

Europe Banks Urged to Support Iran
 VIENNA (Dispatches) -- European banks and firms should use their influence in the United States to speed up the implementation of financing projects with Iran, the Islamic Republic's central bank chief said on Wednesday.
 "We expect European banks and companies to help us explain to U.S. authorities that they must keep their side of the nuclear deal," Valiollah Seif said in an interview with Austrian news agency APA in Vienna, where he was meeting his Austrian counterpart on

Kayhan International

Italian Envoy Hails Joint Iran Drill
 TEHRAN (Dispatches) -- An Italian frigate has held maneuvers with two Iranian warships in the Strait of Hormuz after making a rare Western port call in the Islamic Republic, an Iranian commander said Wednesday.
 The Italian frigate Euro sailed to the strait for the maneuvers with Iranian ships Alvand and Alborz after making the port call in Bandar Abbas on Saturday, Admiral Hussein Azad told the official IRNA news agency. An Iranian and an Italian helicopter also took part, he said. Italian Ambassador Mauro Conciatori described the port call as "a positive sign in mutual relations that can increase the bond between the two countries."

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Butcher of Qana, Shimon Peres, Dead

TEL AVIV (Dispatches) -- The occupying regime of Israel's ex-president Shimon Peres died on Wednesday, some two weeks after suffering a major stroke.
 The 93-year-old died in his sleep at around 3:00am (0000 GMT), Peres' doctor Rafi Walden, who is also Peres's son-in-law, told AFP news agency.
 His funeral was set for Friday at Mount Herzl, a cemetery in Jerusalem Al-Quds.
 The Israeli foreign ministry said that U.S. President Barack Obama, former U.S. President Bill Clinton and his wife and current presidential hopeful Hillary, the pope and the UK's Prince Charles are among those who will attend Peres' funeral.
 Obama described Peres as "our dear friend" and "the essence of Israel itself."
 Many across the world, however, would remember Peres as a "war criminal" especially in light of the 1996 Qana massacre. In that Israeli attack on a southern Lebanese village, at least 106 people were killed. Peres was then prime minister.
 Born in Poland in 1923, Peres emigrated to what was then British-mandated Palestine when he was 11. He joined the Zionist movement and met David Ben-Gurion, who would become his mentor and the occupying regime of Israel's first prime minister.
 Peres became director general of the

nascent war ministry at just 29. He was also seen as a driving force in the development of the Zionist regime's undeclared nuclear program.
 Palestinians say Peres has their blood on his hands. Like other Zionist leaders, Peres also allowed Israeli settlement construction to take place in Palestinian land during his years in leadership positions.
 In the Gaza Strip, the ruling Hamas militant group called Peres "the last remaining Israeli official who founded the occupation."
 "His death is the end of a phase in the history of this occupation and the beginning of a new phase of weakness," said Sami Abu Zuhri, a spokesman for the group.
 There was little official reaction from elsewhere in the Arab world.
 There was no immediate comment from Palestinian Authority President Mahmoud Abbas. However, he did eventually send his condolences to Peres's family, describing him as a partner in peace.
 His message appeared to conflict with the items published by the official Palestinian news agency Wafa, under the direct authority of Abbas, which documented Peres' "aggression."
 Al-Manar, a Lebanese satellite television station affiliated with Hezbollah, described Peres as a criminal, stating that he "will be forgotten since the world is better off without criminals."

Ayatollah Khamenei: Armed Forces Must Always Stand Ready



Ayatollah Khamenei and top military commanders observe army units during a graduation ceremony in Tehran, Sept. 28, 2016.

TEHRAN (Press TV) -- Leader of the Islamic Revolution Ayatollah Seyyed Ali Khamenei said on Wednesday Iran's armed forces should always stand ready in the face of enemy threats against the nation.
 Ayatollah Khamenei was speaking during a graduation ceremony for army cadets.
 "Today, the Iranian nation faces a vast enemy front due to its dedication to Islam, independence and lofty values," said the Leader,

adding that "the armed forces should always be prepared to play their part should the need arise."
 Ayatollah Khamenei further highlighted the sacrifices made by Iranian soldiers during the eight-year war imposed by the former Iraqi regime on the Islamic Republic during the 1980s.
 "The era of Sacred Defense served as a litmus test, during which the true essence of the Iranian army came to light, and important and

brilliant achievements were made by the armed forces."
 The eight-year Iraqi offensive, the Leader added, was in fact "an international and all-out war waged by the world's major powers, along with their global and regional followers, against the country's frontiers, the identity, the Islamic establishment as well as the Iranian nation's (1979 Islamic) Revolution."
 Ayatollah Khamenei said Iranians,

however, managed to counter all the big powers through reliance on their faith and resistance.
 The ceremony culminated Iran's Sacred Defense Week, which marked the 36th anniversary of the Iraq war.
 President Hassan Rouhani meanwhile said the Islamic Republic stands as the "ultimate force" in the region and the entire world against terrorism, adding that the international community is well aware of the nation's true nature.
 He made the remarks during an address to a large gathering of people in the northwestern city of Qazvin.
 "Gone are the days when Iran would be accused of supporting terrorism and the Iranian people would face other accusations such as building nuclear bombs as the true nature of the nation has come to light for the world," he said.
 Rouhani said, so far this year, he had met with 22 world leaders, all of whom had first and foremost congratulated the country on preserving its national strength in the face of world powers, with member states of the Non-aligned Movement having termed the victory as one not only for Iran, but also for the developing world.
 He was referring to the country's signing

