

## US Calls Emergency Nuclear Watchdog Meeting over Iran, after Spurning It for 3 Years

TEHRAN - The US has called an emergency meeting of the UN nuclear watchdog after Iran's uranium stockpile exceeded the 2015 nuclear deal's limits. That's the same body whose reports of Iran's compliance Washington has ignored for years.

"The international community must hold Iran's regime accountable," US Ambassador to International Organizations Jackie Wolcott said in a statement calling for a special meeting of the International Atomic Energy Agency's (IAEA) Board of Governors to discuss what it calls the group's "latest, concerning report" on the Iranian nuclear program. "The United States strongly



supports the IAEA and its verification efforts in Iran," the statement continued.

Such support is new for the US, which ignored years of IAEA reports certifying the Iranian government was compliant with the terms of

the 2015 nuclear deal in order to pull out of that deal unilaterally last May, reimposing sanctions while declaring Iran was violating it.

Back then, the US scorned the IAEA, which has confirmed Iran's compliance with the deal quar-

terly under what it calls the "world's most robust nuclear verification regime," in favor of Israel, whose PM Benjamin Netanyahu has been claiming Iran was months away from a nuclear weapon since the early 1990s.

Netanyahu, whom Iranian Foreign Minister Javad Zarif called "the boy who cries wolf," declared he had proof Iran was lying about building nuclear weapons when it entered the deal, even though the IAEA had already seen and discounted a lot of the "proof," judging that work on weapons development had ceased in 2003.

Iran declared on Monday it ... (More on P4)...(9)

## Neighbor News

### Top Official Says Iran Ready for Higher Uranium Enrichment

TEHRAN, Iran — A top aide to Iran's supreme leader says the Islamic Republic is ready to enrich uranium beyond the level set by Tehran's 2015 nuclear deal, just ahead of a deadline it set Sunday for Europe to offer new terms to the accord. A video message by Ali Akbar Velayati included him saying that "Americans directly and Europeans indirectly violated the deal," part of Tehran's hardening tone with Europe. European parties to the deal have yet to offer a way for Iran to avoid the sweeping economic sanctions imposed by President Donald Trump since he pulled the U.S. out of the accord a year ago, especially those targeting its crucial oil sales.

All this comes as America has rushed thousands of troops, an aircraft carrier, nuclear-capable B-52 bombers and advanced fighter jets to the Mideast. Mysterious oil tanker attacks near the Strait of Hormuz, attacks by Iranian-backed rebels in Yemen on Saudi Arabia and Iran shooting down a U.S. military

drone have raised fears of a wider conflict engulfing the region.

In the video, available Saturday on a website for Supreme Leader Ayatollah Ali Khamenei, Velayati said that increasing enrichment closers to weapons-grade levels was "unanimously agreed upon by every component of the establishment."

"We will show reaction exponentially as much as they violate it. We reduce our commitments as much as they reduce it," said Velayati, Khamenei's adviser on international affairs. "If they go back to fulfilling their commitments, we will do so as well."

Under the atomic accord, Iran agreed to enrich uranium to no more than 3.67%, which is enough for peaceful pursuits but is far below weapons-grade levels of 90%. Iran denies it seeks nuclear weapons, but the nuclear deal sought to prevent that as a possibility by limiting enrichment and Iran's stockpile of uranium to 300 kilograms (661 pounds). (AP)

### Corrupt Politicians Posing Threat to Democracy: Sh Rashid

LAHORE - Federal Minister for Railways Sheikh Rashid Ahmed on Saturday said corrupt politicians could pose serious threat to democracy in the country.

Addressing a press conference at Pakistan Railways (PR) Headquarters, he said next 90 days including the current month were very significant for

politics in the country as the corrupt elements would be taken to task.

The minister said Shehbaz Sharif was made opposition leader in National Assembly through a conspiracy to get escape from jail, adding, production orders of those facing any accusations should not be issued. (Monitoring Desk)

### Central Asian Countries to Create United Electricity Market

DUSHANBE - Central Asian countries signed a joint declaration on regional cooperation in the field of energy reforms and creation of a united electricity market, Trend reports with reference to press service of the Ministry of Energy of Uzbekistan. The document was signed in the framework of the second Central Asian Conference on Energy Reform, held in Istanbul, Turkey.

The conference was attended by heads of state-owned energy companies and ministries of energy of the countries of Central Asia and Afghanistan as well as representatives of international

organizations.

