

World Powers Meet Iran in Vienna to Salvage Nuclear Deal

VIENNA — Representatives from Europe, China and Russia, which are still committed to the Iran nuclear deal, were meeting Sunday in Vienna to discuss how to salvage the unraveling accord.

The diplomats are examining issues linked to the implementation of the nuclear accord after Iran surpassed the uranium stockpile and enrichment limits set out in the 2015 deal.

Iran recently begun surpassing those limits, saying the moves can be reversed if other parties to the agreement — Germany, France, Britain, China, Russia and the European Union — come up with enough eco-



nomics to offset the U.S. sanctions that President Donald Trump reinstated after pulling his country from the nuclear accord. Experts warn that higher enrichment level and a

growing uranium stockpile narrow the one-year window that Iran would need to have enough material to make an atomic bomb, something Iran denies it wants but that the deal prevented.

Last week, French authorities meeting with an Iranian envoy stressed the need for Tehran to quickly respect the nuclear accord it has breached and “make the needed gestures” to de-escalate mounting tensions in the Persian Gulf region.

Hours before Sunday’s meeting, Iran’s Deputy Foreign Minister Seyed Abbas Araghchi said in Vienna that, “in the last month, there have been a lot of developments regarding the (deal) that made it necessary to have another round of the Joint Commission meeting urgently,” Iran’s state-run IRNA news agency reported.

So far, neither Iran’s recent ... (More on P4)...(9)

Neighbor News

Iran Says to Continue Arak Heavy Water Activities Following Redesign

TEHRAN - Iran will continue the activities in Arak heavy water reactor after its redesign, an Iranian lawmaker said on Sunday. As for Arak reactor, “it activities will be continued after changing its technology,” Mehrdad Lahooti told semi-official ISNA news agency on Sunday. The remarks by Lahooti came after the Iranian parliamentarians’ meeting with Ali Akbar Salehi, the head of Atomic Energy Organization of Iran, on Sunday.

The international work on the redesign of

Iran’s Arak heavy water reactor has “picked up pace” after a pause, Salehi said Friday. “The joint committee tasked with redesigning the Arak Heavy Water Reactor Facility ... is performing its job well,” he said. “We are consequently satisfied with the project’s progress because the reactor’s reconstruction has picked up pace after being delayed for several months,” he added. Under the Iranian 2015 international nuclear deal, Iran agreed to redesign its heavy water reactor. (Xinhua)

Russia’s Lavrov Says Venezuela Dialogue Should Have ‘No Preconditions’

PARAMARIBO - Russian Foreign Minister Sergei Lavrov said on Saturday a dialogue to resolve Venezuela’s political crisis should have “no preconditions,” as he visited the small South American country of Suriname at the end of a multi-nation Latin American tour. Venezuela’s bitterly divided government and opposition are engaged in a dialogue mediated by Norway’s government. The opposition, led by National Assembly president Juan

Guaido, has insisted President Nicolas Maduro step down to allow a transition government to call fresh elections. Guaido in January invoked the constitution to assume a rival presidency, arguing Maduro’s 2018 re-election was illegitimate. He has been recognized as the rightful leader by most Western nations, including the United States, but Maduro retains control of state functions and the backing of Russia, China and ... (More on P4)...(13)

PARIS — French President Emmanuel Macron says he will hold talks with Russian President Vladimir Putin next month, days before hosting a Group of Seven summit with the leaders of rich democracies. Macron’s office said Sunday the meeting with Putin will take place Aug. 19 at the Fort de Bregancon presidential retreat on the Mediterranean Sea. Macron then heads to the G-7 summit in the French city of Biarritz with U.S. President Donald Trump

Macron to Host Putin Next Month Ahead of G-7 Summit



and other leaders from Aug. 24-26. The group kicked Russia out after it annexed Crimea in 2014. France has sought to

mediate in Russia’s conflict with Ukraine and Macron has stressed the importance of keeping dialogue open with Moscow. French companies have also been pushing to lift EU sanctions resulting from Russia’s actions in Ukraine. (AP)

Chinese Company to Invest \$100 M in Uzbekistan

TASHKENT - Chinese company DELMOR will invest \$100 million in the creation of a meat and dairy cluster in the Jizzakh region, Trend reports with reference to Uzbek government decree.

The new agro-industrial facility will be able to produce 2,500 tons of meat per year. The total number of cattle here will be 10,000 heads. As part of the project, a foreign company Jizzax Organic has already been established in Uzbekistan.

