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Iran's Defense Minister Urges World to Counter Trumpism



Iran's Defense Minister Brigadier General Amir Hatami speaks to reporters upon his arrival in the Russian capital of Moscow.

MOSCOW (Dispatches) - Iranian Defense Minister Brigadier General Amir Hatami on Tuesday deplored U.S. President Donald Trump's moves against international law, saying Trump has posed serious threats to global security.

Speaking to reporters upon his arrival at the Vnukovo International Airport in Moscow, Brigadier General Hatami said, "Today, we are facing various security issues in the world."

"Today, the most important issue of the world is Trumpism, which has a similar feature to Nazism," he said, adding that Trump has put the world security in serious danger with such characteristics as selfishness, oppression and violating human principles and international rules.

Brigadier General Hatami also said he has traveled to Russia to attend the eighth Moscow Conference on International Security at the official invitation of Russian Defense Minister Sergei Shoigu.

The Ministry of Defense of the Russian Federation is organizing the annual Conference on International Security in Moscow on April 23-25, 2019, according to

its official website.

The conference agenda will encompass the problems of utmost significance in terms of shaping views on international security.

Separate plenary sessions will offer space to exchange views on modern military challenges and threats, including the improvement of the arms control system.

Meanwhile, Iranian Ambassador to Russia Mehdi Sanaei and Russian Deputy Foreign Minister Sergei Ryabkov exchanged views about a host of issues, including recent measures adopted by the U.S. administration against the Islamic Republic.

During the meeting, held in Moscow, Sanaei and Ryabkov deplored Washington's unilateral sanctions and provocative actions against Iran as contrary to international regulations, saying the moves would increase disorder and chaos in the world.

The two sides also stressed the need for cooperation on regional and international issues, including the 2015 nuclear deal.

It came after the White House said on Monday that Trump "has decided not to reissue" waivers regarding sanctions against

countries importing Iranian oil when the waivers expire "in early May".

The exact deadline is May 2. "This decision is intended to bring Iran's oil exports to zero, denying the regime its principal source of revenue," the statement from White House press secretary Sarah Sanders read.

Countries that continue to import Iranian oil in large amounts include India, China, South Korea, Japan and Turkey.

U.S. Secretary of State Mike Pompeo said on Monday that Saudi Arabia and the United Arab Emirates have agreed to "ensure an appropriate supply of oil for the markets" in order to make up for the loss of Iranian oil in the global market.

In May 2018, the U.S. president pulled his country out of the Comprehensive Plan of Action (JCPOA), the nuclear deal that was achieved in Vienna in 2015 after years of negotiations among Iran and the Group 5+1 (Russia, China, the U.S., Britain, France and Germany).

Following the U.S. withdrawal, Iran and the remaining parties launched talks to save the accord.

The Holy Qur'an

Then it shall be said to those who were unjust: Taste abiding chastisement; you are not requited except for what you earned. And they ask you: Is that true? Say: Aye! by my Lord! it is most surely the truth, and you will not escape. The Holy Qur'an (10:53)

PRAYER TIMINGS

Noon (Zohr)	13:03
Evening (Maghreb)	20:04
Dawn (Fajr) "Tomorrow"	04:50
Sunrise "Tomorrow"	06:21

France Says Iran/Instex Mechanism Making Positive Progress

PARIS (Reuters) - The 'Instex' mechanism set up by France, Britain and Germany for Iran to skirt U.S. sanctions is making positive progress, said the French foreign ministry on Tuesday, as it responded to the latest moves by the U.S. government to put pressure on Iran.

"The work that has been put in place is making positive progress, with a view to an eventual conclusion. Iran must also, for its part, make progress on its equivalent counterparty," said the French foreign ministry in an electronic briefing.

France also reiterated its support for a 2015 nuclear deal with Iran.

Instex was conceived as a way to help match Iranian oil and gas exports with purchases of EU goods, but those ambitions have been toned down. Diplomats say that, realistically, it will be used only for smaller transactions such as purchases of humanitarian products or food.

Trump Move on Iran to Sink Global Economy Into Recession: Analyst

TEHRAN (Tasnim) - American geopolitical analyst Dean Henderson on Tuesday warned that the Trump administration's decision to end sanctions waivers for Iran oil imports will push up prices and could "sink an already reeling global economy into recession".

"The move by the Trump Administration to remove the exemption on nations who at first buy Iranian oil without sanction should increase the price of oil on global markets," Dean Henderson, author and geopolitical analyst from Missouri, told Tasnim.

In a statement on Monday, the White House said US President Donald Trump "has decided not to reissue" waivers regarding sanctions against countries importing Iranian oil when the waivers expire "in early May."

