

TEHRAN (Dispatches) – Representative of the Iranian Jewish community at the parliament Siamak Mareh Sedq warned Zionist Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu of Tehran's crushing and unforgettable response to any foreign aggression, especially by the Zionist regime. "The enemies of the Iranian nation, including the child-killing Israeli prime minister, should have understood that although the revolutionary Iranian nation is not a warmonger and wants sustainable and fair peace for all nations, it doesn't withdraw even an iota from its revolutionary-monothest positions," Mareh Sedq said, addressing an open session of the parliament in Tehran on Tuesday.

Kayhan International



TEHRAN (Tasnim) – Leader of the Islamic Revolution Ayatollah Seyed Ali Khamenei on Tuesday pardoned or commuted the sentences of 565 Iranian convicts. The pardon was granted at the request of the country's Judiciary Chief Ayatollah Sadeq Amoli Larijani on the occasion of the 39th anniversary of the victory of the Islamic Revolution. The Iranian nation toppled the U.S.-backed Pahlavi regime 39 years ago, on February 11, 1979, ending the 2,500 years of monarchic rule in the country.

VOL NO: LV 10542 TEHRAN / Est.1959 Wednesday, February 14, 2018, Bahman 25, 1396, Jamadi al-Awwal 27, 1439, Price 15000 Rials

Viewpoint

By Kayhan Int'l Staff Writer

Syria Shatters Myth of Invincibility of US-Zionist Weaponry

Iran to Expand Cinematic Activities in Asia-Pacific Countries



Real Madrid, PSG to Meet for Decisive Champions League Tie



Zionist Regime, U.S. Committing 'Land Theft' in West Bank



'Iran Defense Capabilities Non-Negotiable'

TEHRAN (Dispatches) – Iran has reiterated its policy of not negotiating its missiles power, saying no country has the right to interfere in the internal affairs of the Islamic Republic.

During a weekly press conference in Tehran on Tuesday, Government Spokesman Mohammad Baqer Nobakht said, "Our defense capabilities are nobody's business."

Iran has heard a lot of "nonsense" over the past 40 years, he said, referring to anti-Tehran remarks made by hegemonic powers since the 1979 Islamic Revolution.

"The Islamic Republic of Iran's policy is based on interaction," he said, adding, however, that the country would never accept any bullying.

Iran has always stressed that its military might and test of missiles are issues pertaining to the defense of its territorial integrity and have nothing to do with other matters, the nuclear deal reached between Tehran and the Group 5+1 (Russia, China, the US, Britain, France, and Germany), known as the Joint Comprehensive Plan of Action (JCPOA).

Iran has also underscored frequently that its military might poses no threat to other countries and that the Islamic Republic's defense doctrine is entirely based on deterrence.

Since the JCPOA came into force in early 2016, the US has been seeking to link the deal to Iran's missile program.

US President Donald Trump, who has called the JCPOA the "worst deal ever negotiated", has called for renegotiating it to address what he calls concerns about Iran's missile capabilities.

The Islamic Republic has underlined that the nuclear agreement is not renegotiable under any circumstances.

Meanwhile, Iran's Army Commander-in-Chief Brig. Gen. Mousavi said Tuesday that the country would build its defense walls even higher against any intrusion by 'thieves'.

Speaking to Mehr News about the insistence of the U.S. and certain European

countries on holding negotiations over Iran's missile program and defense capabilities, Brig. General Abdolrahim Mousavi said it was the nation's demand for building the country's defense walls higher against the intrusion of any 'thieves'.

"The Iranian nation is well-informed and well-aware that when a thief asks the house owner to lower the walls, he isn't asking that out of the kindness of his heart; he just wants to find an easier way into the house," said the army commander.

Brig. Gen. Mousavi stressed that the Iranian nation is well aware of the need for boosting deterrent defense and will defend against this right with all their might, adding "our nation knows that higher walls are needed to stop the intrusion of thieves, and no one in the world today has any doubt that the U.S. is the king of all thieves."

"We will keep developing our defense power and will ask no thief for permission," he stressed.

'Iranian Shias, Sunnis United in Toughest Situations'



Leader of the Islamic Revolution Ayatollah Seyed Ali Khamenei speaks during a meeting in Tehran with those in charge of a martyrs' congress in the province of Sistan-and-Baluchestan on February 5, 2018.

TEHRAN (Dispatches) – Leader of the Islamic Revolution Ayatollah Seyed Ali Khamenei has hailed the unity of the Iranian Shia and Sunni Muslims and said they have sided with each other in most difficult conditions despite attempts by enemies to sow discord among them.

Ayatollah Khamenei made the remark during a recent meeting in Tehran with a number of officials in charge of a martyrs' congress in Iran's southeastern province of

Sistan-and-Baluchestan.

The Leader praised the "brotherly ties" among the people of the province as "a symbol of Islamic unity" and a role model for the world's Shia and Sunni Muslims.

Leader's remarks were released and read at the said conference that was held in Iran's southeastern city of Zahedan on Tuesday.

"The martyrdom of a Sunni young man in the Sacred Defense (the Iraqi-imposed war on Iran in

1980s)... indicates that the Shias and Sunni brothers in the Islamic Republic side each other in most difficult battlefields," Ayatollah Khamenei said at the meeting.

The Leader further urged that the reality about the unity among Iranian Shias and Sunnis should be highlighted and showcased through cultural and artistic works.

