

NEW YORK (Dispatches) -- Iranian President Hassan Rouhani here on Wednesday lashed out at U.S. President Donald Trump for his "ignorant and spiteful" comments against the Iranian nation.

Delivering a speech at the 72nd UN General Assembly session in New York on Wednesday, President Rouhani said the "ignorant, ugly, spiteful literature of the US president, which was full of false information and groundless allegations, against the Iranian nation" were beneath the dignity of the United Nations.

TEHRAN (Tasnim) -- Secretary of Iran's Supreme National Security Council Ali Shamkhani derided Israeli and U.S. leaders' UN speeches, saying even the Antarctic penguins would be ashamed to support a regime like Israel, after Netanyahu talked about penguins as supporters of Tel Aviv.

Shamkhani described Benjamin Netanyahu's UN speech as another episode of the annual "childish shows." Considering the international aversion to the Zionist regime and to Bibi, the killer of Palestinian women and children, even the Antarctic penguins would not bear the shame to support such child-murdering regime, he noted.

Viewpoint

By Kayhan Int'l Staff Writer

Trump's UN Theatrics May Badly Boomerang

P. 2

Iranians Preparing for Muharram Mourning Ceremonies

P. 3



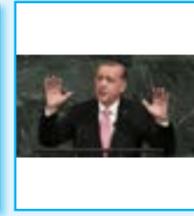
Iran Finish Runner-Up in Asian Wushu Championships

P. 6



'Turkey Threatens to Impose Bans on Iraqi Kurdistan'

P. 8



Hundreds Killed, Including 117 People in Capital Quake Leaves a Trail of Death, Destruction in Mexico

MEXICO CITY (Dispatches) -- At least 226 people were killed as a magnitude 7.1 earthquake rocked central Mexico Tuesday, the nation's civil protection agency told Reuters.

The death toll in Mexico City surged to 117 people, Luis Felipe Puente, the head of the agency, wrote in a post on Twitter. The earthquake struck on the 32nd anniversary of a tremor that killed thousands in the capital.

The state of Morelos, just south of Mexico City, was also hard hit with 55 killed, Puente said. At least 12 people were killed in the neighboring state of Mexico, and three deaths were reported in the state of Guerrero on the Pacific coast.

"We ran outside thinking all was going to collapse around us," said Lazaro Frutis, a 45-year-old who escaped an office building before it crumpled to the ground. "The worst thing is, we don't know about our families or anything."

The quake caused most of its damage in the center and south of the sprawling city.

Several buildings were reduced

to debris and cars were flattened by falling stonework.

Scenes of chaos permeated the city, with traffic jammed to a standstill and anxious people running between the vehicles as ambulances tried to make headway, sirens squealing.

Emergency officials warned people in the streets to avoid smoking because of the risk of igniting gas leaking from ruptured pipes. In several locations, people were seen clambering on buildings that were now piles of stone and tangled metal to seek survivors and bodies.

Witnesses said a school was smashed to rubble in Cuernavaca city, just south of the capital. The fate of the pupils and teachers was unknown.

The quake hit only hours after many people participated in earthquake drills around the nation on the anniversary of a devastating quake that killed thousands in Mexico City in 1985. Many were also still shaken from a quake on Sept. 7 in southern Mexico that killed at least 98 people.

IRGC Chief's Response to Trump's Pugnacious Rant: U.S. Should Experience 'Painful Responses'



U.S. President Donald Trump addresses the 72nd United Nations General Assembly at UN headquarters in New York, September 19, 2017.

TEHRAN (Dispatches) - The head of the Islamic Revolution Guards Corps (IRGC) said on Wednesday that the United States should experience "painful responses"

following President Donald Trump's harsh criticism of Tehran at the United Nations.

In his first speech to the UN General Assembly on Tuesday Trump accused Iran of supporting terrorism and destabilizing the Middle East. He also hinted he might not recertify a 2015 nuclear deal with Tehran when it comes up for a mid-Oct. deadline.

"Taking a definitive stand against Trump is only the beginning of the path," said General Muhammad Ali Jafari, according to Sepah News, the news site of the IRGC.

"What is strategically important is that America witnesses more painful responses in the actions, behavior and decisions that Iran takes in the coming months."

In recent months, tensions have

ramped up between Iran and the United States in the Persian Gulf, where the Iranian Navy has accused U.S. troops of provocative maneuvers with military vessels.

Jafari urged Iranian President Hassan Rouhani to deliver a definitive response to Trump in his speech at the United Nations on Wednesday.

"With the successive and exhausting defeats that the Americans have faced in the region from Iran, it's natural that their nervous system and coherence of thought have fallen apart," Sepah News quoted Jafari as saying.

In Tuesday's speech, Trump called the 2015 nuclear deal, negotiated between Iran and six world powers, and backed by his predecessor Barack Obama, "an

embarrassment".

Iranian Foreign Minister Muhammad Javad Zarif on Tuesday slammed Trump's address, calling it an "ignorant hate speech."

"Trump's ignorant hate speech belongs in medieval times — not the 21st century UN — unworthy of a reply," Zarif said on Twitter. "Fake empathy for Iranians fools no one," he added.

The US president accused Tehran of using its wealth to prop up Syrian leader Bashar Assad, back rebels in Yemen and "undermine peace throughout the entire Middle East."

Trump appeared to pave the way towards tearing up the nuclear deal signed in 2015 between six world powers and Iran.

Foreign Minister Sergei Lavrov said Wednesday Russia is "extremely concerned" by Trump's comments questioning the Iran nuclear deal and suspects that Washington itself may have violated a landmark arms control treaty.

