

TEHRAN (Tasnim) – Head of the Atomic Energy Organization of Iran (AEOI) Ali Akbar Salehi said on Sunday Tehran has made preparations for a mega project to build nuclear propulsion systems and that serious steps have been taken to complete it.

“This project is a huge one that will take some time to complete,” he said. “We have started working on the preparations for the project and seriously seeking to complete it,” the official added.

BAGHDAD (Reuters) -- Iraq's outgoing parliament speaker Saïim al-Jabouri said on Sunday that a May 12 parliamentary election should be repeated after a storage site housing ballot boxes in Baghdad caught on fire earlier in the day. The ballot boxes are part of a manual recount of votes from the May parliamentary election, mandated in a law passed on Wednesday. “The crime of burning ballot box storage warehouses in the Rusafa area is a deliberate act, a planned crime, aimed at hiding instances of fraud and manipulation of votes, lying to the Iraqi people and changing their will and choices,” Jabouri said in a statement.

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## Rouhani: Expanding U.S. Unilateralism Threatens All

QINGDAO, China (Dispatches) -- Iranian President Hassan Rouhani on Sunday criticized U.S. “unilateralism” in withdrawing from the Iran nuclear deal and said he appreciated efforts by China and Russia to maintain the agreement.

“The U.S. efforts to impose its policies on others are expanding as a threat to all,” Rouhani told the summit of the Shanghai Cooperation Organization (SCO), a regional security grouping led by China and Russia where Iran has observer status.

“The recent example of such unilateralism and the defiance of the decisions of the international community by the U.S. government is its withdrawal from the JCPOA,” he said, referring to the nuclear agreement by its official name, the Joint Comprehensive Plan of Action.

The “unilateral sanctions are not only against international rules and regulations, but also damage legitimate international trade,” Rouhani said.

Washington’s recent decision to withdraw from the 2015 nuclear agreement is “a recent example of the United States’ unilateralism and indifference towards the opinions of the international community,” he added.

Rouhani also warned of the threat posed by terrorism, separatism and extremism to the world, calling for an increase in intelligence exchange between regional countries in a bid to weaken terrorist groups.

The Islamic Republic, he said, “has invaluable experience in curtailing and weakening of extremist and terrorist currents, an example of which is cooperating with the government of Iraq and Syria in fighting Daesh terrorists.”

Chinese President Xi Jinping, speaking after Rouhani, expressed “regret” that Washington had withdrawn from the nuclear deal.

“China is willing to work with Russia and other countries to preserve the JCPOA,” Xi said.

President Vladimir Putin also said Russia would continue to abide by the terms of the Iran nuclear deal.

Russia is concerned that the situation in the region might spiral out of control as a result of Washington’s exit from the JCPOA, he added.

“The U.S. withdrawal can destabilize the situation,” Putin said, stressing that Russia “will, for its part, continue to comply with all its obligations under the deal.”

### Youths on ‘March of Return’ Vigil in Mashhad: Leader Meets University Lecturers, Researchers



Ayatollah Khamenei meets a group of university professors and researchers in Tehran, June 10, 2018.

TEHRAN – Leader of the Islamic Revolution Ayatollah Seyyed Ali Khamenei here Sunday met with a group of university professors and researchers.

Excerpts of his speech will be published in our Tuesday issue. In the holy city of Mashhad, a group of youths began three

days of vigil at the famous Goharshad Mosque in solidarity with the Palestinian “March of Return” being held in the Gaza Strip since March 30.

They began their ‘I’tikaf’ or spiritual retreat on Monday, kicking off three days of prayers and support for the

Palestinians whose peaceful weekly rallies at a fence separating Gaza from the occupied territories have been met with a ruthless military crackdown by Zionist troops.

I’tikaf is an Islamic practice consisting of a period of staying in a mosque for a certain

number of days, devoting oneself to worship and staying away from worldly affairs.

The 11th consecutive Friday of protests last week marked Israeli killing of at least four protesters. The latest protest was called the “One-Million March for Al-Quds” to mark the Arab-Israeli war of 1967 and to call again for the right of return for Palestinians.

It also coincided with Al-Quds Day, an annual event that takes place on the final Friday of the Islamic holy month of Ramadan to campaign for the rights of Palestinians.

In Iran, several millions of protesters took to the streets in more than 800 cities to support Palestinians and condemn U.S.-backed Israeli atrocities.

The protesters chanted “Death to Israel” and “Death to America” and burned effigies of President Donald Trump whose decision this year to recognize Jerusalem Al-Quds as the so-called Israeli capital and move the U.S. embassy to the occupied city has outraged Muslims.

### Trump Disavows Joint Communiqué: G7 in Worst Disarray After Acrimonious Meeting

QUEBEC CITY (Dispatches) — President Donald Trump broadsided his allies and upended a Group of Seven meeting just as it wound up — disavowing a joint statement the U.S. had agreed to, insulting Canada’s Justin Trudeau and ratcheting up trade tensions.

Trump fired off a pair of tweets several hours after leaving the summit in Canada to fly to Singapore for another on North Korea. Trudeau and other leaders had given closing press conferences and announced a U.S.-backed joint G7 statement. Minutes after that statement was published online, Trump complained about comments made by Trudeau and revoked his support.

