

TEHRAN (Press TV) -- Iran and Egypt have taken steps to renew bilateral energy relations, reports say. Deputy head of the Association of Petrochemical Industry Corporation (APIC) Parviz Sahafzadeh said following Cairo's recent "green light" to Iran to transfer crude oil to European countries through Egypt's SUMED pipeline, Iran has been in talks with the North African country to sell it liquefied natural gas (LNG). The official said Iranian companies have also received a list of Egypt's "much-needed petrochemical items."

# Kayhan International



TEHRAN (Tasnim) - Iranian President Hassan Rouhani said on Wednesday his administration seeks strong relations with the academic society since it would not be possible to settle the country's problems without getting advantage of academics' views. "Our universities, professors, faculty members and students are at the forefront of progress and serving the country and society," Rouhani said in a gathering of university professors and physicians. He said it would be impossible to resolve economic woes and gain success in the political arena without regard for the views of university professors.


VOL NO: LV 10073 TEHRAN / Est.1959 Thursday, June 23, 2016, Tir 3, 1395, Ramadhan 17, 1437, Price 10000 Rials

**Viewpoint**  
By Kayhan Int'l Staff Writer  
**2 Regime Undoing in Bahrain**

**'Valad' Wins Special Jury Prize at IOFF**



**Alamian Begins Korea Open With Victory**



**UN Agencies Warn of 'Food Emergency' in Yemen**



## FM Zarif: Muslims Should Fight Terror on Their Own

TEHRAN (Press TV) -- Iranian Foreign Minister Muhammad Javad Zarif says Muslims should unite and show to the West that they can fight terrorism and extremism on their own.

"In the Islamic world, we need to show how we can fight, by ourselves, the extremism and terrorism that has affected the Muslim world," Zarif said in Paris on Tuesday night.

"Instead of accentuating our differences, we must show how our common challenges are in the name of Islam and for development of the Islamic states and Muslim community," he added.

Zarif addressed diplomats and representatives of organizations from 33 countries having their Iftar (fast-breaking) meal at the residence of the Iranian ambassador.

The minister cited injustice as a factor which should unite Muslims "because Islam is not unique to one geography or region."

"We belong to a religion which believes every human being is like all humanity and killing one human is like killing all humanity," he said.

"We belong to a religion which considers the world as a united whole. It is not hard for Muslims to show to the world that their religion is a universal religion," Zarif added.

"We follow a religion that can simply realize that if we don't stand together, we will lose together. We need to be united so we can make

a better future for our children," he said.

Zarif said Muslims have to think globally and try to find new followers in the face of prevailing injustice.

"The most important injustice is the injustice being done to Palestine. Against attacks and violence, we have to minimize our differences," he said.

Several Muslim countries are grappling with the threat of Takfiri militants who are wreaking havoc in Syria, Iraq and elsewhere. The problem has prompted the U.S. and its allies to send troops and launch airstrikes in those countries.

Zarif arrived in Paris Tuesday at the head of a high-ranking delegation on the first leg of a two-nation European tour, which will also take him to the Netherlands.

He was about to meet with French President Francois Hollande as well as his counterpart Jean-Marc Ayrault, President of France's National Assembly Claude Bartolone, and Senate President Gerard Larcher on Wednesday.

Zarif was also scheduled to address reporters and journalists and attend an exclusive interview with the Paris-based television news channel France 24.

Former French Foreign Minister Laurent Fabius visited Tehran in July 2015 before Iranian President Hassan Rouhani traveled to Paris in January on a landmark trip.

## North Korea's Missile Test Alarms U.S.

SEOUL (Dispatches) -- North Korea successfully launched a new ballistic missile a significant distance on Wednesday, heightening concerns it is making progress toward testing a larger missile capable of threatening the U.S.

South Korea's military said North Korea fired a Musudan-type medium-range missile from its east coast that traveled about 250 miles before it disappeared from tracking devices while over the Sea of Japan.

The Musudan, which has an estimated maximum range of 1,800 to 2,500 miles, was tested by North Korea for the first time this year.

The Musudan is one of two types of missile that outsiders have been monitoring closely for flight tests by North Korea. A larger missile, known as the KN-08, has been displayed by Pyongyang, but not tested. Its estimated range of several thousand miles would include parts of the continental U.S.

The test alarmed Japan, which has been subjected to threats from North Korea before during elevated tensions in the region. "It appears (North Korea) is increasing its ability to target our territory with missiles," said Japanese Defense Minister Gen Nakatani. "This represents a grave threat to the security of our country."

A day earlier, Japan put its missile defense systems on alert after detecting the possible launch from North Korea. Missiles fired from North Korea's east coast generally travel in the direction of Japan, although the trajectory of the missiles fired on Wednesday wasn't clear and neither traveled far enough to threaten Japan. In 1998, North Korea fired a ballistic missile that traveled over Japan and crashed into the Pacific. Japan supports sanctions against Pyongyang for its nuclear weapons program.

(Continued on Page 7)

## Top Iranian Military Commander: Examine Al Khalifah's Citizenship



Bahrain's Al Khalifa family is ruling the tiny Persian Gulf island with an iron fist.

TEHRAN (Dispatches) - A top Iranian military official on Wednesday called for the citizenship of Bahrain's ruling Al Khalifah family to be examined after the regime revoked the nationality of a top Shia cleric.

"Impartial international organizations should now examine the citizenship status of the Al Khalifah in Bahrain," Chief of Staff of Iranian Armed Forces Major General Hassan Firouzabadi said.

The commander was reacting to a recent decision by the Manama regime to strip Sheikh Isa Qassim, Bahrain's most senior Shia cleric, of his citizenship.

