

TEHRAN (Press TV) -- A senior Iranian official on Monday ruled out the prospect of reviewing and revising the 2015 multilateral nuclear agreement with the P5+1 group of countries, saying Iran will never yield to foreign pressure on the deal, its defense program or regional role. The Islamic Republic of Iran will never accept any other condition such as the West's insistence on including issues like the country's defense program or its regional role in the nuclear deal, Ali Akbar Velayati, a senior adviser to Leader of the Islamic Revolution Ayatollah Seyyed Ali Khamenei on international affairs, told reporters here.

Kayhan International



TEHRAN (Dispatches) -- The bodies of three seafarers of an Iranian oil tanker which sank in East China Sea last month were to be flown to Tehran Monday night. Iranian Consul General in Shanghai Alireza Irvash said the bodies of these brave sailors will be transferred to Tehran aboard a Mahan Airline flight. "All the procedures and measures necessary to transfer the bodies of the sailors have been conducted, and based on the planning and follow-up work done, the transfer of the bodies are final," he said.

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Viewpoint

By Kayhan Int'l Staff Writer

Revolution Rallies & Iran's Influence Abroad Frustrates the US

Winners Of 36th Fajr Film Festival Announced



Federer Quietly Hoping for Dream Return to No. 1



Zionist Regime Helpless Before Hezbollah Power



Desperate Zionists Turn to Russia for Help: Zionist Official: U.S. 'Not in the Game' in Syria

TEL AVIV (Dispatches) -- The occupying regime of Israel is counting on Russian President Vladimir Putin to keep confrontations with Iran and Syria from spiraling into war as the Trump administration mostly watches from the sidelines, a senior aide to Zionist PM Benjamin Netanyahu has said.

"The American part of the equation is to back us up," but the U.S. currently "has almost no leverage on the ground," Michael Oren, Netanyahu's deputy minister for public diplomacy and a former ambassador to Washington, said told Bloomberg. "America did not ante up in Syria. It's not in the game."

Oren's criticism reflects the Zionist regime's disappointment with Washington in avoiding a fight with Iran.

In the worst military confrontation since the 2006 Lebanon war, the Zionist air force struck targets Saturday in Syria, after claiming an Iranian drone penetrated into Occupied Palestine's airspace. A Syrian missile brought down at least one Israeli combat plane, the first lost to enemy fire since the occupying regime's first war in Lebanon in 1982.

Investors in Occupied Palestine have grown accustomed to geo-political shocks but Saturday's showdown reverberated through the market. The TA-35 stock index fell Sunday to its lowest level in two months before rebounding Monday.

Relying on Russia may be the Zionist regime's best bet, but it's not a sure one. Over the past few years Netanyahu has made a number of visits to Russia to lay out Israel's red lines and ask Putin to rein in Iran. Russian news media have cited Foreign Minister Sergei Lavrov as saying that Iran's presence in Syria is legitimate, and Moscow hasn't promised to guarantee that Iranian advisors and their allies will leave southern Syria.

Zionist commentators noted that a Russian statement on Saturday's clashes implicitly criticized the occupying regime for violating Syrian sovereignty, but didn't criticize the alleged drone infiltration.

Russia's Deputy Foreign Minister Mikhail Bogdanov on Monday warned against further escalation in the Middle East after Israel carried out an airstrike in Syria, only to have one of its F-16s shot down for the first time.

Bogdanov also said Russia, Turkey and Iran have discussed a possible meeting of their foreign ministers on Syria, which could be held in Kazakhstan's Astana in

March.

"We call on everyone to be calm, to prevent a very dangerous escalation in countries of the region," RIA Novosti quoted Bogdanov as saying.

Following the Zionist airstrike, President Vladimir Putin on Saturday asked Netanyahu during phone talks to avoid moves that could lead to "a new round of dangerous consequences for the region."

The Russians are also concerned about the proximity of the Israeli bombings to sites where their soldiers and advisers are serving, including base T-4 near Palmyra.

The occupying regime claims it bombed a post controlled by Iran near T-4 from which the anti-aircraft missile was fired and downed its jet.

Bogdanov said Russia has no information about Iran having a military base near Palmyra. "No, I do not have such information," Bogdanov told reporters when asked whether Moscow was aware of such a post.

The Zionist regime released a grainy footage allegedly showing the downing of an Iranian drone by an Israeli attack helicopter and the subsequent airstrike on the Syrian soil.