“I have instructed our U.S. Reps not to endorse the Communiqué as we look at Tariffs on automobiles flooding the U.S. Market!” Trump tweeted Saturday evening, saying he was responding to Trudeau. “Very dishonest & weak,” he said of the Canadian leader.

His comments undermine the G7, a bloc that was once a pillar of U.S. foreign policy. It could also cause fresh friction with his northern neighbor as tensions percolate over efforts to redraw the North American Free Trade Agreement. And it

could even undercut the upcoming North Korea summit — Trump effectively backed out of a deal with allies while traveling to try and reach a deal with a foe.

“It’s a brutal blow to a summit of significant success, both in substance and in presentation,” said John Kirton, director of the University of Toronto’s G7 Research Group. The brief glow of this year’s summit “has been destroyed, for now and probably for good.”

The remarks came shortly after Trudeau, the G7 host, had projected an image of cooperation. At his closing press conference, he announced all G7 nations had worked hard to finalize a joint statement, which largely committed them to keep talking on trade.

Trudeau also repeated statements he’d made earlier — calling U.S. steel and aluminum tariffs “insulting” and pledging to proceed with previously announced retaliatory tariffs. Trump said that retaliation is a “mistake,” according to Trudeau. Canada is “polite, we’re reasonable but we also will not be pushed around,” Trudeau added. Trump’s tweets cited those comments.

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### Russian Coordination With Zionists ‘Not True’: President Assad: U.S., UK Prolonging Syria War

DAMASCUS (Dispatches) — Syrian President Bashar Assad denied Russia coordinated or even knew in advance about reported strikes by the occupying regime of inside his country and dismissed Moscow’s role in determining Iran’s presence there, in an interview published Sunday.

“Russia never coordinated with anyone against Syria, either politically or militarily, and that’s contradiction; how could they help the Syrian Army advancing and at the same time work with our enemies in order to destroy our army,” Assad told the British Daily Mail newspaper.

When pressed on whether Russia knew in advance of airstrikes carried out by the Zionist regime, Assad responded “that’s not true, that’s not true, definitely. We know the details.” Zionist officials have tried to project a process of ongoing coordination with Russia about pushing Iranian military advisors and allied resistance forces away from the Syrian border on the occupied Golan Heights.

Several unconfirmed reports in Occupied Palestine have claimed that Moscow was informed of airstrikes on Syrian and Iranian

positions as tensions have risen in recent weeks.

They have also alleged that Russia was mediating for Iranian troops and Hezbollah fighters to withdraw from areas close to the occupied Palestinian border where Syrian troops are expected to launch an offensive against Takfiri terrorists.

However Assad said Russia was not involved in making decisions about Syria.

“They never, during our relation, try to dictate, even if there are differences; because there is a war and because there’s high dynamism now in the region, it’s natural to have differences between the different parties, whether within our government or other governments; Russia-Syria, Syria-Iran, Iran-Russia, and within these governments, that’s very natural, but at the end the only decision about what’s going on in Syria and what’s going to happen, it’s a Syrian decision,” he said.

Assad described the Syrian army as “the main party” that has been fighting Daesh with the help of the Russians and Iranians over the past years, but the U.S.-led alliance

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### First Monsoon Rains Hit Rohingya Refugee Camps

DHAKA (AFP) — The first monsoon rains have hit camps in Bangladesh housing around a million Rohingya refugees, triggering floods and landslides but no casualties or major damage so far, officials said Sunday.

Aid agencies have been warning that the monsoon season could prompt a humanitarian catastrophe in coming months at what is the world’s biggest refugee camp, sheltering people fleeing violence in Myanmar.

The sites in southeastern Bangladesh are predicted to be hit by powerful cyclones and by more than 2.5 meters of rainfall over the coming three months of monsoon — roughly triple what Britain gets in a year.

Bangladesh’s meteorological office said the Cox’s Bazar area where many of the refugees live in makeshift shelters on bare hillsides had 138 millimeters of rain since Saturday evening.

“Some areas like the football field areas are flooded. Some houses have been inundated with water. There have been a few landslides. The conditions are bad,” UN refugee agency spokesperson Caroline Gluck told AFP.

The monsoon season “is going to

be big test for everybody involved in the humanitarian response in support of the government of Bangladesh”, she said.

More heavy rain is forecast for coming days.

Rohingya leaders told AFP the rains have already devastated some parts of the camps and turned some dirt roads into quagmires, hindering the movement of refugees and relief materials.

Kamal Hussain, a Rohingya community leader, said at least five shanties were destroyed by landslides or strong winds over around 12 hours of a sustained downpour beginning on Saturday evening.

“It’s just the beginning and the entire monsoon season is ahead of us. Some people have been relocated but the majority are still living under risk,” said Mohammad Mohibullah, another community leader.

Last year heavy rain triggered mudslides in Cox’s Bazar and the nearby Chittagong Hill Tracts, killing at least 170 people. More than 100 died in landslides in the region in 2012, and two years earlier around 50 perished.

Gluck said that so far nearly 29,000 refugees have been relocated

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