make efforts in line with putting an end to current regional crises with total impartiality, he told reporters after a meeting with UN Emergency Relief Coordinator Stephen O'Brien in Tehran.

Jaber Ansari also said that "humanitarian catastrophe" is the main dimension of the ongoing crises in the region and cited genocide in Yemen as an example.

He also highlighted the necessity of sending humanitarian aid to war-stricken countries in the region.

He said that the regional crises are intertwined with security and political issues.

O'Brien was in Tehran on a two-day visit. On Sunday, he held meetings with a number of Iranian officials including Interior Minister Abdolreza Rahmani Fazli and Ali Akbar Velayati, senior advisor to the Leader.

During the meeting, the Iranian interior minister called on the UN to be more active in helping the people in need of humanitarian aid.

"These are major humanitarian crises that the United Nations should be actively involved in," Rahmani Fazli said.

In the meeting with O'Brien, Velayati said, "The Islamic Republic of Iran is ready to help the United Nations alleviate the suffering of people in the crisis-hit countries through whatever means and approaches."

Velayati and O'Brien also exchanged views on the last regional developments,



particularly the crises in Iraq, Syria, Yemen and Afghanistan, and ways to dispatch humanitarian aid to people in these countries.

Supreme National Security Council to decide on FATF: Takhtravanchi

POLITICS TEHRAN — Iranian Deputy Foreign Minister for European and American Affairs Majid Takhtravanchi has said that the Supreme National Security Council will decide on Iran's cooperation with the Financial Action Task Force on Money Laundering (FATF).

"Iran's cooperation with the FATF is being examined in the Supreme National Security Council and when a final decision is reached, it must be put into effect by the Foreign Ministry and other government departments," IRIB quoted Takhtravanchi as saying.

Following FATF's decision on June 24 to suspend some of its restrictions on Tehran, the anti-money laundering body called for Iran's cooperation and high-level political commitment to an anti-money laundering and anti-terror financing action plan.

Ali Akbar Velayati, a top advisor to Iran's Supreme Leader, said on Sunday that joining the FATF would restrict activities of some of revolutionary bodies.

"Iran should not necessarily comply with rulings of international financial institution. The international financial institutions

definitely seek to deprive Iran of international financial privileges," Velayati explained.

After a nuclear deal between Iran and six world powers, many international sanctions that had been put in place because of Tehran's nuclear program were lifted. However, the United States still has sanctions in place that prohibit trade with Iran.

On Washington's role in implementation of the nuclear deal, Takhtravanchi said the United States has failed to meet its commitments.



Iran, Britain restore full diplomatic relations

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"The upgrade in diplomatic relations gives us the opportunity to develop our discussions on a range of issues, including our consular cases about which I am deeply concerned, and which I have raised with Foreign Minister Zarif."

He added, "I hope this will mark the start of more productive cooperation between our countries, enabling us to discuss more directly issues such as human rights and Iran's role in the region, as well as ongoing implementation of the nuclear deal and the expansion of the trading relationship between both our countries."

Muslims should reconsider management of Hajj: Leader

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Hajj is a heavenly, earthly, divine and communal obligation. On the one hand, the commands "then remember Allah as you remembered your fathers, rather a greater remembering" [the Holy Quran, Sura al-Baqara, Ayah 200] and "remember Allah during the appointed days" [the Holy Quran, Sura al-Baqara, Ayah 203] and on the other hand, the declaration "whoever shall incline therein to wrong unjustly, We will make him taste of a painful chastisement" [the Holy Quran, Sura al-Hajj, Ayah 25] shed light on its infinite and diverse dimensions.

During this unparalleled obligation, temporal and spatial security bestows tranquility on the hearts of human beings like a clear sign and a brilliant star and draws hajj pilgrims out of the siege of insecurity by domineering oppressors that constantly threatens humanity and it helps humanity taste the pleasure of security during a particular period of time.

Abrahamic hajj, which Islam has presented to Muslims as a gift, is the manifestation of pride, spirituality, unity and glory. It demonstrates to ill-wishers and enemies the greatness of the Islamic Ummah and its reliance on God's eternal power. It highlights the distance between Muslims and the cesspool of corruption, humiliation and tyranny that international oppressors and bullies impose on human communities.

The Islamic and monotheistic hajj is the manifestation of being "firm against the unbelievers, compassionate among themselves" [the Holy Quran, Sura Fath, Ayah 29]. It is the stronghold of renouncing unbelievers and promoting friendship and unity among believers.

Those who have reduced hajj to a religious-tourist trip and have hidden their enmity and malevolence towards the faithful and revolutionary people of Iran under the name of "politicizing hajj", are themselves small and puny satans who tremble for fear of jeopardizing the interests of the Great Satan, the U.S.

Saudi rulers, who have obstructed the path of Allah and Masjid ul-Haraam this year and who have blocked the proud and faithful Iranian pilgrims' path to the Beloved's House, are disgraced and misguided people who think their survival on the throne of oppression is dependent on defending the arrogant powers of the world, on alliances with Zionism and the U.S. and on fulfilling their demands. And on this path, they do not shy away from any treason.

