

Obama to Address Veterans on Iran, Care Scandals

WASHINGTON - US President Barack Obama will take his Iran pitch to a gathering of 12,000 veterans Tuesday and argue progress is being made in righting "systemic" problems in health services for the military. Obama is traveling to Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania to address a convention of the Veterans of Foreign Wars group, which boasts 1.9 million members.

In addition to announcing measures designed to curb predatory lending



ing targeting the military, Obama "will be speaking about our foreign policy, including Iran," said White House advisor Jeff Zients. Obama has framed the recent nuclear deal as a choice between diplomacy and war. While campaigning for the presidency in 2008, Obama told a battle-weary nation he would end the long and bloody conflicts in Iraq and Afghanistan. Now he will be hoping that those who know

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Iran Vow to Defy U.S. is 'Very Disturbing': Kerry

DUBAI - U.S. Secretary of State John Kerry said a speech by Iranian Supreme Leader Ali Khamenei on Saturday vowing to defy American policies in the region despite a deal with world powers over Tehran's nuclear program was "very disturbing". "I don't know how to interpret it at this point in time, except to take it at face value, that that's his policy," he said in the



interview with Saudi-owned Al Arabiya television, parts of which the network quoted on

Tuesday. "But I do know that often comments are made publicly and things can evolve that are different. If it is the policy, it's very disturbing, it's very troubling," he added. Ayatollah Khamenei told supporters on Saturday that U.S. policies in the region were "180 degrees" opposed to Iran's, at a speech in a Tehran mosque punctuated by chants of "Death to

...(More on P4)...(18)

UN Chief Calls for Peaceful Elections in Burundi

UNITED NATIONS - UN Secretary-General Ban Ki-moon on Monday called upon the Burundian government to strive for a peaceful and secure atmosphere for the upcoming presidential election. In a statement issued here by his spokesman, Ban urged all parties to "refrain from any acts of violence that could compromise the stability of Burundi and the region." He said that he has taken note of the indefinite suspension of the inter-

Burundian dialogue that started on July 14 under the facilitation of Uganda pursuant to the July 6 recommendations of the Summit of the East African Community (EAC). "The secretary-general calls on the authorities to do all in their power to ensure security and a peaceful atmosphere during the election," the statement said. Burundi's presidential camp over the weekend decided to suspend its participation in the po-

...(More on P4)...(19)

Saudi-Backed Fighters Battle to Extend Gains in Yemen's Aden

ADEN, Yemen - Yemeni fighters backed by Saudi-led air strikes battled to take back northern suburbs of Aden from Houthi opponents on Tuesday, residents said, a day after completing their capture of the center of the strategic port city. The country's dominant Houthi militia and its army allies traded artillery fire with Saudi-backed forces in the Dar



Saad and al Alam areas as Arab warplanes bombed the Iran-allied

group. Local anti-Houthi forces broke months of

...(More on P4)...(20)

No Interest in Iran-Style Nuclear Deal: N. Korea

SEOUL - North Korea said Tuesday it had no interest in following Iran down the path of nuclear dialogue, insisting it was already a nuclear weapons state and therefore beyond any logical comparison with Tehran. One week after the historic deal that cleared a path to lift sanctions crippling Iran's economy in exchange for limits on its nuclear programme, Pyongyang rejected any



suggestion that it might follow suit. North Korea "is not interested at all

in the dialogue to discuss the issue of making

...(More on P4)...(21)

French FM to Visit Iran Next Week



PARIS - French Foreign Affairs Minister Laurent Fabius on Tuesday said to fly to Iran next week, the first such visit in more than a decade, after a concluded nuclear deal opened Teheran's doors to westerners. "I will be there next week. My colleague (Mohammad Javad Zarif) invited me. I was invited before but didn't go, but now I think everything is in place for me to go," Fabius told France In-

ter radio. "I find it quite normal that from the moment this historic agreement took place, France and Iran can resume more normal relations," he said without giving accurate date. Asked about eventual impact of France's tough stance on nuclear talks on potential business deals of French firms in Teheran, Fabius said "in foreign policy, I think you lose nothing in being respected." (Xinhua)