Tehran has dismissed the allegations as "ridiculous," while Damascus has said the Syrian army had launched the drone to track down Daesh terrorists when an Israeli helicopter violated its airspace and shot it down.

On Sunday, Aida Touma-Sli-man, an Israeli lawmaker, said Netanyahu was seeking to instigate a regional war to deflect attention from an ongoing investigation into his suspicious corrupt practices.

"Netanyahu is willing to instigate a regional war in which the peoples of the region will pay a heavy price just for his political survival," she warned.

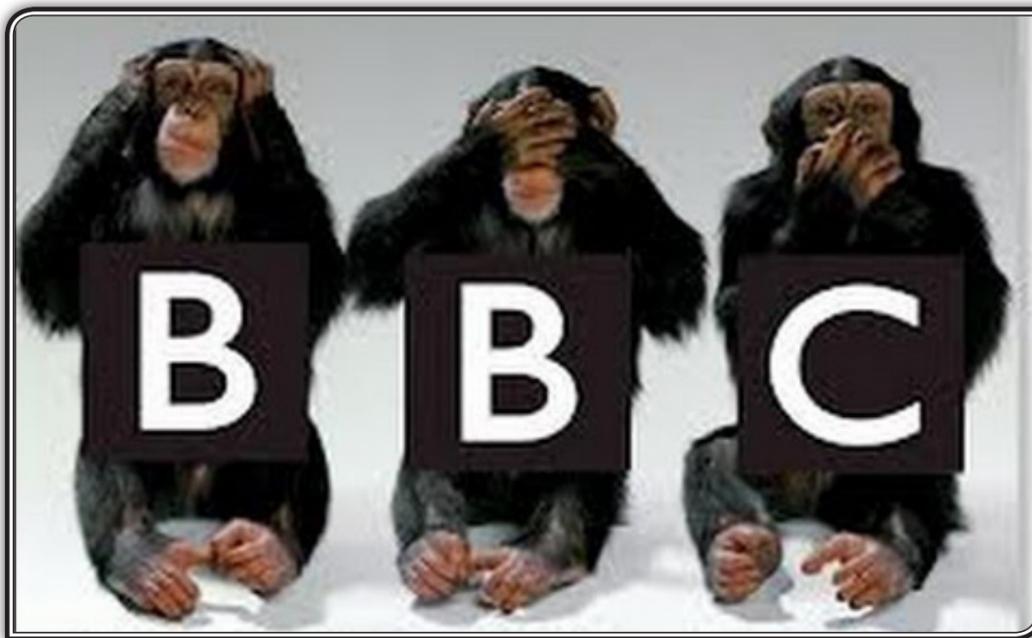
On Sunday -- more than 24 hours after the confrontation -- the White House issued a statement backing Israel.

Russia's interest "is to reach a political and military solution in Syria and to rebuild it," Amos Yadlin, a former chief of Israeli military intelligence, told reporters on a conference call Saturday. "A conflict in the north between Israel, Hezbollah and Iran is not in their interest."

Yadlin, now head of Tel Aviv University's Institute for National Security Studies, doesn't expect the Zionist regime's salvation in Syria to come from the U.S. "America is busy with other things," he said.

After Intensive Coverage of Small Riots:

Blind to Massive Revolution Rallies



TEHRAN (Dispatches) -- The BBC was one of the few media outlets which did not at all cover nationwide rallies in Iran on February 11, marking the anniversary of the victory of Iran's 1979 Islamic Revolution.

This is not the first time that the BBC propaganda outlet makes itself known for its biased approach and violation of professional ethics when it comes to covering events related to Iran.

The well-established media giant, using the cliché "You're watching BBC World News/ You're listening to BBC Radio," shaped a determining chapter in Iran's history de-

cedes ago.

A considerable number of Iranian politicians and the masses will not forget that the media outlet's control room turned into a nerve centre for a military coup in 1953 against the government of former Iranian Prime Minister Muhammad Mosaddeq, a popular and patriotic figure. The coup came in retaliation for his nationalization of Iran's oil industry.

Despite such a role played by BBC, some Iranians interested in politics traditionally watch it in order to keep abreast of Britain's schemes for Iran's future.

