

**Russia Wins \$1 Billion Iran Rigs Deal**

MOSCOW May 23 (Reuters) - Russian shipbuilder Krasnye Barrikady has been awarded a near-\$1 billion contract by Iran to build five offshore drilling rigs for use on Iran's part of the Persian Gulf shelf, a company official told Reuters.

The project, which was under discussion for almost two years, will be financed jointly by Russia and Iran, the official said. Iran will soon make a 15% advance payment on the \$200 million price of the first rig, he said.

**Lithuanian FM in Tehran**

VILNIUS (Baltic Times) -- Lithuanian Foreign Minister Linas Linkevicius was leaving on Friday for Iran to discuss economic, trade, and cultural cooperation, the Foreign Ministry said.

Linkevicius is scheduled to meet with Iran's Foreign Minister Muhammad Javad Zarif, Economy and Finance Minister Ali Tayebnia and other officials. Also on the agenda of the three-day visit are meetings with ministers for energy and agriculture and parliamentary leaders, and a Lithuanian business seminar.

**Viewpoint**

By Kayhan Int'l Staff Writer

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## Angry Demos Greet Obama on Hiroshima Visit

HIROSHIMA (Dispatches) -- Residents in Hiroshima on Friday greeted President Barack Obama with protests at the site of the world's first atomic bombing conducted by the U.S. more than 70 years ago.

Obama arrived at Hiroshima's atomic bomb park on the first visit by a sitting U.S. president and was greeted by Japanese Prime Minister Shinzo Abe.

"You're not welcome here" and "Get out of Hiroshima," the protesters shouted in a rally held at the Hiroshima Peace Memorial Park.

They held banners that read, "Get rid of all nukes immediately," "Remove all U.S. bases from Okinawa" and "We won't let you use military alliances to start your next war."

Among the protesters, there were labor union members, college students as well as survivors and the relatives of the victims of the Hiroshima bombing on August 6, 1945.

"I could hear schoolchildren screaming 'Help me! Help me!'" said Kinuyo Ikegami, an 82-year old survivor of the bombing, who took part in the Friday gathering.

"It was too pitiful, too horrible. Even now it fills me with emotion," she added.

"The suffering such as illness gets carried on over the generation," said Han Jeong-soon, the daughter of a Korean survivor.

"That is what I want President Obama to know. I want him to understand our sufferings."

Obama has said he will not apologize for the bombing, which killed thousands instantly, and some 140,000 by that year's end.

"I want Obama to say 'I'm sorry.' If he does, maybe my suffering will ease," said 73-year-old Eiji Hattori, who was a toddler at the time of the bombing and now has three types of cancer.

"If Obama apologized, I could die and meet my parents in heaven in peace," he said.

Obama's visit to Hiroshima has stirred heated debate, with critics pointing to paradoxes in policies relying on nuclear deterrence while calling for an end to atomic arms.

The city of Nagasaki was hit by a second nuclear bomb on Aug. 9, 1945, and Japan surrendered six days later.

The U.S. justifies the bombings, contending that they were necessary to end the war and save lives, although many historians question that view and believe they were unjustified.

Aides say Obama's main objective in Hiroshima is to showcase his nuclear disarmament agenda. However, critics say he has made scant progress and is spending heavily to modernize the US atomic arsenal.

Japan, despite advocating disarmament, relies on the U.S. nuclear umbrella for extended deterrence.

Among the governments critical of the visit, North Korea on Friday denounced Obama's visit to Hiroshima as an act of stunning hypocrisy and "a childish political calculation."

"Even if Obama visits the damaged city, he cannot hide his identity as a nuclear war fanatic and nuclear weapons proliferator," read part of a report on North Korea's official Korean Central News Agency (KCNA).

## Ayatollah Khamenei: Enemies Surrendered to Iran's Nuclear Might



Ayatollah Khamenei meets members of the new Assembly of Experts in Tehran, May 26, 2016.

TEHRAN (Press TV) -- **Leader of the Islamic Revolution Ayatollah Seyyed Ali Khamenei on Thursday said Iran's capabilities in the area of nuclear technology made enemies surrender and accept the country as a nuclear power.**

"There was a time when the enemies would not accept even a single centrifuge inside Iran, but they finally surrendered in the face of Iran's nuclear might," the Leader said at a meeting with new members of Iran's Assembly of Experts here.

"In fact, it was not the Americans who gave this concession; we got it

with our own power," stressed the Leader.

Iran and the five permanent members of the UN Security Council -- the United States, France, Britain, China and Russia -- plus Germany signed the JCPOA on July 14, 2015 following two and a half years of intensive talks.

Under the deal, all nuclear-related sanctions imposed on Iran by the European Union, the Security Council and the U.S. would be lifted. Iran has, in return, put some limitations on its nuclear activities.

Elsewhere in his comments, Aya-

tollah Khamenei warned against enemies' agenda to wage a "soft war" on the country after they failed to bring the Iranian nation to its knees through numerous acts of aggression.

The Leader said, "The hegemonic front is, by nature, after broadening its dominance on nations, and any state or nation which fails to put up resistance, will eventually get caught in the trap."

Ayatollah Khamenei highlighted enemy's attempts over the past decades to gain dominance over the Iranian nation, including the eight-

year war imposed on the country by the regime of former Iraqi dictator Saddam Hussein in the 1980s.