The exact deadline is May 2. "This decision is intended to bring Iran's oil exports to zero, denying the regime its principal source of revenue," the statement from White House press secretary Sarah Sanders read.

The American analyst added, "The lack of Iranian supply could create a move upward in price which could well sink an already reeling global economy into recession. Ironically, in purely economic terms, this will help oil producers like Iran and Venezuela

and hurt oil importing nations."

"It will further alienate the U.S. from the global community in what amounts to another botcher neocon policy," Henderson stressed.

In November, the U.S. imposed new sanctions on exports of Iranian oil after Trump unilaterally pulled out of the 2015 nuclear deal between Tehran and world powers.

Washington, however, granted Iran's eight main buyers of oil waivers to the sanctions that allowed them limited purchases for six months.

They were China, India, Japan, South Korea, Taiwan, Turkey, Italy and Greece.

Some U.S. and foreign officials and outside experts criticized the Trump administration's Iran policy, arguing it has not given much thought to the likely effects of its Iran policy on oil markets or on the nations, especially China, India, Turkey and Iraq, that now will be sanctioned if they continue to import oil from Iran.

"The administration has launched a fairly significant initiative without doing the necessary groundwork with the countries that will be most affected," Suzanne Maloney, an Iran expert at Washington's Brookings Institution, told TIME.

32nd Tehran Int'l Book Fair Kicks Off

TEHRAN (Dispatches) - The 32nd edition of Tehran International Book Fair kicked on Tuesday in a ceremony attended by the Minister of Culture and Islamic Guidance.

During the ceremony, Mohsen Javadi, head of the 32nd Tehran International Book Fair and Deputy Minister of Culture and Islamic Guidance, said the motto of this edition is "Reading Is Ability".

"With this motto, we welcome not only the great cultural event of our country, but also one of the largest cultural events in the world," Javadi went on to say.

In addition to 2,400 domestic publishers, 800 international publishers offer their valuable

works at this edition to book enthusiasts.

Last year 1,400 titles were published and put on show at the exhibition, he noted, adding that cultural events and discussion sessions about the books are being held at the venue of the fair.

"The history of Iran is known via the great books of scientists and wise men. We are glad we can develop friendship among nations and governments by books," he maintained.

China is the special guest of the exhibition this year. China's news conference was held Monday (April 22) with the presence of Iranian and Chinese officials.

Tehran Sues U.S. Over Prevention of Aid Flow to Flood Victims

TEHRAN (IFP) - Iranian Vice President for Legal Affairs Leila Joneydi says the country is legally pursuing the United States' move to block the flow of cash aid to flood victims in the Islamic Republic.

Joneydi said Iran has filed a lawsuit at the International Court of Justice regarding the case.

The lawsuit was filed after the head of the Iranian Red Crescent Society confirmed it has not been able to receive any cash aid to help flood victims.

Joneydi stressed this reflects a major U.S. misconduct, especially in the area of human rights and humanitarian law.

"Under the interim order of the International Court of Justice Washington cannot hamper

issues related to food, medicine, medical equipment, agricultural items, aircraft parts and services, and all related banking operations," she told IRIB News Agency.

Joneydi added that in addition to violating international law, the U.S. action has also clearly violated the interim order of the International Court of Justice, and for each of them, necessary measures have been taken.

Aid workers in Iran say U.S. sanctions are hampering their ability to help people affected by massive flooding.

Relentless rain and flooding throughout Iran has left some 2 million people facing a humanitarian crisis. 25 of 31 Iranian provinces have been affected,

and over 76 people have lost their lives.

Japan Sees Limited Impact From U.S. Decision on Iran Sanctions - Report

TOKYO (Dispatches) - Japan expects a limited impact from a U.S. decision to force buyers of Iranian crude oil to stop purchases from next month, trade and industry minister Hiroshige Seko said as cited by Reuters.

According to Reuters, Seko also said at a press conference that the Japanese government did not see any need to tap national oil reserves following the U.S. decision.

Earlier in the day the White House announced the decision not to reissue waivers on Irani-

an oil after they expire in May. Washington highlighted that the decision "is intended to bring Iran's oil exports to zero."

Iran reacted to the U.S. decision by saying that it would take the required measures. In particular, Iranian Foreign Ministry spokesman Abbas Mousavi said Tehran held consultations with foreign partners to discuss this.

"The results of these external and internal contacts will be reflected in decision-making — Iran will soon make the required decision on this issue and announce it," he said.

Following the U.S. decision not to extend exceptions from oil sanctions against Iran, Turkey criticized the unilateral U.S. step.