The participants discussed issues of integration of the regional energy systems and cooperation in this sphere. The Asian Development Bank expressed readiness to assist the states of the region in enhancing close collaboration.

Earlier, Deputy Minister of Energy of Uzbekistan Sherzod Khodzhayev stated that the country plans to build a sufficiently large number of power lines to enhance integration in the region. As reported, it is also planned to create International Wholesale Electricity Exchange in Tashkent in the near future. (Trend)

### Uzbekistan, Kazakhstan Hold Talks on Demarcation of Borders

TASHKENT - Joint Uzbek-Kazakh demarcation commission held a series of meetings from July 1 to July 5, 2019, in Almaty, Kazakhstan, Trend reports with reference to the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Uzbekistan.

Delegations from the two countries continued to work on the drafting of the final documents on the demarcation of the interstate border. The commission has agreed on specific dates for commencing work on certain parts of the interstate border.

As a result of the negotiations, the heads of delegations signed the

relevant protocol.

As reported, the issue of the demarcation of the interstate border was earlier discussed at a meeting of delegations of Uzbekistan and Turkmenistan, which was held in the city of Urgench in Uzbekistan. Uzbekistan and Tajikistan have also agreed on a schedule of field work to demarcate the borders between the countries. The meeting of the delegations of the two countries on the organizational and legal issues of the demarcation of the Uzbek-Tajik state border was held on April 11-17 in Samarkand, Uzbekistan. (Trend)

### UN Envoy for Syria Urges Russia to Help Stabilize Idlib

MOSCOW — The U.N.'s special envoy for Syria on Friday urged Russia to help stabilize the violence in northwestern Idlib province and support drafting the nation's new constitution. During talks with Russian Foreign Minister Sergey Lavrov, Geir Pedersen voiced hope that Russia and Turkey could help reduce tensions in Idlib.

"It's a very difficult situation," he said. "And I hope that the cooperation between Russia and Turkey will help to stabilize the situation in

Idlib." Russia and Turkey have closely coordinated their actions in Syria, signing a de-escalation deal for Idlib, the last major rebel stronghold in Syria's eight-year civil war. That deal has recently been tested by increased fighting, raising the prospect of a government offensive and a major humanitarian crisis. Pedersen said he would travel to Syria early next week for talks on forming a constitutional committee. "We ... (More on P4)...(14)

CARACAS - Venezuela's President Nicolás Maduro presented a grand military parade on Friday to mark his country's independence day, basking in his power as commander in chief.

Maduro applauded and pumped his fist as soldiers marched past, tanks rolled by and fighter jets rushed over at a Caracas military base. A unit of camouflaged special forces, with their weapons drawn, shouted their loyalty as they paraded

by the presidential viewing stand.

"We look to the heavens, asking for peace," Maduro said. "All the while our military exercises play out. We plead to God with our missiles pointed."

The parade demonstrated the military's continuing support for Maduro despite a political standoff with opposition leader Juan Guaidó. Known for using brutal tactics to crush his opponents, Maduro has come under intense criticism from not only Guaidó



but also leaders of other nations, including the United States, who all support the opposition leader's efforts in oust-

ing Maduro. Guaidó claimed presidential powers in January, drawing masses of ... (More on P4)...(10)

### Otto Warmbier's Parents Ask Court for Seized N. Korean Ship as 'Wrongful Death' Payment



PYONGYANG - The parents of late US student Otto Warmbier have mixed personal tragedy with politics,

asking a court for the North Korean trade ship the US captured in May to be part of the \$501 million compensation

for their son's death. The Warmbiers' motion accuses Pyongyang of being reluctant to pay \$501 million in damages which the student's family was awarded by a US court in December, after it found North Korea "liable for torture, hostage taking and extrajudicial killing" of Warmbier, who died in June 2017 a day after he was flown in from North Korea to the US upon his release. Pointing out that Pyongyang has never attempted to negotiate a settlement, the Warm-

biers say they were "left to chase down the assets of North Korea to recover what they can for torture and death of their son at the hands of North Korea's dictator." Being unable to force North Korea, which does not recognize the extraterritorial powers of the US judicial system, to pay up, the parents went after the Wise Honest, a North Korean cargo ship which has been in US custody since May for violating sanctions. The ... (More on P4)...(11)

### Turkey's Erdogan Meets Head of Libya's UN-Supported Gov't

ISTANBUL — Turkey's president met with the head of Libya's U.N.-recognized government, following heightened tensions between Turkey and forces loyal to a rival Libyan authority.