'Plots to Harm Unity Thwarted'

In a relevant development, the

chief commander of Iran's Islamic Revolution Guards Corps (IRGC) has hailed the peaceful coexistence among Iranian Shia and Sunni Muslims, saying all plots hatched by enemies to undermine national unity and solidarity in the country have been thwarted.

The enemies are making considerable efforts to harm the Iranian nation's unity and solidarity, but all their plots have always been neutralized thanks to the guidelines of Leader of the Islamic Revolution and the prudence of Iranians, Major General Mohammad Ali Jafari said on Tuesday.

He added that despite hostile acts by the global arrogance, "the Islamic Republic is still continuing its path with strength and dignity."

The most important goal of enemies is to create insecurity across Iran; however, Shia and Sunni Muslims are making joint efforts to boost the country's security, the IRGC commander said.

Elsewhere in his remarks, Jafari pointed to the eight-year war imposed by Iraq with the backing of major global powers and said, "The biggest achievement of this war was that other nations accepted that they can stand up to the global arrogance's bullying."

He emphasized that Iran has also countered the cultural, political and economic aggression of the global arrogance aimed at harming the Islamic Revolution.

Syria Warns Zionist Regime of 'More Surprises'

DAMASCUS (Dispatches) – The Zionist regime will face "more surprises" should it again attack Syrian territory, Damascus said on Tuesday, after Syria's air defenses shot down an advanced warplane belonging to the Zionist regime during the fiercest flare-up between the old foes in 36 years.

The F-16 jet was hit over northern parts of the occupied territories on Saturday as it returned from a raid on a Syrian position.

"Have full confidence the aggressor will be greatly surprised, because it thought this war - this war of attrition Syria has been exposed to for years - had made it incapable of confronting attacks," Assistant Foreign Minister Ayman Sussan said.

"God willing, they will see more surprises whenever they try to attack Syria," Sussan said during a Damascus news conference.

The remarks came only two days after Zionist Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu stated that Zionist troops would press ahead with their operations inside Syria even though Syrian air defense systems downed the Israeli warplane.

Zionist war minister Avigdor Lieberman, said on Tuesday that Tel Aviv "does accept any limitations" on Syria military offensives.

On Saturday, Syria's state television, citing an unnamed Syrian military official, reported that air defense systems had struck

at least one intruding Israeli F-16 fighter aircraft.

The official added that the aircraft had targeted a Syrian army base in the central region of the country.

A pro-government military alliance in Syria said in a statement that the Zionist regime would see a severe and serious response to its "terrorism" from now on.

Commander of the Islamic Revolution Guards Corps Major General Mohammad Ali Jafari said the Syrian army shot down the Israeli fighter jet few days ago as a result of increasing self-confidence injected in them by Iran's Islamic Revolution.

"Other nations have also gathered the belief to stand against enemy empty-handed and today, we see Iraq, Syria, Yemen, Lebanon and Palestine paving the same way in quest for their independence and freedom," General Jafari said, addressing the Iranian Shia and Sunni people in a congress to commemorate martyrs in the southeastern city of Zahedan on Tuesday.

He lauded the Syrian people for their self-belief which enabled the country's army to shoot down the fighter jet, and said political and social analysts are surprised how Syria could fulfill such a great accomplishment.

"This is the result of belief in resistance (Continued on Page 7)

Iran FM in Kuwait for Conference on Rebuilding Iraq

TEHRAN (Dispatches) – Iranian Foreign Minister Mohammad Javad Zarif flew to Kuwait on Tuesday to attend a conference on reconstruction of Iraq following the fall of the Daesh terrorist group's self-proclaimed "caliphate".

Heading a diplomatic delegation, the Iranian foreign minister has travelled to Kuwait to join officials from more than 70 countries and international organizations for the International Conference on the Reconstruction of Iraq, which opened on Monday.

In a statement, Iranian Foreign Ministry Spokesman Bahram Qassemi described Iraq as a significant friend and neighbor, saying, "We maintain that participation of the international community in the reconstruction of Iraq is a necessary move in the right direction. We call for the unconditional and honest participation of the international community in the reconstruction of Iraq."

Rebuilding Iraq after three years of war with Daesh will cost \$88.2 billion, with housing a particularly urgent priority, Iraqi officials told an international conference.

Donors and investors have gathered in Kuwait this week to discuss efforts to rebuild Iraq's economy and infrastructure as it emerges from a devastating conflict with

the terrorists who seized almost a third of the country.

Iraq declared victory over Daesh in December, having taken back all the territory captured by the terrorists in 2014 and 2015.

About \$22 billion will be required in the short term and another \$66 billion in the medium term, the director-general of the country's planning ministry, Qusay Adulfattah, told the conference, without indicating any timeframe.

"Rebuilding Iraq is restoring hope to Iraq, and restoring the stability of Iraq is stabilizing the states of the region and the world," said Planning Minister Salman al-Jumaili, adding that the reconstruction was therefore also the responsibility of the international community.

The United States does not plan to pledge any money at the Kuwait conference, U.S. officials said.

The United States urged members of the coalition fighting Daesh on Tuesday to help rebuild Iraq or risk the reversal of the gains made against the group there.

The U.S. leads the coalition and hopes that after a three-year fight to defeat the terrorists it can count in large part on Persian Gulf allies to shoulder the burden of rebuilding Iraq.