Firouzabadi said such a review, if carried out, would save the Bahraini people from more repression. International bodies, he said, should also study the mysteries surrounding the 1961 death of Isa bin Salman Al

Khalifah, the father of the current ruler of Bahrain.

Firouzabadi said the Al Khalifah regime had been propped up by Saudi Arabia through the British assistance, adding the ruling clique in Bahrain is comprised of "pirates" that have turned the country into a prison for torturing people.

The Iranian general said people in Bahrain are fed up with their repressive regime, adding they eagerly wait for the emancipation of their nation from the hands of the Saudi mercenaries.

Bahrain, a close ally of the U.S. in the Persian Gulf region, has seen a wave of protests since mid-February 2011. Manama's heavy-handed crackdown on peaceful demonstrations with the help of Saudi Arabia has left scores of people dead and hundreds more injured.

defence staff, and Bahrain's top soldier, Shaikh Khalifa bin Ahmed Al Khalifa, has been described as a "green light" to repression by human rights campaigners and stands in stark contrast to the mounting criticism in diplomatic circles of the country's clampdown on opposition figures.

The high-level meeting came only hours after a leading Iranian general warned Bahrain that its decision to strip Qassim of citizenship will fan armed rebellion in the kingdom and has been met with fierce criticism by British opposition politicians and human rights campaigners.

Tim Farron MP, leader of the Liberal Democrats, told Middle East Eye that the visit was a "sad demonstration of just how little" the British government cares about

On Tuesday, Iran's Islamic Revolution Guards Corps (IRGC) denounced the decision against Sheikh Qassim, saying the Saudi regime was behind it.

In a statement, the IRGC said the "inhumane" measure by the "bloodthirsty and racist" Al Khalifah regime contradicts citizenship rights, Islamic principles and values, recognized international norms and regulations as well as the dignity of the people of the Arab world, including the Bahrainis.

It added that revoking the cleric's citizenship is "a product of the anti-Islamic strategy and policies of the hegemonic system and Zionism and is considered a Saudi plot."

"There is no doubt that the unwise measure of Al Khalifah against a character who is a prominent symbol of the grand Shia clerical society

will fuel the flames of Bahrain's Islamic Revolution and formation of a sweeping uprising against the dependent and ruling regime of this country," the IRGC pointed out.

The statement said the "illegitimate and rotten" Bahraini regime is suffering from "political osteoporosis" and is committing crimes against the innocent Bahraini people backed by the Pharaonic ruthlessness of the Saudi regime.

It further warned that if the leaders of the Al Khalifah regime do not renounce their Zionist-pleasing adventurism and surrender to the rightful demands of the Bahraini people, they will face a fate similar to that of the slain dictators of other Muslim countries.

Bahrain on Monday revoked the citizenship of Sheikh Qassim, accusing him of sowing "sectarianism and violence."

Bahrain's Interior Ministry claimed in a statement that Sheikh Qassim actively sought the "creation of a sectarian environment" through his connections with foreign powers.

The ministry claimed that the cleric had misused his religious position to advance a political agenda and serve foreign interests.

The Bahrain Center for Human Rights said in a statement that the decision against the top Shia cleric "is yet another blow to freedom of speech and expression in Bahrain" and is "part of an escalating crackdown on freedoms and rights."

It urged the government to "immediately and unconditionally reinstate the citizenship of Sheikh Qassim and all those affected," saying that it had documented evidence of at least 261 cases since 2012.

protected. There must also be some recourse to appeal, she added.

"Given the numbers that we're talking about in Bahrain, we're talking a minimum of 250 people who have been deprived of their nationality, but there are some estimates that go much higher than that. Given that, it is clearly unjustified," she said.

"We are very concerned at this intensified crackdown on the freedoms of expression and association and the right to a nationality. We urge the Bahraini authorities to seek to de-escalate the situation - instead of taking such damaging steps in quick succession with a serious risk of escalating the situation."

(Continued on Page 7)

## UK Military Head in Bahrain Amid Crackdown

MANAMA (Dispatches) -- The head of Britain's armed forces met with high-ranking security officials in Bahrain less than a day after the kingdom controversially revoked the citizenship of the country's top Shia cleric, the Middle East Eye online news portal has revealed.

The move to strip Ayatollah Isa Qassim of his citizenship was labeled "clearly unjustified" by the United Nations on Monday and is the latest step taken by Bahrain - where a Shia majority is ruled by a monarchy - in what appears to be an escalating campaign against dissent in the Western-allied Persian Gulf kingdom.

The meeting on Tuesday between General Sir Nicholas Houghton, the outgoing British chief of the

human rights and said he would write to the Ministry of Defense to demand publication of minutes from the meeting in Bahrain.

Pressure on the government in Manama was ratcheted up on Tuesday, amid reports of continuing protests over the stripping of the cleric's citizenship, when the official spokesperson for the UN human rights office said the move was in breach of international law.

"Given that due process was not followed, it cannot be justified," Ravina Shamdasani told a UN briefing in Geneva.

She said that under international law, deprivation of nationality was permitted under certain conditions, but it must serve a legitimate purpose and be proportionate to the interests

protected. There must also be some recourse to appeal, she added.

"Given the numbers that we're talking about in Bahrain, we're talking a minimum of 250 people who have been deprived of their nationality, but there are some estimates that go much higher than that. Given that, it is clearly unjustified," she said.

"We are very concerned at this intensified crackdown on the freedoms of expression and association and the right to a nationality. We urge the Bahraini authorities to seek to de-escalate the situation - instead of taking such damaging steps in quick succession with a serious risk of escalating the situation."