Lavrov's comments, made to Russian reporters at the United Nations in New York and published by his ministry on Wednesday, illustrate how deeply Moscow and Washington are at odds over an array of issues and suggest any attempts to improve already battered relations face an uphill struggle.

Lavrov, whose country is a signatory to the deal, said Russia strongly disagreed with Trump's stance.

"It's extremely worrying," he said. "We will defend this document, this consensus, which was met with relief by the entire international community and genuinely strengthened both regional and international security."

(Continued on Page 7)

Rouhani Calls for Gas, Oil Investments

Japan PM Promises to Visit Iran at 'Suitable Time'

TOKYO (Platts) -- Iranian President Hassan Rouhani has urged Japanese Prime Minister Shinzo Abe to boost oil and gas investment in Iran, Japan's Ministry of Foreign Affairs said in a statement late Tuesday.

During a 40-minute meeting with Abe in New York Tuesday, on the sidelines of the UN General Assembly, Rouhani was quoted as saying that Tehran hopes Japan would expand its energy investments with a focus on the oil and gas sectors, as well as in other fields including environment, MOFA said.

In response, Abe noted that he will support Japanese companies' activities to expand bilateral economic relations, MOFA added.

Abe was also quoted as saying that his special envoy Masahiko Komura reported having a "very meaningful" meeting with Rouhani during his recent visit to Iran over September 5-7. Komura is vice-president of the ruling Liberal Democratic Party and chairman of Japan-Iran Parliamentary Friendship League, as well as a former MOFA minister.

During the meeting in New York, when Rouhani invited Abe to visit Iran, he replied that he hopes to do so at a suitable time, MOFA said.

Japan's Inpex said on September 13 that it may still bid for Iran's Azadegan field, although it is not

clear what the National Iranian Oil Company's view is regarding its candidacy for operatorship of the giant oil field.

"While it is unknown whether NIOC positions Inpex as a candidate for operator or not, it is our understanding that we remain on the list of prospective bidders," an Inpex spokesman said in response to an S&P Global Platts report dated September 13 that Iran rejected a technical proposal from Inpex for Azadegan.

The reason given was Inpex's lack of water-injection experience, which will be required for development of the giant reservoir, Ali Kardor, managing director of NIOC, told the oil ministry's monthly journal Iran Petroleum.

Kardor said NIOC had narrowed the list of final bidders for the significant oil reserve that straddles the border with Iraq.

"We have carried out pre-tender for Azadegan. The list of bidders has been finalized. Around 15 companies have expressed interest in this field," Kardor said in Iran Petroleum's August edition.

NIOC has prequalified 34 foreign companies for Iranian oil and gas upstream projects.

"We have told everybody that Azadegan is an important field for us. NIOC has even rejected technical proposals of some reputable operators. One example

is Inpex, which is known as a technical and powerful company. But after the field's study and some meetings, we both reached the conclusion that they cannot develop the field as an operator and the way Iran has in mind," said Kardor, who is deputy oil minister for oil affairs.

The Inpex spokesman confirmed that the company has been in contact with NIOC about the Azadegan field but declined to elaborate on the content of meetings, citing nondisclosure policies.

"It is also a fact that the tender process for the Azadegan oil field development is ongoing, and Inpex has been invited to take part in this process," the spokesman said.

"At this point, Inpex has made no decision on whether to tender a bid (for the Azadegan oil field)," the spokesman said. "A final decision will be made based on a comprehensive evaluation taking into account the information and intelligence currently being gathered, the state of international affairs and our own investment strategies."

Inpex had been the operator of the South Azadegan field from 2004 with a 75% stake. It cut its stake to 10% in 2006, transferring the operatorship to Naftiran Intertrade, an NIOC subsidiary.

(Continued on Page 7)

UK's Quercus Signs Iran's \$720 Million Solar Deal

LONDON (Dispatches) -- The UK deepened its economic relationship with Iran in a solar deal worth \$720 million less than a day after U.S. President Donald Trump called the Persian Gulf nation a threat to global security.

Current and former Iranian and UK officials gathered in London to announce a 600-million euro plan to develop a giant solar park with cash from investors in Asia, Europe and the Middle East. The agreement underscores how difficult it will be for Trump to dismantle the 2015 nuclear accord, or JCPOA, between six world powers and Iran, Bloomberg said.

"The British government has made it absolutely clear that it sees the JCPOA as important, it thinks the JCPOA should continue," Norman Lamont, a former chancellor of the

exchequer who is also chairman of the British Iranian Chamber of Commerce, said at a press conference on Tuesday. "The British government is also backed by other governments in the UK and in Europe."

Bloomberg said the solar project by Quercus Investment Partners Ltd., a London-based renewables developer, shows international interest continues in Iran's market, despite Trump's rhetoric.

"The fact that the European partners are rushing to Iran, for different industries, auto industries energy industry, shows that they do not believe at all that the failure of JCPOA is an option," Hamid Baedinejad, ambassador of Iran in the UK, said at the press conference.

The UK's trade with Iran rose 42% from January to October in 2016

and 57% in the same period in 2017, according to Lamont. Global trade with Iran rose 13% last year to \$113 billion, according to data compiled by Bloomberg.

"The opportunities are tremendous, they really are tremendous," said Richard Bacon, a current member of Parliament from the ruling Conservative Party. "I sense that we're on the cusp of something very special, the scale of the opportunities is really quite extraordinary."

The UK investment follows separate announcements by China, the European Union, France, Japan and Russia that they'll continue to support the accord. Europeans are also positioning themselves against a unilateral withdrawal from the JCPOA.

(Continued on Page 7)