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In the Name of the Most High

Viewpoint

Larijani's Warning to Europeans: Don't Tie Nuclear Deal to Iran's Missile Program



Iranian Parliament Speaker Ali Larijani, right, meets Oman's Foreign Minister Yusuf bin Alawi in Tehran on March 18, 2018.

TEHRAN (Dispatches) -- Iranian Parliament Speaker Ali Larijani on Sunday warned the European countries against tying the Iran nuclear deal with the country's missile program.

In a meeting with Oman's Foreign Minister Yusuf bin

Alawi in Tehran, Larijani urged the European countries to stick to their commitments under the nuclear deal and pressurize the U.S. into fulfilling its obligations. "Iran has always remained committed to the nuclear deal and will observe its commitments

under the deal but only as long as the other sides continue to do so," he was quoted as saying by ICANA.

He also praised the regional role of Oman and Sultan Qaboos as constructive and beneficiary and said Tehran and Muscat have always had good and close relations with each other.

Larijani described the regional situation as chaotic and said all regional states should avoid any measure that might exacerbate the current unrest in the region.

"Today, Iran's missile program has turned into a concern for some states. But the main question is why they are concerned about our program? We have had the missile technology since 30 years ago and during this time we have never fired even a single missile at any country in the region. The technology is not a new achievement for us," he said.

Larijani underlined that Iran's presence in countries like Iraq and Syria is at the request of their governments. "We have always sought to find political solutions to the crises in these countries."

For his part, Oman's foreign minister said there are appropriate grounds for expansion of economic relations between Iran and Oman.

He said like their political

Hashd Leader Hails Iran's Role in Defeating Daesh

BAGHDAD (Dispatches) -- The deputy commander of the popular Hashd al-Sha'abi forces has said that the group will not hesitate to highlight Iran's role and support for the militias, which are now part of Iraq's armed forces.

Addressing a festival in Najaf, Abu Mahdi al-Muhandis said there were "certain people trying to steal recognition" for the victory against Daesh as he praised Iran's role in supporting the fight against the Takfiri terrorists.

"I will not shy away from mentioning the support of the Islamic Republic of Iran in terms of weapons, advising, and planning," Muhandis stated.

"It was Iran which organized the plan to regain control and secure the Samara road (from Daesh extremists), including providing us with drones and air cover with Sukhoi fighter jets," he said.

The Hashd al-Sha'abi deputy commander noted that the U.S.-led coalition had not provided Iraq with any weapons, "therefore, the Hashd al-Sha'abi will not hesitate to mention Iranian support during the war against terror".

"Where was the coalition when Ramadi had fallen, and when Fallujah was liberated?" Muhandis told the crowd.

"Hashd al-Sha'abi still fights terror while Saudi Arabia and the United Arab Emirates are now pledging thousands of dollars for the purpose of destructing Iraq," he said, referring to the Persia Gulf states' recent pledges for Iraq's reconstruction.

Washington has voiced its concern about Iran's role in Iraq. U.S. Secretary of Defense Jim Mattis on Thursday charged that Iran was using financial means "to sway candidates to sway votes" in the upcoming Iraqi elections.

Rahim Mashaei Detained for Questioning

TEHRAN (Dispatches) -- Former vice president Esfandiar Rahim Mashaei was detained by the police for questioning, judicial authorities said.

The office of prosecutor general of Tehran announced that former president Mahmoud Ahmadinejad's chief-of-staff Rahim Mashaei was arrested by the police with a warrant issued by the office.

The statement added that the former official, who is

also a staunch ally of former president, has been arrested for investigation.

A few days earlier, Rahim Mashaei had set fire to a court verdict sentencing Hamid Baghaei, another figure in Ahmadinejad's trilateral alliance, to imprisonment.

Mashaie's tenure in office was cut short after saying that Iran was a friend of the U.S. and Israeli people.

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The Holy Qur'an

Do ye make the giving of drink to pilgrims, or the maintenance of the Sacred Mosque, equal to those who believe in Allah and the Last Day, and strive with might and main in the cause of Allah. They are not comparable in the sight of Allah. and Allah guides not those who do wrong.

The Holy Qur'an (9:19)

PRAYER TIMINGS

Noon (Zohr)	12:12
Evening(Maghreb)	18:33
Dawn(Fajr)" Tomorrow"	04:44
Sunrise "Tomorrow"	06:07

relations, Iran and Oman should raise the level of their economic ties.

"Some countries are worried about Iran's defense capability and missile programs but there is no reason for this concern. Given the current situation of the region, Iran is entitled to improve its military power as part of a mechanism to defend its own security," bin Alawi said.

