

TEHRAN (Press TV) -- An Iranian official said on Tuesday the 2015 nuclear agreement is a deal among six countries, including the United States, warning that Washington will become isolated if it takes any action to walk out of it.

Government spokesman Muhammad Baqer Nobakht said Iran would make a decision in line with its national interests in case of a possible U.S. withdrawal from the nuclear deal, known as the Joint Comprehensive Plan of Action (JCPOA). He added that such a decision would be made by the entire Islamic establishment.

TEHRAN (Press TV) -- Iranian Foreign Minister Mohammad Javad Zarif says the Islamic Republic is opposed to the application of any form of pressure and threat against its neighbors. Zarif made the remarks during a meeting with Qatar's Ambassador to Iran Ali bin Ahmed Ali al-Sulaiti here. "The Islamic Republic of Iran's policy in the region is clear. The region's issues have to be resolved through dialog, and we are opposed to any pressure or threat, by whatever party, against our neighbors." The two also addressed the expansion of the ties between Iran and Qatar, especially in the areas of economy and commerce.

Viewpoint
By Kayhan Int'l Staff Writer
Importance of Tehran-Islamabad Relations


Iran Celebrates Cinema Day



Iran Beat Italy at FIVB World Grand Champions Cup



Saudi Airstrikes on Yemen Amount to War Crimes



Ankara on Collision Course With NATO: Turkey Signs Landmark S-400 Deal With Russia

ISTANBUL (AFP) -- Turkey has signed a deal for its first major weapons purchase from Moscow to buy S-400 missile defense systems, both sides announced Tuesday, in an accord that could trouble Ankara's NATO allies.

The purchase of the surface-to-air missile defense batteries, Ankara's most significant deal with a non-NATO supplier, comes with Turkey in the throes of a crisis in relations with several Western states.

"Signatures have been made for the purchase of S-400s from Russia. A deposit has also been paid as far as I know," Turkish President Recep Tayyip Erdogan said in comments published in several newspapers on Tuesday.

"Mr Putin (President Vladimir Putin) and myself are determined on this issue," he told Turkish journalists aboard his presidential jet returning from a trip to Kazakhstan.

Moscow also confirmed the accord, with Vladimir Kozhin, Putin's adviser for military and technical cooperation, saying: "The contract has been signed and is being prepared for implementation."

The purchase of the missile systems from a non-NATO supplier is raising concerns in the West over their technical compatibility with the alliance's equipment.

The Pentagon has already sounded the alarm, saying bluntly that "generally it's a good idea" for NATO allies to buy inter-operable equipment.

A NATO official told AFP that interoperability was "fundamental" to the alliance for the conduct of joint missions.

"No NATO ally currently operates the S-400," the official noted, adding that: "NATO has not been informed about the details of any purchase."

But Erdogan said Turkey -- which has the second largest standing army in NATO after the United States -- was free to make military acquisitions based on its defense needs.

"We make the decisions about our own independence ourselves, we are obliged to take safety and security measures in order to defend our country," he said.

He said Moscow would also extend a credit to Turkey for the purchase of the weapons. No financial details have been disclosed.

However, signing the deal does not mean that delivery is imminent, with Russia facing a high demand for the S-400s from its own armed forces and key clients like China and India.

Some analysts have suggested the message sent to the West by the military cooperation between Moscow and Ankara is as impor-

tant as the delivery itself. In 2015, Turkey scrapped a \$3.4-billion (2.8-billion-euro) deal with China to build its first anti-missile system.

Aykan Erdemir, senior fellow at the Foundation for Defense of Democracies, said the accord will hasten Ankara's "drift from the transatlantic alliance and values."

The purchase "is more about signaling resentment against the West than serving Turkey's pressing security needs," he told AFP.

Ozturk Yilmaz, deputy leader of the opposition CHP party, said the party was not opposed to the buy but argued such weapons should be produced in Turkey to lessen the country's dependence on outside suppliers.

Both Ankara and Moscow have an interest in signaling to the West they mean business with the military cooperation.

Russia's relations with NATO have been in crisis over its annexation of Crimea from Ukraine and for backing pro-Moscow separatists in eastern Ukraine.

Turkey, a NATO member since 1952, has currently troubled ties with the United States over a number of issues including Washington's support for the People's Protection Units (YPG) Syrian Kurd militia which Ankara considers a terror group.

The Turkish-Russian contract is a symbol of better relations between Ankara and Moscow after a reconciliation deal was signed last year following the 2015 shooting down by the Turkish military of a Russian plane over the Syrian border.

But the two nations -- whose rivalry in the Black Sea and Caucasus regions dates back centuries -- are still at odds on a host of political issues.

Turkey, which vehemently opposed the 2014 annexation of Crimea, strongly condemned Tuesday the jailing of a Tatar leader for eight years by Russia over a rally against Moscow's seizure of the region.

Akhtem Chiygoz, a former deputy head of the Tatars' traditional decision-making assembly, was arrested in 2015 over clashes at a rally that left two people dead.

Ayatollah Khamenei: Rohingya Tragedy Marks Death of Nobel Peace Prize



Ayatollah Khamenei makes a point during a Dars-e Kharij session with seminary students in Tehran, Sept. 12, 2017.