EU Observers Call for Violence-Free Polls in Sri Lanka

COLOMBO - European Union election observers on Tuesday called for violence free parliamentary elections in Sri Lanka as they began their observation work ahead of the August 17 polls. Cristian Preda, chief observer of the European Union Election Observation Mission (EU EOM) who recently arrived in Sri Lanka told journalists in the capital Colombo that its observers would be deployed in all nine provinces of the island nation and they hoped the polls would be conducted in a civilized atmosphere. "We are here

for many weeks and I am sure the experience of our experts will be very useful for the analysis of the entire process. I also hope that the climate will be a good one without violence and with a very civilized atmosphere," Preda said. "We will try to cover all the territory before the polls and tomorrow I will leave for Jaffna. I will be also travelling to other parts of the country including the eastern part, the southern part and the central part. That is my work as an election observer," he added. (Xinhua)

UN Approval of Iran Nuclear Deal Makes Israel Even Isolated: Iran

TEHRAN - The unanimous adoption of a resolution by the UN Security Council (UNSC) to endorse the recent Iran nuclear deal represents Israel's isolation in the world, Iran's Foreign Minister Mohammad-Javad Zarif said on Tuesday. "The anger of the enemies of the Islamic republic, with the Zionist regime at the top, is a clear sign of Iran's regional and international strength," Zarif said as he submitted the text of the nuclear agreement, or the Joint Comprehensive Plan of Action (JCPOA), to Iran's parliament for review. The unanimous endorsement of the deal by the UNSC, and Israel's plea to the U.S. congress to oppose the agreement shows that Israel is iso-

lated even by its own allies, Zarif said. All Iran's objectives in its nuclear talks with the powers were met by the recent agreement despite Israel's propaganda, he added. On Sunday, Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu lashed out at Iran's nuclear agreement, saying that the Islamic republic deserves no concessions until it changes its foreign policy toward Israel and the United States. The UNSC on Monday unanimously adopted the resolution as the first important step toward implementing the historic agreement reached in Vienna, Austria, last week between Iran and the P5+1 group, Britain, China, France, Russia and the United States plus Germany. (Xinhua)

8 Killed in IS-Backed Car Bomb Attack in Yemen's Capital

SANAA - At least eight people were killed late on Monday in Yemen's capital Sanaa when a car bomb went off near a house of a Shiite Houthi leader, sources told Xinhua. The car bomb placed near the house of Houthi leader Abdul Karim al-Kuhlani in al-Jeraf quarter in northern Sanaa exploded when his convoy was coming out, killing al-Kuhlani and seven of his bodyguards, a security official said on condition of anonymity. Witnesses told Xinhua that several others were wounded.

Hashim al-Zain said "We are surprised that the blast happened behind a mosque in al-Jeraf district that killed some people. We condemn this brutal action." The Islamic State (IS) claimed responsibility for the attack in a statement posted on Twitter, saying that "the attack was part of a series of operations in revenge for people against the Shiite rebels." It's the fifth car bomb attack against the Shiite Houthi group since June in Sanaa by the IS. (Xinhua)

Chinese Envoy Calls for Effective Implementation of Iranian Nuclear Deal



UNITED NATIONS - A Chinese envoy to the United Nations on Monday urged effective implementation of the comprehensive agreement on Iranian nuclear issue after the UN Security Council unanimously adopted a resolution to endorse it. The 15-nation UN Security Council on Monday unanimously adopted a resolution to endorse the deal that was reached on July 14 in Vienna, capital of Austria, between Iran and major world powers.

"The adoption by the council of the resolution, endorsing the comprehensive agreement, is the first important step in the process of implementing this agreement. It is a good beginning," said Liu Jieyi, China's permanent representative to the UN, after the adoption of the resolution. The process of the implementation of the agreement in the next ten years will be even more important. It is essential to adhere to the following principles, said Liu.

"Implement the resolution of the council and the comprehensive agreement in a balanced, accurate and comprehensive manner. All sides should effectively fulfill the commitments they have respectively made and seriously and effectively implement all the provisions of the agreement," Liu stressed. In accordance with the principle of mutual respect, equality and mutual benefit, it is essential to appropriately resolve the differences that may arise during the process of the implementation, demonstrate good will and steer the course of the implementation of the comprehensive agreement, said Liu. It is necessary to constantly take stock of the experience and good practices during the process of the implementation, maintain the effectiveness of the relevant mechanism, and make positive efforts to maintain world peace, promote regional stability and improve relationship among all sides. (Xinhua)

