Holy

Qur'an

They have taken their doctors of law and their

monks for lords besides

Allah, and (also) the

Messiah son of Marium

and they were enjoined that they should serve

one God only, there is no

god but He; far from His

glory be what they set up

The Holy Qur'an (9.31)

PRAYER TIMINGS

Intel Ministry

Working to Boost

Investment

Security

TEHRAN (Dispatches) - Iran's In-

telligence Minister Mahmoud Alawi on

Saturday underlined the great signifi-

cance which his ministry attaches to

efforts to boost investment security in

"Economic prosperity hinges on

sustainable security and if secu-

rity and health exist in the society,

we will witness the promotion of

economic growth," Alawi said in a

speech in the northern city of Sari.

the Islamic Republic.

17:11

05:31

07:01

(with Him).

Noon (Zohr)

Evening(Maghreb)

Sunrise "Tomorrow"

Dawn(Fajr)" Tomorrow"

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In the Name of the Most High

Viewpoint

Nimrata's Nonsense, a New Narrative of the Old **Hypocrisy Against Iran**

It was not just the most preposterous of the lies she has been glibly uttering at the UN for almost a year, but the latest accusations against Iran, complete with theatrics, including a segment of a supposed missile behind her at an aircraft hangar near Washington, were a blatant violation of the fundamentals of the Sikh religion into which Nimrata Randhawa was born and brought up, in addition to trampling of the tenets of Christianity which the US ambassador to the World Body claims she has been practicing ever since she married army officer Michael Haley.

Nikki, who slavishly serves the roguish US president, Donald Trump, has become so enamoured of the decadent American culture that she seems totally unconcerned about tarnishing her Punjabi Indian roots, by egging her master in the White House to take the suicidal step of military confrontation with the Islamic Republic.

Her latest dramatics, although dismissed by critics as "fake and fabricated", and shrugged off by US defence experts as "dangerous brinkmanship by Trump & Team" which could badly backfire against American interests, were cheered by the trio of Saudi Arabia, the UAE and the illegal Zionist entity – all three of which think God has failed them and only the Great Satan can prolong their precarious existence.

While Iran's envoy to the UN, Gholam-Ali Khoshroo, called Nimrata's nonsense as further proof of Washington's "irresponsible, destructive and provocative role", Foreign Minister Mohammad Javad Zarif, pointing to US complicity in Saudi Arabia's war crimes in Yemen, drew comparison with the then US Foreign Secretary Colin Powell's set of lies in 2003 for launching war on Iraq, saying: "When I was based at the UN, I saw this show and what it begat."

It should be recalled that Powell had glibly lied when he said the US had a "thick intelligence file" detailing Iraq's weapons of mass destruction, at one point using satellite photos and a fake anthrax vial as props.

Zarif brushing aside the fabrications of Iran's supply of missiles to Yemen in violation of UN Security Council resolutions, as alleged, made it clear that for almost the past three years, it is American weaponry including cluster bombs with which Saudi Arabia and the UAE have instigated a humanitarian catastrophe in the poorest of Arab nations by killing over 14,000 people in Yemen and destroying the infrastructure, including schools, hospitals, factories, markets, mosques, power plants, waterworks, and other civilian targets.

In response to Nimrata's nonsense, it was but natural of Yemen's popular Ansarallah Movement which fired with remarkable precision the ballistic missile in question at Riyadh International Airport on November 4 in retaliation for the US-backed state terrorism of Saudi Arabia, to state that US accusations of the Iranian origin of our missiles is an insult to the ingenuity and military genius of Yemeni scientists, technicians, and defence experts.

The whole scenario is thus a flagrant lie to implicate Iran in the current crisis in Yemen, so as to leave the Yemenis to the savagery of the US allies,

Analysts rejecting the US claims of Iranian markings on the supposed fragments of the missile displayed in Washington, have been quick to point out that any blacksmith in the US can inscribe the words on the missile part, even in Persian, to put the blame on Iran.

It is worth recalling that in 1961, US ambassador to the UN, Adlai Stevenson, presented at the Security Council doctored B. and W. photographs of the supposed missile system of the Soviet Union in Cuba, for the Americans to watch on TV sets, in order to discredit Moscow.

In view of these facts, and many other faked incidents for which the US is notorious, including the blowing up of the USS Maine in Havana harbour to start the war against Spain in 1898 and the Tonkin incident of the 1960s to justify invasion of Vietnam, Nimrata or Nikki, whatever she likes to call herself, is blindly following the dictates of her white masters.

It means, a narrative is being built to depict Iran as a monster, while the fact of the matter is that from Day One of the Saudi War against Yemen, the Islamic Republic has been calling for ceasefire, aid and dialogue, in contrast to the US arms sales to Riyadh to kill more and more Yemeni civilians. Isn't it the same old rhetoric, the same old pattern, the same old hypocrisy, since the marking of the missiles showered on the innocent people of Libya, Afghanistan, Syria and Yemen, are without the doubt "American"?

Health Minister in Seoul:

Seven MoUs Signed for Better **Ties With South Korea**



Iranian Minister of Health, Treatment and Medical Training Hassan Qazizadeh Hashemi oversees the signing of documents for cooperation with South Korea in Seoul, Dec. 15, 2017.

TEHRAN (Dispatches) -- Iran and South Korea have signed seven cooperation documents in various areas as a step toward the enhancement of

The agreements were signed in Seoul between visiting Iranian Minister of Health, Treatment and Medical Training Hassan Qazizadeh Hashemi and South Korean Minister of Health and Welfare Park Neung-hoo.