In a statement by his office late Friday, President Recep Tayyip Erdogan reiterated his support for Prime Minister Fayez Sarraj's "legitimate" government. Libya is split between two warring governments. Sarraj leads the weakened Tripoli government in the west,

supported by an array of militias.

The self-styled Libyan National Army of Khalifa Hifter rules much of the rest of the country. His ongoing offensive to seize the capital has threatened to plunge Libya into another bout of violence on the scale of the conflict that ousted Moammar Gadhafi in 2011.

Erdogan called on Hifter's forces to cease their attacks. The military commander's forces said ... (More on P4)...(15)

### Lebanese Interior Minister Vows to Restore Security, Attract Investment to Tripoli

BEIRUT - Lebanese Interior Minister Raya El-Hassan vowed Saturday to take strict security measures in Tripoli to attract investment to the city, the National News Agency reported.

"Stability and security will attract investment to the city," she said during the closing ceremony of the best architectural design for the innovation and knowledge center at the Special Economic Zone in Tripoli.

The minister called upon investors and businessmen from all over Lebanon to invest and ... (More on P4)...(16)

### Turkey Removes Central Bank Governor

ANKARA - Turkey removed its central bank governor Murat Cetinkaya and replaced him with his deputy, a presidential decree said on Saturday.

Murat Uysal, the deputy governor, will take over the post, the decree published in the official gazette said without giving reason for the change.

In a statement released by central bank, Uysal said that he will continue to "independently implement monetary policy tools to maintain price stability."

The communication channels will be used in line with the bank's targets, he added.

Murat Cetinkaya was appointed to the role in April 2016.

Local media said the decision came as differences between the government and the central bank over the monetary policy have deepened in the past few months. (Xinhua)

### Envoy Says Sudan Rivals Reach Power-Sharing Agreement

KHARTOUM, Sudan — Sudan's ruling military council and the country's pro-democracy movement have reached a power-sharing agreement, including a timetable for a transition to civilian rule, an African Union envoy said early Friday.

Mohammed el-Hassan Labat said both sides agreed to form a joint sovereign council that will rule the country for "three years or a little more." The sides agreed to five seats for the military and five for civilians with an additional seat going to a civilian with military background. The emerging deal



could break weeks of political impasse since the military ousted autocratic President Omar al-Bashir in April. Talks on a power-sharing agreement had collapsed when security forces razed a protest camp outside the military headquarters in Khartoum on June 3.

The AU and Ethiopia made intensive efforts to bring the generals and the protesters back to the negotiating table. Negotiations resumed earlier this week, following massive protests last weekend in which tens of thousands of demonstrators flooded the ... (More on P4)...(12)

### Jaguar Land Rover to Build Electric Cars at UK Plant

LONDON - Jaguar Land Rover <TAMO.NS> is making a multi-million pound investment to build electric vehicles in Britain, in a major boost for the UK government and a sector hit by the slump in diesel sales and Brexit uncertainty.

Britain's biggest car company, which built 30 percent of the UK's 1.5 million cars last year, will make a range of electrified vehicles at its Castle

Bromwich plant in central England, beginning with its luxury sedan, the XJ.

"The future of mobility is electric and, as a visionary British company, we are committed to making our next generation of zero-emission vehicles in the UK," Chief Executive Ralf Speth said on Friday.

The announcement gives a boost to Britain's ... (More on P4)...(13)

### China Claims 55 Sites of UNESCO World Heritages with Elected New Site

BAKU - China's Archaeological Ruins of Liangzhu City was on Saturday put on the UNESCO World Heritage List as a cultural site, bringing the total number of its heritage sites on the list to 55.

The decision to add the Chinese cultural site, which is located in the eastern Chinese city of Hangzhou, to the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization's (UNESCO) World Heritage List was supported by the World Heritage Committee members at its ongoing 43rd session in the Azerbaijani capital of Baku.

"We are proud that after 25 years of preparation, our efforts have finally led to the successful inscription of this exceptionally important property, which is the most concrete testimony of 5,000 years of Chinese civilization," said Shen Yang, ambassador and permanent delegate of China to the UNESCO.

"We are keenly aware that the inscription also entails an enormous responsibility for conserving this heritage of humanity," he added.

Sitting on a plain criss-crossed by river networks in the Yangtze River Basin, the nominated property of Archaeological Ruins of Liangzhu City includes the archaeological remains of Liangzhu City (3,300 BC-2,300 BC), which was once the center of power and belief of an early regional state in the lower reaches of the Yangtze River in Late Neolithic China. ... (More on P4)...(17)