

# Iran Rejects Obama's Remarks over Tehran Policy Change

TEHRAN - The Iranian Foreign Ministry has criticized US President Barack Obama for his remarks on Iran's policy towards Washington and Tel Aviv. "The US president has overlooked the trends and realities of the past four decades in the Iranian society," Iran's Foreign Ministry Spokeswoman Marzieh Afkham said on Thursday. Obama said earlier this week that Iran's policies against the US and Israel have made the country "a pariah in the eyes of a large part of the world." He further noted that "Iran would just by virtue of its



size, talent, [and] resources, immediately rise in its influence and its power in the eyes of the world"

if it changes its policies against the US and Israel. "Iran's might and position [in the world] is not only

dependent on its ancient Iranian and Islamic culture and civilization, but also on the Iranian people's

resistance against hegemony and threat as well as their support for oppressed nations," she added.

Afkham refuted Obama's claim that Iran is a "pariah" in the world, saying, "From our and many other free nations' point of view, the Zionist regime [of Israel] and its supporters are isolated and a pariah in the international community, and what needs change is the US policy and administrative system and its approach towards independent nations." Afkham stated that the US "has been the cause and supporter of warmongering, insecurity and instability in our region." (PressTV)

## Neighbour News

### The Indian and Turkish Ambassadors Visited the MFA of Tajikistan

DUSHANBE - The Minister of Foreign Affairs of the RT, Sirojiddin Aslov, accepted the Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary Ambassador of India in the Republic of Tajikistan, Mr. Asith Kumar Bhattacharjee due to the end of his diplomatic mission in Tajikistan. As mentioned by the information department of the MFA, the sides expressed their satisfaction with the dynamics of development of partnership relationships between Tajikistan and India and noted a need of practical implementation of the achieved agreements by the end of the high level dialogue in July of this year in Dushanbe. S. Aslov expressed his gratitude to the Indian Ambassador for the joint fruitful work and expressed his confidence

in Mr. Asith Kumar Bhattacharjee making significant contributions into diverse Tajikistan-Indian cooperation in future as well. According to the disseminated information, on 13 August, Sirojiddin Aslov also accepted the Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary Ambassador of Turkish Republic in the Republic of Tajikistan, Mr. Mehmet Munis Dirik due to the end of his diplomatic mission in Tajikistan. During the meeting the discussed issues included conditions and prospects of bilateral Tajik-Turkish relations as well as the burning regional ones. Aslov expressed his gratitude to the Turkish Ambassador for his contribution to strengthening and expansion of cooperation between the two countries. (Asia Plus)

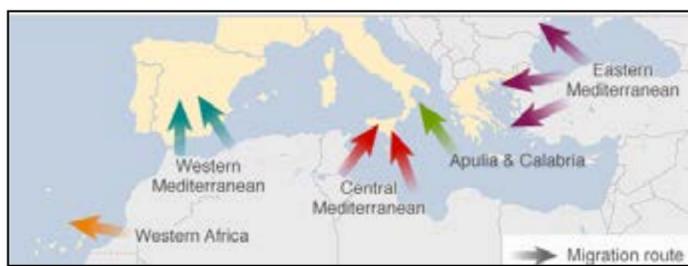
### UNHCR Welcomes Iraqi Announcement of Reform Package

GENEVA - The UN High Commissioner for Human Rights (UNHCR) on Friday welcomed the Iraqi government's adoption of a reform package, saying it amounted to concrete steps to reinforce the rule of law, improve governance and respect for human rights. "We are encouraged by these reforms and we call on the authorities to ensure that human rights are at the core of implementation," Ravina Shamdasani, the spokesperson for the UNHCR, told a press briefing Friday. "We continue to follow developments and our office stands ready to continue supporting efforts to this end," the spokesperson noted. Earlier this week, Iraqi Prime Minister Haider

al-Abadi announced a series of sweeping reforms, including canceling three vice presidential posts and three deputy prime minister posts, as part of his response to recent demonstrations against corruption and poor services. According to a statement issued by his office, Al-Abadi's seven-point plan included reduction of ministries and agencies in order to increase efficiency and reduce expenditures. Al-Abadi's move came after massive demonstrations in the Iraqi capital of Baghdad and several other cities to protest slack public services, power shortages and massive corruption. (Xinhua)

