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Editorial Dept. Tel.: 33911561, 33110251-9

Ext.: 2334, 2336, 2337

Advertising Dept.: 33110251-9 Ext. 2336

Subscription Ext.: 2322

Facsimile: 33114228 & 33111120

Website: www.kayhan.ir/en

E-mail: kayhanintl@yahoo.com

P.O. Box: 11365/9631

Address: Martyr Shah Cheraghi Street, Ferdowsi Avenue,

Tehran – Islamic Republic of Iran

China Warns U.S. to Abandon Wrong Practices Against Iran



A protester sets fire to the American flag during a demonstration on the anniversary of the U.S. embassy seizure in Tehran, November 4, 2018.

TEHRAN (Dispatches) – China warned against Washington’s strategy of “maximum pressure” on Tehran, saying the U.S.’ “wrong practices” have led to the current Iranian nuclear tension.

“We believe that the maximum pressure by the U.S. is the root cause of the current Iranian nuclear tension. The U.S. should abandon wrong practices, such as unilateral sanctions and maximum pressure on Iran,” Hua Chunying, spokesperson of China’s Foreign Affairs Ministry, told reporters in Beijing on Monday.

The U.S. further intensified

tensions with Iran after it withdrew from the 2015 nuclear deal, reached between major world powers, last May and re-imposed sanctions against Tehran.

In response to U.S.’ actions, Iran has taken countermeasures, scaling back some of limits set by the nuclear deal, officially known as the Joint Comprehensive Plan of Action (JCPOA), reached in July 2015.

Iran has so far rowed back on its nuclear commitments three times in compliance with articles 26 and 36 of the JCPOA.

As a third step in its reduc-

tion of commitments, Iran said on Saturday it had activated 20 IR-4 and 20 IR-6 centrifuges for research and development purposes after the Europeans failed to work within a 60-day deadline to meet Iran’s demands and fulfill their commitments under the multilateral deal.

Iran says its retaliatory measures will be reversible as soon as Europe finds practical ways to shield the mutual trade from the U.S. sanctions, which were re-imposed last year when U.S. President Donald Trump withdrew from the JCPOA.

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‘Bolton Trying to Impose Anti-Iran Agenda on UN’

TEHRAN (Dispatches) - Iranian ambassador and permanent representative to the International Organizations Kazzem Qaribabadi has lashed out at U.S. National Security Advisor John Bolton for trying to impose Washington’s anti-Tehran agenda on the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA).

“The Agency is not a subsidiary body of the United States administration, which John Bolton could set the agenda for its officials’ visit to other countries,” Qaribabadi tweeted, after Bolton accused Iran of “concealing nuclear material and/or activities,” amid the visit by the acting chief of the IAEA Cornel Feruta.

The American national security adviser also said that he is “eager to get a full report as soon as possible.”

In a series of posts on his Twitter account, Qaribabadi reacted to Bolton’s claims against Iran’s nuclear program, saying that the IAEA was not such a dependent institution that the U.S. could set an agenda for its officials.

The Iranian envoy added that Feruta’s visit to Tehran and his talks with Iranian officials took place within the framework of the usual interactions and ongoing cooperation between Iran and the international body.

He further rejected any claims on secret nuclear activities in Iran, adding that Feruta had nothing special

on his agenda during the visit as Bolton wished for.

The Iranian diplomat also said that during the visit, cooperation between Iran and the IAEA in three fields of the implementation of the JCPOA safeguards, the Additional Protocol, and Safeguards Agreement were reviewed.

He, furthermore, underlined that any attempt to disrupt and dissuade Iran’s constructive and active cooperation with the IAEA and to put inappropriate pressure on the international nuclear watchdog will be utterly counterproductive and will be met with Iran’s appropriate response.

Acting Director General of the International Atomic Energy Agency Cornel Feruta who visited Iran on Sunday said the approach of the IAEA is independent, neutral and professional and that it will not be influenced by the pressures.

“On the one hand, the Agency has the duty of verifying the implementation of the Joint Comprehensive Plan of Action (JCPOA), and on the other hand, it is actively interacting with Iran in implementing the Non-Proliferation Treaty (NPT) and the Comprehensive Safeguards Agreement (CSA),” he added.

Feruta said that the IAEA is willing to continue cooperation with Iran professionally and impartially.

Sanctions on Iran Curbing Global Scientific Progress: Top Journal

TEHRAN (Dispatches) -The British medical journal BMJ Global Health says U.S. sanctions on Iran, a leading country in the world for science, are curtailing global scientific progress.

As a result of the draconian sanctions, Iranian scientists have been denied opportunities to publish their findings, attend meetings, and access essential supplies and information, the publication said.

According to the weekly peer-reviewed medical outlet, such bans are to the detriment of international collaboration and nations’ ability to respond to health crises and narrow inequali-

ties. The current U.S. administration announced sanctions on Iran after withdrawing from a landmark nuclear deal in May 2018. Although they are engineered in a way that may appear not to target civilian sectors, in practice US sanctions function as a tool of economic war.

The economic and health impacts of sanctions have been far reaching, extending to the greater Middle East region and affecting research and publishing as well, BMJ Global Health said.

International agencies and institutions mostly shun collaborating with Iranian enti-

ties because of the added threat of criminal prosecution by the United States.

Iran, the journal said, ranks 3rd in the world for science and engineering graduates and for tertiary education; 12th in the world for knowledge impact; and 32nd for science and technical publications. As recently as 1996 it ranked first in the world for international collaboration on published research, but in 2017 it was last.

BMJ Global Health cited an increased research output in Iran and a steady growth in scientific innovation, productivity, knowledge impact and patents.

