

TEHRAN (Tasnim) - Iran marked the 37th anniversary of the liberation of the strategic port city of Khorramshahr from Iraqi forces under the former dictator Saddam Hussein. Iranian forces recaptured the southwestern city in a landmark operation code-named Beit-ul-Muqaddas in 1982, putting an end to over 500 days of the Iraqi occupation. Iran launched the operation in April 1982 and liberated Khorramshahr on May 24 of the same year. In retaking the city, the Iranians captured some 19,000 troops from the Iraqi army.

TEHRAN (Tasnim) - Iranian President Hassan Rouhani on Friday offered his congratulations to Indian Prime Minister Narendra Modi over his party's victory in the general elections of the South Asian country. In a message to Modi, President Rouhani felicitated the Bharatiya Janata Party's winning of the 2019 India elections. He further hailed the growing ties between Tehran and New Delhi and expressed the confidence that the age-old relations will deepen more than ever in Modi's new term in office.

Viewpoint
Chain Reaction of God-Liberated Khorramshahr Still Continues

Iran's 'Nabat' to Have First International Premiere

Mehdi Torabi's Score Nominated for Goal of The Week

'Bahraini Regime Contributing to Liquidation of Palestinian Cause'

'Idiotic' Trump Calls Iran 'a Nation of Terror'

UNITED NATIONS (Dispatches) - Iran's envoy to the UN has hit out at U.S. President Donald Trump's "idiotic" terror accusations, saying Tehran has been the biggest victim and strongest enemy of terrorism in the region. The strong reaction by Majid Takht-Ravanchi came after Trump on Thursday called Iran "a nation of terror" despite his earlier patronizing messages to the Iranian people. "The U.S. president's contradictory words about Iran clearly show his endless hostility toward Iran and the great Iranian nation," Takht-Ravanchi said. "These idiotic remarks, more than anything, show (Trump's) ignorance of thousands of years of the Iranian history, and a lack of knowledge about the country," the Iranian envoy added.

"Trump has an odd way of showing 'such respect' for Iranians: from labeling them a 'terrorist nation' & banning them from visiting the U.S., to petty insults on the name of the Persian Gulf," Zarif said at the time. On Monday, a senior Iranian official said Trump is a "crazy president" whose threats against Iran aren't going to work, adding if the U.S. president wants to talk, he'll not only have to show some respect, but come up with a consistent message. His remarks came after Trump called Iran "No. 1 provocateur of terror" and threatened the country with "official end". "In his mind, Trump thinks he has a gun to Iran's head with sanctions and he is trying to shut down our economy," Iran's director of foreign affairs for the country's parliament, Hussein Amir-Abdollahian, told CNN. "Also, Trump is not quite balanced and stable in his decision making, so we are dealing with a confused White House," he said. Amir-Abdollahian said Trump has "got no idea about the culture and mentality of the Iranian people" if he thinks threats will work against Iran. "Forty years of Islamic Revolution in Iran have shown that you cannot talk to Iran through threats," the official said.

Speaking to reporters in Washington Thursday, Trump said, "Iran has been a very dangerous player, a very bad player. They are a nation of terror and we won't put up with it." Iranians, he alleged, is now suffering from massive financial problems, adding they have inflation that's about the highest in the world. Trump pulled the U.S. out of an international nuclear deal with Iran last year, and reimposed toughest sanctions ever on the country, drawing rebuke even from the United States' closest allies.

"Trump's insistence on using insulting words against Iran only doubles the Iranian nation's determination to resist the policy of pressure and intimidation," Takht-Ravanchi said. He said Iran has been "the biggest victim and at the same time the strongest enemy of terrorism in the region." "Destroying Daesh and other similar terror groups in recent years has been among the latest measures of Iran in this regard," he added. Since taking office in 2016, Trump has flip-flopped on the Iranian nation: he has once in a while called the Iranians "a terrorist nation" and soon after expressed his support for them. In January 2018, Trump announced his "respect" for small riots in some Iranian cities, saying the U.S. would provide "great support" to them "at the appropriate time." Iranian Foreign Minister Muhammad Javad Zarif fired back.

Iran Ready for Resistance, Its Hands on Trigger



Iranian protesters chant slogans against the U.S. at a rally in Tehran.

TEHRAN (Dispatches) - Iran will not surrender to U.S. pressure and will not abandon its goals even if it is bombed, President Hassan Rouhani said on Thursday. Earlier in the day, Iran's top military chief said the standoff between Tehran and Washington was a "clash of wills", warning that any enemy "adventurism" would meet a crushing response, the Fars news agency reported. Tensions are festering between the two countries after Washington sent more military forces to the Middle East in a show of force. After pulling out of Iran's 2015

nuclear deal with world powers, U.S. President Donald Trump restored U.S. sanctions on Iran last year and tightened them this month, ordering all countries to halt imports of Iranian oil or face sanctions of their own. "More than one year after the imposition of these severe sanctions, our people have not bowed to pressures despite facing difficulties in their lives," Rouhani said. Addressing a ceremony in commemoration of the 1980-88 Iraqi war on Iran, he added: "We need resistance, so our enemies know that if they bomb our land, and if our children are martyred,

wounded or taken as prisoners, we will not give up on our goals for the independence of our country and our pride." Iran's armed forces chief of staff, Major General Muhammad Baqeri, also pointed to an Iranian battle victory in the war with Iraq and said that outcome could be a message that Iran will have a "hard, crushing and obliterating response" for any enemy "adventurism". On Sunday, Trump tweeted: "If Iran wants to fight, that will be the official end of Iran. Never threaten the United States again!"

