

TEHRAN (Press TV) -- Russia's permanent representative to international organizations in Vienna said Saturday Moscow has warned Britain, France, and Germany - collectively known as the EU3 - against triggering the 2015 Iran nuclear deal dispute mechanism. "We have warned our Western partners against taking such a step by reminding them of the negative implications of such a process," the Islamic Republic News Agency (IRNA) quoted Mikhail Ulyanov as saying.

"The Kremlin views this measure taken by the three European states in negative light," he added.

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TEHRAN (Dispatches) - Iranian Deputy Foreign Minister Abbas Araqchi will attend a meeting of the parliament's National Security and Foreign Policy Commission to brief lawmakers on the illegal presence of the UK ambassador to Iran in an anti-government rally. The spokesman for the commission, Hussein Naqavi Husseini, said representatives of Iran's law enforcement forces will also participate in the meeting to discuss British Ambassador to Tehran Rob Macaire's presence in the illegal protest rally. Iranian Police released footage that shows Macaire taking part in an illegal gathering in the capital last Saturday. Macaire was arrested after he tried to "provoke and organize" an anti-government gathering held in front of Amir Kabir University.

Viewpoint

Gazan Defenders Determined to Revolutionize Rocket Range & Power

Iranian Academic Centers Top-Notch Globally



Iranian Clubs to Withdraw From AFC Champions League



Taliban to Sign Deal With U.S. by End of Month: Report



U.S. Faces Embarrassing Deportation From Iraq: CNN

WASHINGTON (Dispatches) -- Donald Trump has not withdrawn his troops from Iraq, despite his promise to end America's fierce wars. He may not be required to do so. The United States faces the possibility of being deported, and it would be a great victory for Iran, CNN wrote on Saturday.

Iraqi parliament officials, where powerful blocs have inseparable ties to Tehran, have begun a process to end the presence of foreign troops in the country, in a clear response to the United States assassination of Iranian commander General Qassem Soleimani during a drone strike in Baghdad two weeks ago, the broadcaster said.

Following the strike, joint U.S.-Iraq operations were halted, and the Iraqi interim prime minister said that a withdrawal of American troops was the only way to "protect everyone on the ground."

Washington and Tehran have been involved in Iraq - the U.S. through its 2003 invasion of the Arab country and Iran through helping it fight Takfirir terrorists. According to CNN, Iran is already winning in this battle.

"Its coherent and coherent strategy, which is lacking in the United States, has enabled Tehran to gradually integrate into the fabric of daily life in Iraq," it said.

Iran, it said, has used helped with the formation of popular militias that have become official factions of the Iraqi army, while economically it provides a huge amount of exports that the Iraqis

now rely on.

"Because of these ties, the decision of the Iraqi parliament to side with Iran after the Soleimani attack is not surprising. The strike appears to have failed, to the benefit of Iran's long-term goal of getting the United States out of the region," it said.

According to CNN, to be deported would be a humiliating end to the United States' long mission in Iraq, which has drawn hundreds of billions of American taxpayers' money and left thousands of American soldiers dead.

U.S. Secretary of State Mike Pompeo denied that the United States would leave, but noted a possible downsizing. Fawaz Gerges, professor of international relations at the London School of Economics and Political Science, sees this proposal as a face saving exercise for the United States that could allow American troops to remain in small numbers, but essentially to begin the process of withdrawal.

CNN touched on Iraq's fight against Daesh and Iran's assistance to train fighters for the battle, such as the Popular Mobilization Units (PMUs), which has officially integrated into the Iraqi army.

Economically, Iran provides energy to Iraq which is also Iran's second most important destination for exports, after China, according to the Economic Complexity Watch.

Instead, Iraqi officials are growing weary of the changes that have happened with each new U.S. president and the mixed sig-



President Rouhani Visits Flood-Hit Provinces

President Rouhani talks to local people in the flood-hit village of Kalani in Chabahar, Jan. 18, 2020.

TEHRAN (Dispatches) - Iranian President Hassan Rouhani traveled to Sistan and Baluchestan on Saturday to oversee relief operations in the flood-stricken southeastern province.

The visit came after Leader of the Islamic Revolution Ayatollah Seyyed Ali Khamenei

ordered state officials to rush aid to those affected by severe flooding in several cities and villages in southeast Iran.

Rouhani arrived at Chabahar Konarak airport Saturday morning and was then flown by helicopter to the flood-hit areas. The president was accompanied by several ministers during his one-day visit to the impoverished province. Heavy rains, which started on January 9, caused flash flooding in Sistan and Baluchestan and the neighboring Kerman and Hormozgan provinces. Sistan and Baluchestan is

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Heavy rains, which started on January 9, caused flash flooding in Sistan and Baluchestan and the neighboring Kerman and Hormozgan provinces. Sistan and Baluchestan is

the worst hit after receiving record-breaking precipitation after witnessing years of drought.

Officials say the floods have destroyed roads and many bridges, washed away farms and damaged 20,000 houses.

Iran's Minister of Roads and Urban Development Muhammad Eslami on Thursday put damage to roads, bridges and waterways in Sistan and Baluchestan province at \$53 million.

The province on the Gulf of Oman is home to several ports, including Chabahar, but Ravanbakhsh Behzadian at they are operating normally.