Bullying powers have now turned to a "soft invasion" as part of a second phase of hostilities against the Iran since they failed to defeat the Islamic Republic on the battleground, the Leader said.

Ayatollah Khamenei also described as "very dangerous" the enemies' intention to "infiltrate" Iran, which constitutes the third stage of their hostile policies vis-à-vis the Islamic Republic.

At this stage, the global hegemony seeks to exert influence on the country's "decision-making centers," and to make changes in people's beliefs as well as the stances and policies of Iranian officials, the Leader stressed.

The Thursday meeting took place after Iran's Assembly of Experts elected Ayatollah Ahmad Jannati to head the body tasked with appointing the "Leader of the Islamic Revolution" and overseeing his work.

Ayatollah Jannati was chosen for the post for two years after securing re-election for the assembly in a February vote.

In a message to its opening, Ayatollah Khamenei said the new assembly has a duty to "carefully and comprehensively guard the Islamic and revolutionary identity of the ruling establishment and direct intertwined apparatuses of the establishment toward lofty and sublime goals."

The Leader further asked the assembly to pay attention to the "personal and political piety of the leader."

## Iran: Saudi 'Biggest Sponsor of Terrorism'

TEHRAN (Press TV) -- **Iran said on Friday Saudi Arabia is the "biggest sponsor of terrorism" in Iraq and elsewhere, dismissing Saudi Foreign Minister Adel al-Jubeir's allegations that Iran was meddling in regional affairs.**

Foreign Ministry spokesman Hossein Jaber Ansari was reacting to Jubeir's "foolish" remarks about Iran's role in Iraq and the presence of its military advisers, including Qassem Soleimani, the Fars news agency said.

"The presence of Iran's military advisers in Iraq under the command of General Qassem Soleimani is at the request of the country's legitimate government in order to fight terrorists and extremists who have beset Iraq and the region with instability and insecurity," he said.

"To know its interests and its friends and enemies, the Iraqi nation doesn't need the remarks by the foreign minister of a country which has been the biggest agent and sponsor of instability and terrorism in Iraq, the region and the world," he added.

"Instead of trying to deceive the public opinion and distort facts, Adel al-Jubeir must not forget that his country is currently perceived at the international level as the first and most dangerous sponsor of terrorism and the spread of insecurity in the world," Jaber Ansari added.

Ties between Iran and Saudi Arabia have been tense since Tehran strongly condemned of the kingdom's execution of prominent Shia cleric Sheikh Nimr al-Nimr in January.

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## U.S. Lawmakers Ban Iran Heavy Water

TEHRAN (Dispatches) -- **Iran has played down a vote at the U.S. House of Representatives to bar Washington from purchasing heavy water from Iran in the future.**

Last month, the U.S. government completed an \$8.6-million deal to buy 32 metric tons of heavy water from Iran. On Wednesday, 251 American lawmakers voted for a bill that would prohibit such purchases next year. The measure is yet to be approved by the U.S. Senate.

"The bill would be unimportant even if it is ratified," Iranian Deputy Foreign Minister Abbas Araqchi said in a TV interview on Thursday night.

"Essentially, in line with the Joint Comprehensive Plan of Action (JCPOA), neither the U.S. nor any other country is obligated to buy heavy water from Iran," he said.

Iran and the five permanent members of the UN Security Council -- the United States, France, Britain, China and Russia -- plus Germany signed an agreement on the Iranian nuclear program known as the JCPOA in Vienna on July 14, 2015 following two and a half years of intensive talks.

Under the deal, which took effect in January, all nuclear-related sanctions imposed on Iran by the European Union, the UN Security Council and the U.S. would be lifted. Iran has, in return, put some limitations on its nuclear activities.

"Iran is only obligated to offer its surplus of heavy water to international markets for sale," Araqchi said, adding, "Heavy water is a valuable commodity and there are many who are willing to buy."

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## Turkey: U.S. Is 'Two-Faced'

ANTALYA (Dispatches) -- **The United States is "two-faced" for refusing to call the Syrian Kurdish YPG militia terrorists, Turkey's foreign minister said on Friday, reflecting Ankara's growing irritation at Washington's backing of the group.**

Mevlut Cavusoglu also said it was "unacceptable" for U.S. soldiers to wear YPG emblems, after photos emerged purportedly showing U.S. special forces wearing YPG emblems on their shoulders. NATO member Turkey regards the YPG as an extension of the outlawed Kurdistan Workers Party (PKK), which has fought a three-decade insurgency for autonomy in Turkey's largely Kurdish southeast. Washington considers the PKK terrorists but backs the Syrian Kurdish militia in the purported fight against Daesh.

The YPG is the most powerful element of the U.S.-backed Syrian mili-

tia alliance involved in an offensive near Daesh's de facto Syrian capital of Raqqa.

"If they say 'We don't see the YPG and these terrorist groups as the same', my answer is, that is a double standard and two-faced," Cavusoglu said at a UN summit in Turkey's Antalya resort.

"It is unacceptable for U.S. soldiers to use the insignia of the YPG, a terrorist group," he said.

Ankara had raised the issue with the State Department.

Asked at a briefing on Thursday if it was appropriate to wear such insignia, Pentagon press secretary Peter Cook declined to comment on the photos but said that when special forces operate in some areas they do what they can to blend in with the community to enhance their own security.

The United States does not consider the YPG to be a terrorist group.