Neighbour News

Chinese, U.S. Presidents Exchange Views on Iranian Nuclear Deal

BEIJING - Chinese President Xi Jinping and his U.S. counterpart Barack Obama exchanged views Tuesday on Xi's upcoming U.S. visit and the newly-reached Iranian nuclear agreement in a telephone conversation. The development of China-U.S. relations has maintained a good momentum at present, said Xi, adding that the two sides have kept close contact with each other, steadily promoted their pragmatic cooperation in all fields and maintained close communication and coordination on major international, regional and global issues. Acknowledging the significant outcomes of the 7th U.S.-China Strategic and Economic Dialogue and the 6th U.S.-China High-Level Consultation on People-to-People Exchange that concluded in June, Xi said he hopes to

further promote mutual understanding and friendship between the two peoples during his September visit to the United States. For his part, Obama said that he and the American people are looking forward to Xi's state visit in September. The United States and China will engage in close consultation to make sure the visit is fruitful, Obama said. During a February 11 phone talk, Xi accepted invitation by Obama to conduct a state visit in September to the United States, his first since assuming the presidency in March, 2013. As for the Iranian nuclear deal, Xi told Obama that China will continue constructive cooperation with all parties - including the United States - to ensure the implementation of the Iran nuclear deal and the following UN resolution. (Xinhua)

Iran's FM Defends Nuclear Deal in Parliament

TEHRAN - Iran's Foreign Minister Mohammad-Javad Zarif defended the recent nuclear deal between Iran and the world powers as he handed over the text of the nuclear agreement to Iran's parliament for review on Tuesday. He told the lawmakers that all Iran's objectives in its nuclear talks with the powers were met by the recent agreement, or the Joint Comprehensive Plan of Action (JCPOA). Under this agreement, all the nuclear-related sanctions by the United Nations and Western countries against Iran will be stopped and removed, Zarif said. The deal proved that Iran would never surrender to the sanction pressures over its nuclear

program and would not violate the redlines of the country drawn by the Supreme Leader Ayatollah Ali Khamenei, he said. Iran is entitled to break away from its commitments, which was reached in Vienna last week and endorsed by the UN Security Council (UNSC) on Monday, if the Western and UN sanctions are re-imposed on Iran for any reason, Zarif said. The "greatest achievement" of Iran's nuclear negotiators is that Iran does not need to give up its uranium enrichment activities inside the country and will also continue the research and development program with peaceful nuclear technology, he added. (Xinhua)

Sharif Urges Authorities to Expedite Rescue Efforts in Flood-Hit Areas

KARACHI - Pakistan's Prime Minister Nawaz Sharif has reportedly asked the National Disaster Management Authority (NDMA) to reinforce relief and expedite rescue efforts in coordination with the Provincial Disaster Management Authority (PDMA) and other concerned departments in areas affected by the floods that hit Chitral. Expressing grief over the loss of property due to floods, Prime Minister Sharif also directed the National Highway Authority (NHA) to keep N-45 open so that Chitral remains linked to national road

network, reported the Dawn. He was expected to visit the flood-hit areas today but was unable to do so due to bad weather conditions in Lahore. Flash floods triggered by heavy rain submerged large swathes of land in the country, washing away roads, bridges and water schemes. Over 100 villages in various districts of Punjab have been affected by the calamity, whereas about 200 villages along the River Indus have been evacuated. No loss of life has been reported from these areas so far. (ANI)

Delegation of Japanese Companies Visits Uzbekistan

BISHKEK - A delegation of leaders and representatives of manufacturers of chemical, optical, electrical products, industrial, financial and trading companies in Japan, led by the president of the Chiba University of Commerce, Haruo Shimada, arrived in Uzbekistan, reports Jahon. The purpose of the visit is to familiarize with the development of the "Uzbek model" of economy, the history and culture of Uzbekistan. Haruo Shimada said about intentions of the delegation to visit Samarkand, Bukhara and Tashkent, including the meeting with representa-

tives of ministries, departments, research institutes and universities of the country. The Japanese delegation plans to hold a series of meetings with the Ministry of Foreign Economic Relations, Investments and Trade, the Ministry of Economy, the Ministry of Development of Information Technology and Communications Fund for Reconstruction and Development of Uzbekistan, Center for Economic Research, including with teachers and students of the Banking and Finance Academy and the University of World Economy and Diplomacy. (AKIpress)