He also referred to the presence of Iran in Syria and said "as we have announced repeatedly, no country can have presence in a foreign country without the request of its government".

Bin Alawi underlined that Iran's presence in Syria is made at the request of Damascus.

He also called for finding political solutions to the current regional crises and added militarism and massacre of innocent people will never lead to peace and security in the world.

Oman's foreign minister also expressed hope that some regional countries which have adopted aggressive policies toward regional issues change their mind and resort to peaceful means.

He called on regional states to establish cooperation in fight against terrorism.

Bin Alawi then called for further economic ties with Iran and said Oman is interested in raising the level of its financial relations with Iran through expansion of joint rail lines.

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Rouhani Praises Friendly Ties Between Iran, Belarus

TEHRAN (IFP) -- Iranian President Hassan Rouhani has congratulated Belarus on the 25th anniversary of the establishment of friendly relations between the two countries, expressing confidence that Tehran and Minsk could further develop bilateral cooperation.

"The valuable achievements of relations in the past 25 years and the removal of obstacles offer us bright prospects," Rouhani said in a message to his Belarusian counterpart Alexander Lukashenko posted on president. ir website. Rouhani said the long-standing

cooperation between the two governments has greatly benefited the two nations in recent years, encouraging Tehran and Minsk to actively work towards broadening relations.

"I'm confident friendly relations between Iran and Belarus will further develop in line with the interests of the two nations," he said.

Tehran and Minsk established diplomatic relations in 1992. The two countries have enjoyed good relations in recent years, which are reflected in regular high-level meetings and various agreements.

Trump's Theatrics in Taiwan Does Not Please China

By: Kayhan Int'l Staff Writer

It seems the Don Quixote in the White House is rushing headlong into not just one, but several crises that could bring about his earlier than expected downfall, if not a bruised and battered image of a psychopath.

Buoyed by the doomsday weapons of the US and boastful of his country's supposed economic might, Donald Trump thinks he can ride roughshod everywhere.

The situation at home is a mess, with people fast losing confidence and calling for his impeachment, as he fires and replaces at will, the officials whom he appoints.

At the same time, he is digging the graves of US soldiers abroad by impudently interfering in Syria, Iraq, Yemen, the Korean Peninsula and other places around the world.

Now all of a sudden the "dotard" – as Trump is called by North Korean Leader Kim Jong-un – is provoking the east Asian giant China.

After imposing tariffs on iron and other imports that brought warnings of economic retaliation from China, he has now ventured into a minefield by meddling in the highly sensitive issue of Taiwan.

Trump is wrong to think that might is right. He cannot wield the same stick against each and everybody.

It seems he has not even learned the lessons the Islamic Republic of Iran has taught him regarding the 7-nation international nuclear accord or Iran's right to develop missile technology, and maintain an alert presence in the neighbourhood on the invitation of regional governments and popular forces.

Bogged down in quicksand as a result of the diplomacy of Vladimir Putin, instead of humbly stretching a hand to any rescuer to bail him out, Trump, who has been inflated like a balloon by such sycophants as Saudi Arabia's MBS (Mohamed bin Salman) and Benjamin Netanyahu of the illegal Zionist entity, he has, wittingly or unwittingly, wading into a quarrel with Beijing that could cost him a very high price.

China was swift in its reaction, and for the moment, has politely asked the US to correct its mistake, following a move by President Donald Trump to approve high-level contacts between officials from US and Taiwan – the breakaway island, which Beijing regards as a rebel entity and claims sovereignty over it.

China is demanding rectification after Trump signed the Taiwan Travel Act, which encourages visits between US and Taiwanese officials "at all levels."

China's Foreign Ministry Spokesman Lu Kang said the clauses of the approved bill were legally non-binding but "severely violate the One China principle" and sent "very wrong signals to the pro-independence separatist forces in Taiwan."

"China is strongly opposed to that," Lu said of the bill, adding: "We urge the US side to correct its mistake, stop pursuing any official ties with Taiwan or improving its current relations with Taiwan in any substantive way."

The Chinese Foreign Ministry official also reiterated Beijing's call for Washington to stop official exchanges with Taiwan, sever military relations with the self-ruled island, and stop selling arms to it.

The message from Beijing seems to be loud and clear. While the People's Republic of China is actively pursuing reunification with the island, known formerly as Formosa and which the West separated from the mainland in 1949 by backing Generalissimo Chiang Kai-shek in the Chinese Civil War, it doesn't want the US and the West to fan the flames of sedition in East Asia, especially after Trump's abortive attempt to ignite war in Korea.

If there is any iota of commonsense left in Trump, he will rectify his stupid policies, if not he will be in real trouble, as the Free World will not let him play with fire and emerge unscathed.