## EU Struggling to Deal with Migration Crisis : Commissioner

BRUSSELS - EU Commissioner for Migration Dimitris Avramopoulos on Friday said Europe is struggling to deal with the high influx of migrants. Avramopoulos indicated the situation in Greece has become particularly urgent, with almost 50,000 migrants arriving in July, while 35,000 arrived in Hungary in the same period. "Hungary is joining Italy and Greece as the member states most exposed, on the frontline," the commissioner said. "We provide help where



we can and to the greatest extent possible," he added, saying the European Commission approved national funding programs for Greece that amount to 474 million euros (528 million U.S. dollars) earlier this

week. Avramopoulos called on all EU member states to help Greece provide immediate humanitarian assistance to migrants in the eastern Aegean islands. "There is no simple nor single answer to the

challenges posed by migration. And nor can any member state effectively address migration alone. It is clear that we need this new, more European approach," he said in a statement. (Xinhua)

## Russia Steps up Demand for U.S. to Drop European Missile Shield

MOSCOW - Russia urged the United States on Friday to scrap plans to station parts of a missile shield system in Europe now that Iran has reached an agreement with world powers to limit its nuclear program. Moscow has long opposed the plan, which it sees as a threat to its nuclear deterrence, and vowed to retaliate if it goes ahead. Washington

has previously assured Moscow the shield was meant as protection from "rogue" states like Iran, and not directed against Russia. Since the July agreement under which Tehran agreed to curb its nuclear program in exchange for an easing of U.N., U.S. and European Union sanctions, Moscow has stepped up its rhetoric against

the missile shield. "We don't see any reason to continue with the program, let alone at such an accelerated pace and with a clear aim at the Russian nuclear potential," Deputy Foreign Minister Sergei Ryabkov told reporters. The latest spat threatens to further worsen a deep chill in ties between Moscow and Washington, now at their lowest

point since the Cold War because of the conflict in Ukraine. Russian Foreign Minister Sergei Lavrov last week said Barack Obama "was not telling the truth" in comments he made in 2009 linking the need for a missile shield to what the president called the "real threat" from Iranian nuclear and ballistic missile activity. (Reuters)

## U.S. "Human Rights" Push to Complicate Kerry's Cuba Trip

MEXICO CITY - U.S. Secretary of State John Kerry will be in Cuba Friday to officially inaugurate his country's new embassy in Havana, and resume diplomatic ties between the two nations. As the day nears, however, he has come under increasing pressure to put diplomacy aside and use the event as a political pulpit to school Cuba on human rights, regardless of the United States' own appalling record. U.S. Senator Marco Rubio addressed



a letter to Kerry Monday, urging him to use the opportunity of his Aug. 14 trip to Havana to demand the freedom and rights of the Cuban people. "During your meetings with Cuban

officials, you should demand that all political prisoners are released ... you should meet with the courageous leaders who are fighting to bring freedom to Cuba and invite them to

the ceremony you will be presiding over at the new American embassy," Rubio said. Last week, Elliott Abrams, an influential U.S. foreign policy expert, wrote to the influential think tank, the Council on Foreign Relations, and cautioned Kerry about what he will say about human rights and whom he will meet in Cuba, while recommending the envoy to invite dissidents to the ceremony at the risk of causing Cuban... (More on P4)...(21)

### Tajikistan to Observe Parliamentary Elections in Kyrgyzstan



BISHKEK -The Central Election Commission of Tajikistan received invitation from the Executive Committee of the Commonwealth of Independent States with a request to observe the parliamentary elections in Kyrgyzstan, which will be held on 4 October 2015, reported Abdumannon Dodozoda, the head of the Central Election Commission's office. Tajik observers will be included in the mission of CIS Executive Committee to participate in Kyrgyz parliamentary elections,

says Dodozoda. He noted the personal staff of observers will be known by early September. On August 2, the Central Election Commission of Kyrgyzstan has completed accepting applications for participation in the elections of 2015. Thirty four parties are going to compete for seats in the Kyrgyz parliament. The parties must make an election deposit of 5 million soms on August 25, and since August 20 - provide lists of candidates. (AKIpress)

### Turkey Builds Concrete Wall Along Syria Border after Attacks

ISTANBUL - The Turkish military has started building a concrete wall along the border with Syria following a series of attacks, state media said Friday. The Turkish Armed Forces (TSK) is building the three metre (10 feet) high wall in the Reyhanli district of Hatay province just across from the Syrian town of Atme, the official Anatolia news agency said. The military is also digging ditches just behind the wall, which will stretch eight kilometres