TEHRAN (Dispatches) -- Leader of the Islamic Revolution Ayatollah Seyyed Ali Khamenei said on Tuesday that Myanmar's crackdown on Rohingya Muslims marks the "death of the Nobel Peace Prize," in a sharp attack on Nobel laureate Aung San Suu Kyi. "A cruel government, at the top of which sits a cruel woman who

was awarded a Nobel prize, kills innocent people, sets fire to them, destroys their houses and displaces them and no tangible reaction is seen," Ayatollah Khamenei said in a speech here.

Suu Kyi has been sharply criticized around the world for her failure to condemn brutal attacks on her

country's Muslim minority now she is the effective leader.

"Yes, they condemn it, issue statements, but what good does it do? They should take action. This marks the death of the Nobel Peace Prize," Ayatollah Khamenei said.

"This tragedy is occurring--through the brutal government of

Myanmar -- before the eyes of Islamic countries and governments, as well as the international community, not to mention the hypocritical and deceitful governments, who claim to advocate for human rights," he added.

Ayatollah Khamenei criticized those relying solely on the secretary general of the United Nations for the condemnation of the genocide in Myanmar.

"The sham of advocates, belonging to human rights groups, who sometimes stir up hue and cry due to a country's punishment of a convicted criminal, have opted to show no reaction towards massacre and displacement, affecting tens of thousands of Myanmar's people."

The United Nations says 370,000 Rohingya Muslims have fled Buddhist-majority Myanmar since the army launched a huge crackdown in Rakhine late last month.

UN human rights chief Zeid Ra'ad Al Hussein described the operation as a "textbook example of ethnic cleansing."

Ayatollah Khamenei said the problem is not about Buddhists and Muslims. "Maybe a few religious fanatics play a role, but a government is doing this. This is a political issue," the Leader said.

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Florida Keys Totally Devastated: Millions Without Power in Florida After Irma

MIAMI (Dispatches) -- Millions of Florida residents were without power on Tuesday as the remnants of Hurricane Irma spun northwest into the southeastern U.S., drenching the region and causing rivers to overflow.

Most of the Sunshine State appeared to have dodged forecasts of catastrophic damage despite dire early warnings.

But Irma's overall death toll jumped to at least 40 after Cuba reported that 10 people had been killed there over the weekend.

Irma roared ashore as a powerful Category 4 hurricane when it hit the far southern Florida Keys on Sunday, tearing boats from their moorings, uprooting palm trees and downing power lines, after devastating a string of Caribbean islands.

By the time it hit the U.S. mainland the storm had been downgraded, and by late Monday it had weakened further to a tropical depression.

Across the Caribbean, hard-hit island residents struggled to get back on their feet as Britain, France, the Netherlands and the United States increased relief efforts.

French President Emmanuel Macron travelled to the region on Tuesday to tour devastated French territories, joining the Dutch king who had arrived in his country's Caribbean territories on Sunday.

In Florida, the damage in most cases was not as bad as feared.

"If this had been a Category 4 hurricane the whole scenario would

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Afghans Threaten to Attack U.S. Base in Bagram

QARA BAGH, Afghanistan (Dispatches) -- Hundreds of demonstrators rallied near the Afghan capital on Tuesday to denounce a propaganda leaflet drop by U.S. forces last week that caused widespread offence and forced American commanders to issue an apology.

The leaflet drop near Bagram Air Field, one of the biggest U.S. bases in Afghanistan, was intended to encourage people to report insurgents to the authorities and depicted a lion chasing a dog, symbolizing the Taliban.

However it prompted widespread outrage as the picture of the dog, considered an unclean animal in Islam, incorporated a profession of faith from the Qur'an that forms part of the Taliban flag.

"The Americans have insulted Muslims through this action and their beliefs and we will not sit quietly by," said Mir Rahman, a protester at the rally in Qarabagh district near Bagram. "If the Americans and NATO continue to insult Islam, they will face the same fate that the Russians faced in Afghanistan."

U.S. commanders apologized for the leaflet and promised to hold those responsible to account but the affair has caused severe embarrassment at a time of heightened sensitivity over the separate issue of civilian casualties caused by airstrikes.

While the NATO-led Resolute Support coalition has generally taken

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Tens of Thousands March Against Macron in France

PARIS (Dispatches) -- Tens of thousands of French protesters marched against President Emmanuel Macron's flagship economic reforms on Tuesday in the first major demonstrations against his pro-business agenda.

The day of strikes and rallies are seen as a key test for the young French leader as he stakes his presidency on overhauling the sluggish economy, while protesters are eager to show they are able to mobilize in large numbers.

Some 4,000 strikes and 180 protests were called by France's biggest trade union, the CGT, with rail workers,

students and civil servants urged to join the protests against proposed changes to labor law.

"It's a first one and it looks like it's a success," the head of the CGT, Philippe Martinez, said at the start of a rally in Paris, claiming that 100,000 people had answered his union's call country-wide.

As well as Paris, crowds of a few thousand people gathered in the cities of Nice, Marseille, Saint Nazaire, Toulouse and Caen.

The disruption to rail networks, air traffic control and pub-

lic services appeared limited, however.

The 39-year-old president antagonized his opponents with outspoken comments last week when he described critics of his government's efforts as "slackers" and "cynics".

A separate protest movement on Tuesday by fairground operators swelled the numbers on the streets and their trucks, some towing merry-go-rounds on trailers, blocked roads in Paris and some regional cities.

Macron -- whose approval ratings have slumped sharply

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