According to the Islamic Republic

News Agency (IRNA), one of the documents was a memorandum of understanding (MoU) on cooperation in the field of health and medi-

An MoU on hospital construction was also inked between some South Korean companies and Iranian hos-

The second document of the Iran-South Korea Joint Health Working Group was also signed between the two countries' health ministries.

An MoU on health insurance and one on hospital information systems were also among the documents signed in the ceremony.

Iran's health minister heading a delegation arrived in South Korea last Wednesday. During his trip, the minister was accompanied by a team comprising officials from the health ministry as well as the parliament's health and treatment commission. Hashemi wound up his trip on South Korea on Saturday.

Iranian Envoy: Hashd al-Shaabi a **Necessity for Iraq**

TEHRAN (Dispatches) -- The Iranian ambassador to Baghdad has defended the role of Hashd al-Shaabi in fighting terrorism in Iraq, saying the force is a "necessity" for the country's security.

"Hashd al-Shaabi is today a powerful legal organization in Iraq and recognized by the Iraqi government and parliament," Iraj Masjidi said in an exclusive interview with Press TV earlier this week.

Hashd al-Shaabi, a combination of some 40 groups of mostly Shia fighters, was formed shortly after the emergence of the Daesh terrorist group in Iraq in mid-2014.

In the early days of the Daesh's reign of terror, the then volunteer fighters played a major role in reinforcing the Iraqi army, which had suffered heavy setbacks in the face of lightning advances by the terror-

In November 2016, the Iraqi parliament voted to integrate Hashd al-Shaabi into the military.

Asked about recent calls by the Western countries for dismantling the group, Masjidi said the disbanding of the group "has no meaning."

"If the U.S. and others call for dismantling Daesh, firstly it is none of their business and this decision is upon the Iraqi people. Secondly, in my opinion, it is a necessity for Iraq's security and its defense," he

The ambassador said Hashd al-Shaabi is a force that has along with other Iraqi armed forces created a big military, defense and defense power for the country.

In the post-Daesh era, he said, Hashd al-Shaabi would be a "grantee" for the country's security and serve as a deterrent against future threats to Iraq.

The group belongs to the Iraqi nation and government and defends country's territorial integrity, he

Asked about the security situation on the Iraqi-Syrian border, Masjidi said that only the governments of the two countries were responsible to safeguard their frontiers and the U.S. should not interfere in the is-

He also touched on Iran's support

for the Iraqi government and armed forces in their fight against terrorism, saying that the presence of Iranian military advisers in Iraq in the post-Daesh era depends on the situation and Baghdad's request.

On Friday, Iraq's most revered Shia cleric Grand Ayatollah Ali al-Sistani opposed calls to disband Hashd al-Shaabi

Iraq is "always in desperate need of heroic men who have backed up the army and federal police and who fought alongside them on different fronts," said Abdel Mahdi al-Karabalai, the top cleric's repre-

"We need to continue to benefit from this important source of energy, within the constitution and judicial framework," he said in a sermon at weekly prayers in the holy city of Karbala, south of the capital.

Ayatollah Sistani also said that the paramilitary groups should be incorporated into state security bodies while all weapons used in fighting Daesh should be brought under the control of the Iraqi government.

(Continued on Page 7)

He further stressed the need to combat economic corruption, saying the Iranian society should enjoy economic security so that it can attract foreign investments. The minister went on to say that

one of the main duties of the Intelligence Ministry is to provide security for investment and boost the country's administrative security.

China is financing billions of dollars' worth of projects in Iran, making deep inroads into the economy while European competitors struggle to find banks willing to fund their ambitions, Iranian government and industry officials have said.

Freed from crippling nuclear sanctions two years ago, Iran is drawing unprecedented Chinese funding for everything from railways to hospi-

State-owned investment arm CITIC Group recently established a \$10 billion credit line and China Development Bank is considering \$15 billion

The China Development Bank signed a memorandum of understanding for \$15 billion, Iranian state news agency IRNA said on Sept. 15.

With a population of 80 million and a large, sophisticated middle class, Iran has the potential to be a regional economic powerhouse. But with the risk of sanctions hanging in the air, more and more foreign investors want Tehran to issue sovereign guarantees to protect them in case the projects are halted.

A few European banks have deepened trade ties with Iran this year -Austria's Oberbank inked a financing deal with Iran in September.

South Korea has also proved a willing investor, with Seoul's Eximbank signing an €8 billion credit line for projects in Iran in August, according to Chinese state news agency Xinhua.

The Iran chamber is encouraging Western firms to consider transferring technology as a way of earning equity in Iranian projects rather than focusing on capital.

Security Cooperation With Turkey 'Serious' end of the second session of the

TEHRAN (Tasnim) - Iranian Deputy Interior Minister for Security Affairs Hussein Zolfaqari said Saturday Tehran and Ankara enjoy close security cooperation and make joint efforts to fight against terror-

"Iran and Turkey have serious cooperation in the area of security and counter-terrorism," Zolfaqari

said. In both countries, there is a deep understanding of the development of cooperation and implementation

nof previous agreements in vari-

ous areas, he added.

The official went on to say that during the recent visit of Turkish Interior Minister Suleyman Soylu to Tehran, good agreements were reached in various fields.

The remarks came after highranking officials from Iran and Turkey signed a roadmap for the development of cooperation between the two neighboring countries in various security fields, including

efforts to boost border control and counter money laundering. The roadmap was signed at the

money laundering.

joint working group of interior ministry officials of Iran and Turkey held in Ankara from Wednesday to Friday. Zolfagari and his Turkish coun-

terpart headed the delegations of the two countries in the session. In the three-day session, the two

sides focused on various areas of cooperation, including efforts to combat drug smuggling, human trafficking, organized crimes, illegal border crossing, terrorism and