It is planned that the cluster will reach its full capacity by 2023. A modern cattle-breeding complex with its own feed production center, a slaughterhouse and biogas plants will be created here.

The Chinese side has

undertaken to create about 1,000 jobs and is committed to use of exclusively modern agricultural equipment and advanced agricultural technologies, including laser land planning and zero seeders.

In addition, it is planned that there will be organized the cultivation of fodder varieties of agricultural crops using a scientifically based four-year crop rotation, implemented measures to improve the ameliorative state and improve land fertility.

To implement the project, a land plot with a total area of over 10,700 hectares in Zaamin and Zarbdar districts of the Jizzakh region is planning to be transferred a Chinese company. (Trend)

Israel, US Successfully Test Ballistic Missile Interceptor



JERUSALEM - Israel and the United States have successfully carried out tests of a ballistic missile interceptor that Prime Minister Ben-

jamin Netanyahu said Sunday provides protection against potential threats from Iran. The tests of the Arrow-3 system were carried out

in the US state of Alaska and it successfully intercepted targets above the atmosphere, Israel’s defence ministry said in a statement.

“The flight tests were conducted in Alaska in order to test capabilities that may not be tested in Israel,” the statement said.

Netanyahu said “today Israel has the ability to act against ballistic missiles that could be launched against us from Iran or anywhere else”. “This is a great achieve-

ment for the security of Israel,” he added.

US ambassador to Israel David Friedman joined Netanyahu at a cabinet meeting in Jerusalem on Sunday to watch video footage of the tests. In January, Israel said it also carried out a successful test with the United States of the Arrow-3 in Israel.

A series of tests were also conducted before the missiles being deployed in 2017 to Israeli air bases.

Officials said that the ... (More on P4)...(10)

Egypt Sends Mini-Satellite to Space

CAIRO - Egypt sent a mini-satellite to the International Space Station, where it will be put into orbit next week, a senior Egyptian official said on Sunday. The CubeSat was completely designed, built and tested in Egypt, Mohamed Zahran, chief of the National Authority for Remote Sensing and Space Sciences, told Egypt’s MENA news agency.

Egypt cooperated with the Japanese Space Agency in testing the satellite before being shipped to the United

States, where it was launched Saturday among other items into the space by a Falcon-9 rocket from Cape Canaveral in Florida, Zahran added.

Zahran said that the satellite is 1 kg in mass and cost around 1 million Egyptian pounds (about 60,000 U.S. dollars). The Egyptian official pointed out that the satellite is meant for research purposes, adding that it will also test space systems developed by the Egyptian space agency. ... (More on P4)...(14)

Turkey and Pakistan Launch Joint Navy Drill

ISLAMABAD - Turkey and Pakistan launched a joint navy exercise at Karachi, the Pakistani daily The News reported on Sunday.

“This series of bilateral exercise has been regularly conducted between Pakistan and Turkey on annual basis. This being the 12th exercise in Ayıldiz series, continued for 12 days,” the daily said.

Turkey and Pakistan have signed nearly 60 defence cooperation agreements in recent years and their military consultation group, created in 2003, has been upgraded to a high-level

cooperation council. Turkey has become Pakistan’s second-biggest arms supplier, after China, and their improved ties are the result of several broader developments.

For instance, Turkey was the only country that backed Pakistan in its effort to join the Nuclear Suppliers’ Group and when it was put on the ‘grey list’ last year by the Financial Action Task Force (FATF), an intergovernmental organization founded on the initiative of the G7 to develop policies to combat money laundering. (Agencies)

Mexico to Help Create 20,000 Jobs in Honduras to Curb Migration

MEXICO CITY - Mexico’s government said on Saturday it would help Honduras create 20,000 jobs this year and support its coffee farmers as the two countries seek to curb migration to the United States that has created tensions with U.S. President Donald Trump. Mexican President Andres Manuel Lopez Obrador and his Honduran counterpart, Juan Orlando Hernandez, pledged to work together to lift prosperity in Central America, where poverty and violence have fueled an exodus of people north.

That migration has angered Trump, who has made border security a priority, and issued economic threats against Mexico and ... (More on P4)...(15)

Think The Heatwave Was Bad? Climate Already Hitting Key Tipping Points

LONDON - “Shall we all just kill ourselves?”

