

Kayhan

International

Kayhan Group of Newspapers

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In the Name of the Most High
Viewpoint

Rouhani: Nuclear Accord a Great Achievement



President Rouhani addresses a conference of executive officials responsible for the 12th presidential election.

TEHRAN (Press TV) -- President Hassan Rouhani on Saturday hailed a nuclear deal between Iran and six other countries as "a great feat," which changed a global atmosphere of hostility toward the Islamic Republic to one of cooperation with the country.

President Rouhani made the remarks at a conference bringing together personnel responsible for executive work in Iran's 12th presidential election, which is due in May 2017.

The nuclear deal, officially known as the Joint Comprehen-

sive Plan of Action (JCPOA), removed a series of United Nations Security Council resolutions that had been imposed on Iran under Chapter VII of the UN's Charter.

Rouhani said the JCPOA saw the nullification of those resolutions — for a first time in the political history of the world — without recourse to war or regime change.

"There has been no country whatsoever whose affairs have been taken up under the UN Charter's Chapter VII... unless they either toppled that establish-

ment or imposed war on it; say it if you know of one such country," the president said.

He said Iran had the resolutions lifted by the very countries that had imposed them.

As a result of the accord, Iran has been using IR-8 centrifuges, which have a productivity 20 times higher than the centrifuges used earlier, Rouhani said.

Iran has also been able to engage in global commerce in the field of nuclear technology, he said, adding that the Islamic Republic has sold heavy water, a nuclear by-

Zarif Chides Turkish Officials Over 'Improper' Remarks

TEHRAN (Dispatches) -- Iranian Foreign Minister Muhammad Javad Zarif has expressed dismay at the recent "improper" remarks by Turkish officials against the Islamic Republic.

In a speech at the 53rd Munich Security Conference in Germany on February 19, Turkish Foreign Minister Mevlut Cavusoglu criticized what he called an Iranian "sectarian policy" in the region. Earlier, Turkish President Recep Tayyip Erdogan had accused Iran of promoting "Persian nationalism."

Reacting on Friday, Foreign Minister Zarif of Iran told Fars news agency that Turkish officials had been entangled in the consequences of their "past mistakes" and were now attempting to play a

blame game by making accusations against Iran.

"Unfortunately, the wrong policies of the Turkish government in the past have created a situation that they (Turkish officials) have to project the blame; it is a regret that they do so," Zarif said.

Turkey has been involved in unauthorized military operations in Syria and is accused of having supported militants fighting the elected Syrian government.

"We hope that regional countries would fully comprehend the need for cooperation... and that such cooperation would turn into the topic of the day instead of such improper remarks," the Iranian foreign minister
(Continued on Page 7)

Iran Named to Top G77 Group Chair

TEHRAN (Press TV) -- The Iranian ambassador to the United Nations and other international organizations in Vienna, Reza Najafi, has assumed the chairmanship of the Vienna Chapter of Group of 77 for 2017.

Najafi took over as the group's chairman from Namibia for one year during a ceremony held at the United Nations Office in Vienna on Friday in the presence of heads of international bodies and a number of ambassadors and representatives from different countries.

Speaking at the meeting, Najafi stressed the importance of defending the principles, interests, values and objectives of the G-77 Vienna Chapter.

He expounded on the purposes and priorities of the chapter in the United Nations Industrial Development Organization (UNIDO), United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime (UNODC) and the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA) and urged bolstering cooperation and the provision of technical assistance to developing countries.

The Iranian envoy also called for strengthening international relations, particularly South-South Cooperation, a term used to refer to the exchange of resources, technology, and knowledge between developing countries.
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The Holy Qur'an

But such as come to Him as Believers who have worked righteous deeds, - for them are ranks exalted, Gardens of Eternity, beneath which flow rivers: they will dwell therein for aye: such is the reward of those who purify themselves (from evil).

The Holy Qur'an 20:77

PRAYER TIMINGS

Noon (Zohr)	12:17
Evening (Maghreb)	19:02
Dawn (Fajr) "Tomorrow"	05:15
Sunrise "Tomorrow"	06:38

product, to the United States and Russia, two permanent members of the UN Security Council.

Elsewhere in his remarks, the Iranian president said the JCPOA was a "win-win" outcome for all the parties involved.

Iran negotiated the deal with the US, Britain, France, China, Russia, and Germany for some 22 months before it was finalized on July 14, 2015. The agreement took effect on January 16, 2016.

Under the accord, limits were put on Iran's nuclear activities in exchange for, inter alia, the removal of all nuclear-related sanctions against the Islamic Republic.

The Security Council later unanimously endorsed a resolution that effectively turned the JCPOA into international law.