The Holy Qur’an

Therefore if Allah brings you back to a party of them and then they ask your permission to go forth, say: By no means shall you ever go forth with me and by no means shall you fight an enemy with me; surely you chose to sit the first time, therefore sit (now) with those who remain behind.

The Holy Qur’an (9.83)

PRAYER TIMINGS

Noon (Zohr)	13:01
Evening (Maghreb)	19:36
Dawn (Fajr) “Tomorrow”	05:18
Sunrise “Tomorrow”	06:43

Adrian Darya Unloads Cargo: Ministry

TEHRAN (Dispatches) – Iranian Foreign Ministry spokesman Seyed Abbas Mousavi has said the Adrian Darya 1 oil tanker, which was recently released from Gibraltar despite Washington’s request to continue its detention, reached its destination and unloaded its cargo.

“The Adrian Darya oil tanker finally docked on the Mediterranean coast and unloaded its cargo despite acts of sabotage by the U.S.,” Mousavi said in remarks.

“We had already announced that we would sell our oil in any way and that acts of sabotage would not affect our plans,” he added.

The spokesman further emphasized that the U.S. measures against the supertanker are contrary to international regulations, including the law of the sea and regulations of the International Maritime Organization (IMO).

The U.S. recently blacklisted the Iranian oil tanker Adrian Darya 1, formerly known as Grace 1, and sanctioned its captain, according to the US Treasury Department.

A report by The Financial Times revealed Wednesday that four days before the U.S. imposed sanctions on the tanker, the vessel’s Indian captain received an unusual email from US Special Representative on Iran Brian Hook.

According to several emails seen by the Financial Times, Hook wrote to Akhilesh Kumar on August 26 that the Trump administration was offering him several million dollars to pilot the ship to a country that would impound the vessel on behalf of the U.S. To make sure the captain did not mistake the email for a scam, it included an official state department phone number.

Iran Urges India to Follow China’s Lead on U.S. Sanctions

TEHRAN (Dispatches) - Iran’s Ambassador to India Ali Chegini urged New Delhi to follow an independent line, drawing an obvious comparison with the position taken by Beijing which he said has refused to abide by the sanctions, Indian media reported on Tuesday.

India should follow China’s example in refusing to adhere to U.S. sanctions on Iran and take advantage of the opportunities presented in the Iranian oil and gas sector, Chegini has said.

India and China – both rising economic powers and competitors for influence – are Iran’s key trade partners.

India was Iran’s second largest oil customer, importing 457,000 barrels of oil a day before the U.S. withdrew from a landmark nuclear deal with Tehran in May 2018. New Delhi, however, stopped crude oil imports from Iran on May 2 when U.S. sanctions on the Iranian oil sector kicked in.

“If India wants energy security, it should look at a stable source like Iran because of its resources, a strong government-to-government relationship, and the friendship between the two countries,” Indian financial daily newspaper Mint quoted Chegini as saying.

According to the publication, Chegini said China had agreed to invest \$280 billion in Iran’s oil, gas and petrochemical sectors.

“We are ready to have the same agreement as with China, with India, maybe even more than that,” the ambassador told the Indian Association of Foreign Affairs Corre-

spondents in New Delhi, the paper said.

China’s plan was first reported last week by the Petroleum Economist, a well-regarded energy industry publication based in London.

It is part a 25-year deal signed first in 2016 that foresees \$400 billion of Chinese investment in Iran, the publication said.

Iran, in return, will grant Chinese companies right of the first refusal to bid on any new, stalled or uncompleted oil and gas field developments.

The deal, including another \$120 billion investment in upgrading Iran’s transport and manufacturing infrastructure, was updated when Iranian Foreign Minister Mohammad Javad Zarif visited Beijing at the end of August, the report said.

While China has steadfastly pushed back against the United States on Iran sanctions, India has appeared unwilling to jeopardize its rapidly warming ties with Washington and steered clear of buying oil from Iran.

Chegini agreed that countries followed their national interests but he also underlined that India had followed an independent foreign policy that would allow it to take independent decisions, Mint reported.

“We should decide who we should love,” Chegini said, adding “The government of India based on their national interest should decide.”

India is a key stake-holder in developing (Continued on Page 7)

Iraq Resists U.S. Pressure to Reduce Iranian Gas Imports

ABU DHABI (Dispatches) - Iraq will use Iranian gas for three to four more years, the electricity minister said on Tuesday, resisting U.S. pressure to stop the imports from its Middle East neighbor.

Iraq has a U.S. waiver to import Iranian gas, but Washington has been pressing Baghdad to phase them out.

“At the end of the day it is an open market,” Electricity Minister Luay al Khateeb told reporters on the sidelines of the World Energy Congress in Abu Dhabi. “The issue of electricity is regularly becoming a political affair in Iraq.”

Power cuts in Iraq have often prompted protests against the authorities. Iran supplies enough gas to power 2,500 megawatts (MW), as well as providing Iraq with 1,200 MW in direct power supplies.

The minister said Iraq now had capacity for 18,000 MW, up from 12,000-15,000 MW last year but

still below peak demand that could reach about 25,000 MW and was rising every year.

Exports of gas to Iraq and exports of refined products to global markets remain an important source of revenues for Iran.

“We have balanced relations with everyone and people should respect it,” al Khateeb when asked about rising U.S. pressure over its Iranian energy supplies.

The minister said the power sector needed investment worth at least \$30 billion to upgrade the grid, which was 50 years old and had lost 25% of its capacity due to Islamic State attacks.

Al Khateeb said Iraq was paying for Iranian gas based on a formula averaging around 11% of the price of benchmark Brent crude oil or about \$6 per million British thermal unit (MBTU). This compares to \$2-\$3 per MBTU in the oversupplied U.S. market.