Almost one year has now passed since the horrifying events in Mina, as a result of which several thousand people tragically lost their lives- under the hot sun with thirsty lips- and this happened on the day of Eid while they were in the clothes of ihram. Shortly before that, another group of people were crushed to death in Masjid ul-Haraam while they were worshiping and performing tawaf and salat.

Saudi rulers were at fault in both cases. This is what all those present, observers and technical analysts agree upon. Some experts maintain that the events were premeditated. The hesitation and failure to rescue the half-dead and injured people, whose enthusiastic souls and enthralled hearts were accompanying their praying tongues on Eid ul-Adha, is also obvious and incontrovertible. The heartless and murderous Saudis locked up the injured with the dead in containers- instead of providing medical treatment and helping them or at least quenching their thirst. They murdered them.

Several thousand families from different countries lost their loved ones and their nations were bereaved. From the Islamic Republic, close to five hundred people were among the martyrs. The hearts of their families are still broken and bereaved and our people remain grief-stricken and angry.

Instead of apology and remorse and judicial prosecution of those who were directly at fault in that horrifying event, Saudi rulers- with utmost shamelessness and insolence- refused to allow the formation of an international Islamic fact-finding committee.

Instead of being tried as the accused, they acted like the plaintiff and with increased malice and vileness, they revealed their long-standing enmity towards the Islamic Republic and towards any flag of Islam raised to confront kufr and arrogance.

Their propaganda mouthpieces- from the politicians whose behavior towards the Zionists and the U.S. is a source of disgrace for the world of Islam, to impious and haraam-eating muftis who blatantly issue fatwas against the Book and Sunnah, and to media minions who are not even deterred by codes of professional conduct from spreading and telling lies- are making futile efforts to show that the Islamic Republic is at fault for depriving Iranian pilgrims of this year's hajj pilgrimage.

The fitna-promoting rulers who by forming and arming wicked takfiri groups, have plunged the world of Islam into civil wars, murdering and injuring the innocent and shed blood in Yemen, Iraq, the Levant, Libya and other countries- the godless politicians who have extended the hand of friendship towards the Zionist regime, have closed their eyes on the Palestinians' sufferings and heartrending tragedies and have spread their oppression and betrayal to the cities and villages of Bahrain- the irreligious and unconscionable rulers who gave rise to the great tragedy in Mina and in the name of being servants of the two holy places, sacrificed divine sanctity and God's guests on the day of Eid in Mina and in Masjid ul-Haraam shortly before that- these same people are now claiming the need to avoid politicizing

hajj and are accusing others of the great sins that they themselves have committed and caused.

They are the perfect example of the enlightening Quranic description: "And when he turns his back, his aim everywhere is to spread mischief through the earth and to destroy crops and cattle and Allah does not love mischief. And when it is said unto him: Be careful of your duty to Allah, pride takes him to sin. Hell will settle his account, an evil resting-place" [the Holy Quran, Sura al-Baqara, Ayahs 205-206].

Based on reports, this year as well, besides barring the participation of Iranian pilgrims and pilgrims from certain other countries, they have placed pilgrims from the participating countries under unprecedented surveillance with the help of the spy agencies of the U.S. and the Zionist regime. They have made the divine sanctuary unsafe for everybody.

The world of Islam, including Muslim governments and peoples, must familiarize themselves with the Saudi rulers and correctly understand their blasphemous, faithless, dependent and materialistic nature. They must not let those rulers escape responsibility for the crimes they have caused throughout the world of Islam.

Because of these rulers' oppressive behavior towards God's guests, the world of Islam must fundamentally reconsider the management of the two holy places and the issue of hajj. Negligence in this regard will confront the Islamic Ummah with more serious problems in the future.

Muslim brothers and sisters! This year enthusiastic and sincere Iranian pilgrims are absent from the hajj ceremonies, but they are spiritually present among the pilgrims from different parts of the world and they are concerned about them and they pray that the evil progeny of the taghut do not succeed in harming them.

In your duas, worship and prayers, remember your Iranian brothers and sisters and pray that the sufferings be removed from Islamic communities and that the Islamic Ummah be liberated from the hands of the arrogant powers, the Zionists and their followers.

I commemorate those who were martyred in Mina and Masjid ul-Haraam last year and the martyrs of Makkah of the year 1987. I pray to Glorious God to bestow clemency and mercy and the highest positions on them.

I extend my greetings to the Imam of the Age- may my soul be sacrificed for his sake- and I ask Allah that the accepted prayers of that honorable Imam improve the Islamic Ummah and save Muslims from the fitna and malevolence of the enemies.

And providence belongs to Allah and reliance is on Him. Sayyid Ali Khamenei

Dhu al-Qa'dah, 1437-September 2016

(Source: Khamenei.ir)