It was an odd title for a comedy night, but British stand-up Carl Donnelly turned out to have chosen an environmental theme with impeccable timing. With temperature records tumbling daily in last week’s European heatwave, a crowd in an east London bar seemed uniquely primed to appreciate his darkly humorous riffs on the existential threat posed by climate change. That foretaste of a radically hotter world underscored what is at stake in a decisive phase of talks to implement the 2015 Paris Agreement, a collective shot at ... (More on P4)...(16)

‘From Deep Sea to Infinite Universe’: India Will Defy ANY Pressure in Security Matters, PM Modi Vows

NEW DELHI - India will never cave in to external pressure or influence, Prime Minister Narendra Modi has stated, emphasizing that a strong modern army is a crucial safeguard of national sovereignty and territorial integrity.

“The Armed Forces must be modernized and it is also our priority,” Modi said in a speech marking the 20th anniversary of the Kargil victory over Pakistan in Jammu and Kashmir, noting that terrorism and proxy wars still pose a threat not only to India, but the entire



world.

We will not succumb to any pressure or influence in the matters of national security... From deep sea to the infinite universe, India will use its competency to its fullest.

Recalling the wide-

spread criticism India faced when it completed its nuclear triad by launching the INS Arihant nuclear-powered submarine in 2016, and concerns voiced more recently over the success of its anti-satellite ... (More on P4)...(11)

1,400 Arrested at Moscow Election Protest: Monitor

MOSCOW - Russian police arrested almost 1,400 people as they gathered in Moscow at the weekend to demand free and fair elections, a monitor said, the biggest crackdown on a rally in the country in years. Some 3,500 people took part in the unauthorised protest on Saturday, according to official figures, after authorities blocked prominent opposition candidates from taking part in city elections. Police used batons on protesters as

they tried to gather outside city hall, and AFP reporters at the scene saw demonstrators with injuries.

The rally comes amid wider public frustration over declining living standards that has hit President Vladimir Putin’s approval ratings. A week before, 22,000 took to the streets in a sanctioned protest, calling on authorities to reverse their decision ahead of the September city council vote. After ... (More on P4)...(12)

Deploying Joint European Fleet to Persian Gulf Sends ‘Hostile Message’

TEHRAN - As Tehran and London are locked in a row over tanker seizures, Britain’s proposal to send an EU naval mission to the Persian Gulf will only increase the ongoing tensions, an Iranian government spokesperson warned.

The idea of deploying a European fleet to patrol the Persian Gulf “sends a hostile message” and is “provocative and will increase tensions,” Ali Rabiee said on Sunday, as cited by Fars News Agency.

Security in the region should be maintained by the Gulf nations themselves, not foreign powers, he stressed.

Tensions between Iran and the UK began escalating on July 4, when the British Royal Marines and Gibraltar police seized the Iranian oil super-tanker Grace 1 off the southern coast of Spain. Officials in London said the ship was suspected of transporting oil to Syria in violation of EU sanctions. Tehran denied any wrongdoing.

On July 19, Iran’s Islamic Revolutionary Guard Corps seized British-flagged oil tanker Stena Impero in the Strait of Hormuz, which it said violated maritime rules. These incidents prompted Tehran and London to accuse each other of “piracy.”

On Monday, UK Foreign Secretary Jeremy Hunt called for a combined European naval mission to be sent to ensure ... (More on P4)...(17)

Iran to Launch Structured Currency Market in Early August: CBI

TEHRAN - The Central Bank of Iran (CBI) has announced that a long-anticipated initiative for launching a semi-official market that could positively impact currency exchanges in the country will take shape next month.

The CBI said in a statement on Saturday that the Structured Currency Market will open as of August 12, concurrent with a major religious festival, adding that the exchange mechanism would lead to more transparency in foreign currencies rates. It said the decision came after a meeting between CBI governor Abdolnasser Hemmati and senior officials supervising the scheme.

Preparations for the launch of the market began earlier this year after

the government ordered the CBI to formulate a system where major money exchangers, either official or unofficial, can buy their required currencies directly from the central bank.

The scheme seeks to influence the unofficial currency market by helping control the prices of major foreign currencies. The government had hoped it could start the exchange system in March this year to prevent a further fall in the price of the Iranian rial against the US dollar. However, the CBI announcement comes amid a slight rebound for the rial as the currency has regained around 13 percent of its value against the dollar since its surge began two weeks ago. (Press TV)