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Russia Urges U.S. to Stop Helping Terrorists

BAGHDAD/MOSCOW (Dispatches) -- Russian Foreign Minister Sergei Lavrov urged U.S. Secretary of State John Kerry Wednesday to make good on U.S. pledges to separate Washington-oriented units of "moderate" militants from "terrorist groups," Russia's Foreign Ministry said Wednesday.
 Lavrov told Kerry in a telephone conversation that warlords from Jabhat Fatah al-Sham had openly spoken about foreign support, including supplies of U.S. weapons. Jabhat Fatah al-Sham was formerly known as the Nusra Front until a recent break with Al-Qaeda for strategic reasons.
 The two diplomacy chiefs also discussed possible ways of influencing the situation in the Syrian city of Aleppo based on the principles of a U.S.-Russian ceasefire plan, the ministry said.
 The U.S. State Department said earlier on Wednesday that Kerry had threatened during the call with Lavrov to halt joint work with Russia on Syria unless Russia moved to end the assault on Aleppo and to restore the

defunct ceasefire.
 U.S. to Send More Troops to Iraq
 The United States will send about 600 more troops to Iraq to help Iraqi forces retake the city of Mosul from Daesh, U.S. Defense Secretary Ash Carter said Wednesday.
 The troops will train and advise Iraqi forces, provide logistics support, and help in intelligence efforts, Carter told reporters while traveling in New Mexico.
 A senior U.S. defense official said the exact number of new troops would be 615, and that they would be joining the effort "in the coming weeks."
 Iraqi Prime Minister Haider al-Abadi had announced earlier Wednesday that Washington would send more troops to help local forces.
 "American President Barack Obama was consulted on a

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Fresh Protests As Another Black American Killed

SAN DIEGO (Reuters) -- More protests were planned Wednesday a day after a police officer in southern California shot and killed an unarmed black man, less than two weeks after similar incidents in two other U.S. cities.
 In the latest shooting, two officers responded to calls about an African-American man in his 30s walking in traffic and "not acting like himself," according to police in El Cajon, a city of about 100,000 residents some 15 miles (24 km) northeast of San Diego.
 Days earlier, in Charlotte, North Carolina and in Tulsa, Oklahoma, police shot and killed black men, igniting demonstrations against racial bias in U.S. policing and demands for greater accountability for officers.
 In Charlotte, rioting prompted the authorities to impose a state of emergency and curfew.

The El Cajon officers found the man behind a restaurant at about 2 p.m. PDT (2100 GMT) and ordered him to remove his hand from his pocket. After he refused, one officer drew a firearm and the other readied a Taser device, police said.
 The man paced back and forth as the officers tried to talk to him with their weapons pointed at him, police said.
 He then pulled an object from his front pants pocket, placed both hands together and extended them toward an officer in "what appeared to be a shooting stance," police said.
 The officers simultaneously shot and used the Taser on the man, who died after being taken to the hospital, police said. Officials have not identified him.
 No weapon

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CIA Chief: Anti-Saudi Lawsuit Devastating

WASHINGTON (Dispatches) -- CIA Director John Brennan said Wednesday that legislation to allow lawsuits against the government of Saudi Arabia over the Sept. 11 attacks has "grave implications" for U.S. national security.
 Brennan's comments in a formal statement came as the Senate prepared to hold a vote on overriding President Barack Obama's veto of the legislation.
 Carter claimed that the legislation

could lead to the public disclosure of American secrets and even undercut counterterrorism efforts by sowing mistrust among U.S. partners and allies.
 The legislation, which has broad support among Democrats and Republicans, gives victims' families the right to sue in U.S. court for any role that elements of the Saudi government may have played in the 2001 attacks

that killed nearly 3,000 people in New York, suburban Washington, D.C., and Pennsylvania.
 Courts would be permitted to waive a claim of foreign sovereign immunity when an act of terrorism occurs inside U.S. borders, according to the terms of the bill. Saudi Arabia has objected vehemently to the legislation.
 Obama rejected the measure Friday, telling lawmakers the bill

would make the U.S. vulnerable to retaliatory litigation in foreign courts that could put U.S. troops in legal jeopardy. The bill's proponents have disputed Obama's rationale as "unconvincing and unsupportable," saying the measure is narrowly tailored and applies only to acts of terrorism that occur on U.S. soil.
 But Obama said foreign governments would be able to

act "reciprocally" and allow their courts to exercise jurisdiction over the United States and its employees for allegedly causing injuries overseas through American support to third parties. He cited as notional examples actions that might be taken overseas by U.S.-backed armed militias and the improper use by foreign forces of U.S. military equipment.