Truly and clearly, Iranians today are not comparable to what

they were six decades ago, and the general public, thanks to years of struggles to secure their country's independence, happen to be able to read, even more intelligently than professional politicians, the minds of those running domestic and foreign media, so they will not have to pay, once again, the price of getting caught unaware and forgetting the lessons of the contemporary history of their country.

The Persian-language Fars news agency has, in a memo, blasted the BBC's performance when it comes to covering events and developments pertaining to Iran.

Iranian people turned out in droves in different towns and cities across the nation Sunday for rallies marking the anniversary of the triumph of the 1979 Islamic Revolution of Iran, it said.

The turnout was so large that different media outlets across the world, even Israeli media, had to cover the event, describing it as hundreds-of-thousands-strong or millions-strong rallies.

Not to mention Saudi and Emirati media, probably the only media outlet which preferred to remain tight-lipped on the huge rallies was the BBC, the agency said. The British media company has not broadcast any news on the event so far as if February 11 was an ordinary day in Iran like other days, it added.

This comes as the recent unrest in some Iranian cities a few months ago made headlines in the BBC news, so much so that the British company broadcast news on the Iran unrest every minute, sometimes using unconfirmed images.

"The BBC's double standards on Iran developments is reminiscent of the fact that the media outlet is acting against its own motto of neutrality, and rather than covering events as they unfold, it has politicized the developments, and only broadcasts the news which has a place in the media outlet's jigsaw," Fars said.

(Continued on Page 7)

Turkey: Ties With U.S. at 'a Very Critical Stage'

ANKARA (Dispatches) -- Turkey's foreign minister assailed the United States on Monday, saying that American forces in Syria are intentionally stalling the fight against Daesh militants as an excuse not to cut ties with Syrian Kurdish militiamen as Ankara has demanded.

Mevlut Cavusoglu told reporters in Istanbul that U.S. forces are leaving "pockets" with Daesh militants intact to justify continued cooperation with the Kurdish militia.

Speaking ahead of a visit by U.S. Secretary of State Rex Tillerson later this week, Cavusoglu said Turkey's ties with the U.S. are at a make-or-break stage and that Washington needs to take "concrete steps" to regain Turkey's trust.

"Our relations are at a very critical stage," Cavusoglu said. "Either we will improve ties or these ties will totally break down."

Ankara is riled over Washing-

ton's support for the Syrian Kurdish People's Protection Units, or YPG which Turkey considers a "terrorist" group linked to Kurdish insurgents fighting within Turkey's own borders.

Turkey's military launched a cross-border operation into the Syrian Kurdish-held enclave of Afrin in northern Syria to rout the YPG from the region.

Ankara has also threatened to expand its offensive to the YPG-held town of Manbij, east of Afrin, where the U.S. has a military presence, setting the scene for a potential showdown between the two NATO allies that back different sides in Syria's complex and multi-layered war.

But the operations in Afrin have been slow-going. In more than three weeks of fighting, Turkey has managed to capture a handful of hilltops and villages. Some 10,000 Syrian opposition fighters — paid, trained, and equipped by

(Continued on Page 7)

Inter-Korean Rapprochement Riles Washington

SEOUL (Dispatches) -- South Korea has announced it will press ahead with improving ties with North Korea, arranging family reunions between those divided by the Korean war and seeking to cool military tensions -- despite the U.S.'s commitment to a policy of "maximum pressure" on Kim Jong-un.

The announcement from Seoul's unification ministry comes a day after a high-level North Korean delegation -- including Kim's sister -- concluded a visit to the South that culminated in an invitation from Kim Jong-un to visit Pyongyang.

The growing rapprochement between the two neighbors -- still technically at war -- has exposed a disconnect in policy between Seoul and Washington.

It became plain after U.S. vice-president Mike Pence visited South Korea for the opening of the Winter Olympics at the weekend, experts

said. "There's a definite fissure in the alliance. You can see it in Pence's face if nothing else," said Van Jackson, a former policy adviser to the U.S. secretary of defense. "The U.S. and South Korea want to present a united front, but they have completely different priorities: South Korea doesn't want war, and the U.S. doesn't want North Korea to have nuclear weapons."

Despite Washington's hardline approach to dealing with North Korea, Pence made a small concession on Monday, saying the U.S. was willing to talk directly with North Korea in what he called "maximum pressure and engagement at the same time," according to the Washington Post.

However, if South Korea's efforts do lead to direct talks between the U.S. and North Korea, those negotiations would be "laughable", Jackson said.

(Continued on Page 7)