"Imports and exports through the southern ports are running as usual, and the recent floods have not affected them," he told ISNA news agency.

Commander of the Iranian army's ground forces General Kioumars Heydari on Friday said several units under his command are deployed with helicopters to the affected regions to assist local people.

They are helping with transferring food, drinks and medicine and reopening roads to villages and towns, he said.

best course of action would be to work closely with the Iranians. But it's not. Their desire to counter the Iranian government outweighs their desire to support the Iraqi state in many ways. There are contradictions in American policy in the region," he said.

Report: Iran Sending Black Boxes to Ukraine

TEHRAN (Dispatches) -- Iran said on Saturday it was sending to Ukraine the black boxes from a Ukrainian passenger plane that was shot down accidentally outside Tehran this month amid signs of possible U.S. aggression.

Tasnim news agency said the authorities were prepared for experts from France, Canada and the United States to examine information from the data and voice recorders of the Ukraine International Airlines plane that came down on Jan. 8.

The plane disaster resulted in the deaths of all 176 aboard. It was shot down in error at a time when Iran was on high alert for a U.S. attack.

Hassan Rezaifar, a director in charge of accident investigations at Iran's Civil Aviation Organization, said the aim was to read the information on the recorders "with the use of the expertise of the countries of France, Canada and America".

"If this effort is unsuccessful then the black box will be sent

to France," he said, according to Tasnim, adding that black boxes were being sent to Kiev at the request of Ukrainian experts in Tehran and that they would not be inspected in Iran.

The U.S.-built Boeing 737-800 was en route from Tehran to the Ukrainian capital. Most of those on board were Iranians.

Canadian Prime Minister Justin Trudeau, who has been pressing for a full investigation into the plane downing, said on Friday Iran should send the black boxes to France.

France was one of the few countries with the ability to read the flight and cockpit data recorders from the jet, he told a news conference, adding they were badly damaged.

Ukraine has previously said it expected Iran to hand over the black boxes to Ukraine. The foreign minister also expects Iranian representatives to travel to Kiev next week.

Canada, alongside Ukraine, Sweden, Afghanistan and Britain, which also had citizens on

the flight, have called for a thorough investigation and compensation for the families.

The plane was brought down in the tense hours after Iran launched missiles at U.S. targets in Iraq in response to the American assassination of the Middle East's most prominent anti-terror commander General Qassem Soleimani in a terrorist drone strike on Jan. 3 in Baghdad.

Iran's foreign ministry urged those involved in the crash to avoid making it an "excuse for political gestures".

Addressing the crisis, Leader of the Islamic Revolution Ayatollah Seyyed Ali Khamenei told worshippers chanting "Death to America" at prayers on Friday that the disaster was a "bitter tragedy that burned through our heart".

But the Leader said "some tried to use it as an excuse to overshadow the martyrdom of our great commander".

"As much as we were saddened and our hearts were broken by

Stolen 'Divan of Hafez' Discovered in Holland

AMSTERDAM (AFP) -- A stolen 15th-century book by the famed Persian poet Hafez has been recovered by a Dutch art detective after an international "race against time" that drew the alleged interest of Iran's secret service.

The gold-leafed volume worth around one million euros (\$1.1 million) was found to be missing from the collection of an Iranian antiques dealer after his death in Germany in 2007.

It sparked a decade-long search for one of the oldest surviving copies of the "Divan of Hafez" -- the collected works of the poet who remains extremely popular in Iran and has inspired artists worldwide.

But Arthur Brand, dubbed the "Indiana Jones of the Art World" for tracing a series of lost works, finally tracked down the tome via the murky stolen arts underworld.

"This is a hugely important find for me, because this is such an important book," Brand said as he showed AFP the recovered book at an Amsterdam apartment.

Along with Rumi, Hafez -- full name Shams al-Din Muhammad Hafiz Shirazi -- is one of the best known mystical bards. American essayist Ralph Waldo Emerson called him the "Prince of Persian poets".

Hafez's Divan can still be found in most Iranian homes where it is traditionally read out during family celebrations for the Persian New Year.

The theft of the manuscript, which dates from 1462 to 1463, was discovered by the family of book dealer Djafar Ghazy after he died in an old people's home in Munich in 2007.

While going through Ghazy's computer, they realized the reclusive pensioner had in fact collected hundreds of ancient manuscripts -- but that they were all gone.

In 2011 German police recovered 174 of them raiding the home of another Iranian pensioner who had befriended Ghazy.

"But the most important piece, one of the earliest and most accu-

rate copies of the famous 'Divan of Hafez', was still missing," said Brand.

German police announced a 50,000-euro reward and issued a flyer describing the book in 2016 but there was still no trace of it, until late 2018.

Brand then received a phone call from an Iranian dealer, asking the Dutchman to "urgently" meet him in Germany.

"The man told me he was visited by two officials who said they were 'linked to the Iranian embassy'." The men told him to "report any news of the missing Divan", Brand said.

"My informant was clearly scared, felt threatened and decided to call me into the case," Brand told AFP.

Iran had already shown an interest in the case, saying it would take "all legal means" to get back the manuscripts that were found in 2011, after Germany gave two back but decided most of the rest

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