Press Digest

Rouhani's Biggest Rival

KAYHAN: The administration of Rouhani needs not worry about its rivals in the upcoming presidential elections. It should instead be worried about the difficult race ahead. Rouhani's biggest rival is his own performance of the past four years. He has a poor track record in almost everything. The delivery of a couple of passenger airplanes, meetings with European trade delegations, car sales in installments, and imports of goods and services to curb runaway prices at any price will be unable to save his administration on the election night.

Media Warfare

RESALAT: We must take the ongoing media warfare seriously. American and British media outlets like BBC and CNN continue to make false reports on Iran. They keep broadcasting fake news about the "Defenders of Shrine" in order to undermine the efforts of those who travel to Syria to fight foreign-backed terrorism and extremism. We must take this dirty game very seriously and do something about it.

Runaway Prices

DONYAYE EQTESAD: Based on the latest report, one of the biggest factors behind the rising prices of goods and services in the last month was the rising prices of staple foods and drinks. They have had a huge impact on pushing up general market prices. Their prices keep going up and with 13 percent hike in just one month they are the main culprit. This might have something to do with seasonal speculations as well as year-end market expectations. However, if the trend continues, it could impact other prices as well.

Chinese Cars

JAMEJAM: Reports suggest after sales services for Chinese cars are not up to the mark yet. Despite the rising public complaints from the quality of Chinese cars and higher prices, a significant part of the Iranian market is still under the control of Chinese car manufacturers. Despite that, many consumers still prefer to buy Chinese cars. This makes it ever more important for authorities to make some checks and balances on this growing problem, particularly on spare parts and after sales services.

U.S. Media Ban: Undemocratic and Totalitarian

By: Kayhan Int'l Staff Writer

The White House's decision to selectively bar certain news outlets from briefings could be decried as "undemocratic, unacceptable, chilling, and totalitarian." But that's just part of the story.

No doubt some of these news outlets and networks like the CNN and the New York Times don't have a "bright" track record when it comes to covering news about the ongoing U.S.-led wars and occupations in the heartlands of the Muslim world. But barring them from White House briefings is something new, indeed an unprecedented development.

Perhaps this is how the Trump administration retaliates when the media report facts they don't like. However, it is wrong to call the exclusion "yet another disturbing example of the Trump administration's contempt for the vital role a free press plays in our democracy."

Mind you, the press in the United States is not that "free" and "impartial". The American media have always been an "enemy of the Muslim world" and those which have been excluded from the White House briefings are not exception. They are the ones that have been a distraction from larger matters such as the U.S.-led wars on Afghanistan, Iraq, Syria, Yemen and Libya. Like in the United States, some European media outlets are also full of the kind of racial, economic, cultural-religious injustice, bias and discrimination against Muslim immigrants and refugees.

Over the past two decades, they have helped far-right governments marginalize Muslim immigrants and minority groups. Western politicians and media lackeys are happy with the situation and continue to prevent Muslim immigrants and refugees from entering or integrating into their societies by means of controlling public opinion, mass media, and anti-immigrant policies and bans.

The argument is that the liberalist media in the West strives to accuse the Islamic world of violating basic human rights to get away with their own bias, racism, discrimination, and poor human rights records. They always hold back sensitive information about the real situation for minority groups and Muslims. But the ongoing protests in the United States and Europe against Trump's Muslim ban and Syrian refugee restrictions have managed to unveil the hidden aspects of the West to the world as regards blocking the voices of a religious community that has no voice, no protection and no support.

The Western media must take concrete steps to rectify these problems, as there are no puzzles here. The core problem is not Trump's media ban but Muslim degradation and alienation manifesting themselves in the belts of educated, usually unemployed, young men throughout Arab, African and Asian urban areas.

The barriers of culture, language and class in the West are also high, but those marginalized are now determined to fight back. Community leaders in slums have long complained of a lack of jobs and widespread discrimination against Muslims. Many Muslim immigrant groups and minorities are rapidly gaining power and the West can no longer treat them the way it did before.

All told, the ongoing political-media crisis in the U.S. has important messages for the world:

Muslim ban, discrimination, social divide, poverty, inequality, and degradation of other cultures are the adverse impacts of liberalist policies. Just like Western governments, mass media have left Muslim immigrants and minorities to their own devices. This is while there should be respect for cultural, social, and religious rights of minority groups and communities. Last but not the least, the international community should take the fight against Muslim ban in the U.S. seriously.

Above all, the United States and Europe should abandon their colonial mentality such as imposing Muslim ban, refugee restrictions and other measures to quell immigration and nationwide protests and unrests. The world has seen it all this year and there are other constructive ways to ensure order and security and/or peace with Muslims, immigrants and refugees.