"The enemies should know that the Iranian military will not waste even a single moment monitoring the enemies' schemes and adventurism," General Baqeri said. "Our hands are on the trigger and we are firmly prepared to annihilate any aggressor and greedy eyes against the Islamic Iran," he said. Baqeri said, "The new conditions of countering the U.S. arrogant and pharaonic threat invite all the Iranians to enter the fields of jihad, full alert, and mobilization of more power." Trump wants Iran to come to the table to negotiate a new deal with stricter curbs on its nuclear and missile programs. Reiterating Iran's stance, the spokesman for its Supreme National Security Council said on Thursday: "There will not be any negotiations between Iran and America." Keyvan Khosravi was also quoted as saying that some officials from several countries have visited Iran recently, "mostly representing the United States." "Without exception, the message of the power and resistance of the Iranian nation was conveyed to them," he said. In Berlin, a German diplomatic source told Reuters that Jens Ploetner, a political director in Germany's Foreign Ministry, was in Tehran on Thursday for meetings with Iranian officials to try to preserve the nuclear accord and cool tensions in the region.

British PM May Resigns Amid Brexit Turmoil

LONDON (Reuters) - Fighting back tears, Theresa May said on Friday she would quit after failing to deliver Brexit, setting up a contest that will install a new British prime minister who could pursue a cleaner break with the European Union. May's departure deepens the Brexit crisis as a new leader, who should be in place by the end of July, is likely to want a more decisive split, raising the chances of a confrontation with the EU and potentially a snap parliamentary election. Former foreign minister Boris Johnson, the favorite to replace May, was first out of the blocks, saying Britain should be prepared to leave the EU without a deal to force the bloc to offer a "good deal". Current foreign minister Jeremy Hunt also confirmed he would run for the leadership just hours after May, her voice cracking with emotion, said she would resign as Conservative Party leader on Friday, June 7, setting up a contest to succeed her. "I will shortly leave the job that has been the honor of my life to hold," May said outside her Downing Street official residence.

May, once a reluctant supporter of EU membership who won the top job in the turmoil that followed the 2016 Brexit referendum, steps down with her central pledge - to lead the United Kingdom out of the bloc and heal its divisions - unfulfilled. "It is, and will always remain, a matter of deep regret to me that I have not been able to deliver Brexit," May said, adding that her successor would have to find a consensus to honour the 2016 referendum result. Jeremy Corbyn, leader of the main opposition Labor Party, said the new prime minister must hold an election to "let the people decide our country's future". May, who endured several crises in her failed effort to find a compromise Brexit deal that parliament could ratify, bequeaths a deeply divided country and a political elite that is deadlocked over how, when or whether to leave the EU. The latest deadline for Britain's departure is Oct. 31. Most of the leading contenders to succeed May want a tougher divorce deal. (Continued on Page 7)

Trump Rejects Sending New Troops to Mideast

WASHINGTON (Dispatches) - U.S. President Donald Trump has rejected any "need" for additional troop deployments in the Middle East after reports claimed the Pentagon was considering sending up to 10,000 troops to the region. "I don't think we're going to need them. I really don't," Trump told reporters on Thursday. "I would certainly send troops if we need them," he added. Trump made the comments shortly after the Associated Press reported that the Pentagon would present plans to the White House to send up to 10,000 troops, quoting unnamed U.S. officials. Reuters published a similar report, putting the probable deployment number at 5,000. The reports presented the measures as seeking to "beef up defenses against Iran amid heightened tensions in the region". The two reports were, however, specifically rejected by acting Pentagon Patrick Shanahan earlier on Thursday. "I got up this morning and read that we were sending 10,000 troops to the Middle East, and then I read more recently that there

was 5,000," Shanahan said. "There is no 10,000 and there is no 5,000, and that's not accurate," he added. The rumors surrounding a probable U.S. troop deployment to the Middle East came after the U.S. deployed an aircraft carrier strike group and a bomber task force in the Persian Gulf earlier this month to counter a "threat" from Tehran. Last week, the New York Times reported that Trump's team had gone as far as drawing up plans for a possible military strike against Iran that could involve sending 120,000 soldiers to the Middle East. Similar to what happened on Thursday, however, the report was rejected shortly afterwards by the U.S. president. "I think it's fake news, OK? Now, would I do that? Absolutely. But we have not planned for that. Hopefully we're not going to have to plan for that," Trump said. Last Friday, media outlets reported that Trump had ordered his administration to avoid a military confrontation with Iran. The U.S. State Department failed to meet (Continued on Page 7)