(five miles), Anatolia said. A bombing killed 33 people in a mainly Kurdish town in southern Turkey on July 20, ending a truce between Ankara and the rebel Kurdistan Workers' Party (PKK), which is active in southeastern Turkey. The toll rose over-

night when one of the wounded succumbed to his wounds in hospital. Turkey said the attack was carried out by the IS group, and launched a two-pronged offensive to bomb its militants in Syria as well as PKK rebels in northern Iraq and southeast Turkey. (AFP)

### Migrants in Germany see People's Best and Worst Side

BERLIN - Fleeing war and poverty, record numbers of refugees have made it to Germany, only to face another kind of chaos - desperately overcrowded shelters struggling under the massive influx. In UK, heated debate as migrants' numbers grow across the Channel Christian Science Monitor All over Germany, asylum-seekers from as far as Syria and Afghanistan, and as close as Serbia and Albania, now live in cramped shelters, army barracks and tent cities, often traumatised by the



past and fearful about the future. "What we are doing is crisis management," said Murat Sivri, head of a refugee centre in the western city of Dortmund. "This has assumed crazy proportions." For German cities, towns and villages, the biggest wave of asylum applications faced by

any European nation has brought home, literally, the impact of far-away conflicts and crises. It has also brought out the best and worst in the local host communities. In the ugliest cases, xenophobic protesters and far-right thugs have hounded and abused the foreigners. (AFP)

### Pakistan President Vows Tensions-Free Ties with India

ISLAMABAD - Pakistan President Mamnoon Hussain used his speech on the Independence Day on Friday to reiterate his country's quest for tensions-free relations with neighboring India. Hussain's remarks come amidst tensions between the neighbors over the cross-border shelling in recent days that caused casualties on both sides. Top national security advisers of Pakistan and India will meet in New Delhi later this month to discuss anti-terrorism cooperation including measures to check the escalation of tensions along the Line of Control in the disputed Kashmir region. President Mamnoon Hussain said Pakistan desires peaceful coexistence with India and all other neighboring countries but any

"threat to its security will be thwarted." Addressing the National Flag hoisting ceremony to mark the Independence Day celebrations in Islamabad, he however regretted what he called the "acts of aggression" on the eastern borders with India. Pakistan and India had declared a ceasefire in 2003 and guns had relatively silent on the LoC that divide the two countries in Kashmir; however, both sides occasionally exchange fire. Both accuse each other of violation of the ceasefire. "Pakistan is pursuing a bold and effective foreign policy as a result of which its image has improved in the comity of nations," President Hussain told a largely-attended gathering. Earlier, the president, along with Prime Minister... (More on P4)...(22)

### Iran Stresses Need for Global Cooperation in Fighting Terrorism

TEHRAN - Iran Stresses Need for Global Cooperation in Fighting Terrorism Iranian Foreign Minister Mohammad Javad Zarif has warned of the threats posed by the Daesh Takfiri terrorist group as well as extremism and violence, urging a collective effort to battle the menaces. Countering these evil scourges requires global determination and cooperation among different countries, Zarif said in a meeting with Indian Prime Minister Narendra Modi in New Delhi on Friday. He said Iran has always played an instrumental

and constructive role in regional developments and sought to safeguard the security of the region. Commenting on the recent agreement reached between Iran and six world powers on Tehran's nuclear program, Zarif said that the Joint Comprehensive Plan of Action (JCPOA) has "in a balanced and even manner" fulfilled the demands of the two sides. The JCPOA has had and will have "constructive effects on regional developments by promoting the approach of negotiations and cooperation and the ... (More on P4)...(23)

### Beijing to Inspect Dangerous Chemicals after Tianjin Explosion

BEIJING - Beijing has ordered inspections of all manufacturers or enterprises that deal with dangerous goods after a fatal blast at a warehouse in Tianjin on Wednesday. The city's work safety department will inspect all manufacturers and explosive-product enterprises, said Zhang Yankun, Beijing vice mayor, on Thursday. In preparation for the military parade on Sept. 3 and the Athletics World Championships from Aug. 17 to Sept. 6, production and operation at these companies and plants will be suspended. All toxic

chemicals must be sealed, stored and guarded by designated personnel, the vice mayor added. The work safety department also ordered all enterprises in the capital to strengthen safety measures against thunder, fire and explosion. The State Council, China's cabinet, issued an emergency notice on Friday that instructed governments at all levels to review the management of dangerous chemicals and explosives and to firmly implement special regulatory measures for highly toxic chemicals such as c... (More on P4)...(24)