

GENEVA (Dispatches) -- Iran's reduction of commitments to the 2015 nuclear deal has not affected its implementation of the Additional Protocol to the nuclear Non-Proliferation Treaty (NPT), the country's ambassador to the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA) Kazem Gharibabadi said.

Addressing an Edoardo Amaldi Conference in Rome, the envoy said the UN nuclear agency has confirmed in successive reports that the Islamic Republic is working in cooperation with the IAEA.

TEHRAN (Dispatches) -- Iranian First Vice-President Eshaq Jahangiri said Tuesday Iran's economy is recovering from the effects of draconian U.S. sanctions. "Despite the U.S. imposition of tough sanctions, Iran's economic condition is moving toward stability and improvement," Jahangiri said. "This is while the Americans have waged an all-out economic war against Iran," he added. "Iran's macroeconomic indicators are promising and reports received from every single business confirm that."

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Viewpoint

Will Nigeria's Chief Justice Succeed in Securing Sheikh Zakzaky's Release?

Iranian Handicraft on Display in Ankara



Iran Beach Soccer Beats Oman in Two Friendlies



'Yemeni Forces Ready to Fight Back Any Act of Aggression'



Iraq Calls for National Dialogue as Calm Returns

BAGHDAD (Dispatches) -- Iraq woke up Tuesday from its first quiet night after a week of protests that left dozens dead and sparked a crisis its president said required a "national dialogue".

Morning traffic around the city was back to normal, most streets had reopened and an internet blackout in place for most of the past week appeared to ease just hours before parliament was expected to meet.

His voice sometimes breaking during a televised address, President Barham Saleh appealed for "sons of the same country" to put an end to the "discord" that has reigned since protests erupted one week ago. They began in Baghdad, with young demonstrators demanding an end to rampant corruption and chronic unemployment but then escalated with calls for an ouster of the political system spreading to the south after suspicious elements reportedly infiltrated the ranks of the protesters.

They were unprecedented because of their apparent spontaneity, but have also been exceptionally deadly -- with more than 100 people killed and 6,000 wounded since Tuesday.

Saleh said those responsible for the violence were "enemies of the people" and proposed a cabinet reshuffle, more oversight to stamp out corruption, and a "national, all-encompassing and frank dialogue without foreign interference."

Iraq's popular Hashd al-Sha'abi paramilitary force also warned that those who sought to "defame Iraq will be punished".

An Iraqi interior ministry spokesman has said an investigation is underway to determine how protesters were shot dead during six days of unrest.

Saad Maan, a spokesman for the ministry, claimed on Sunday that security forces did not confront the protesters, adding that "malicious hands" were behind targeting protesters and security members alike. Maan said most of those killed on Friday were hit in the head and heart.

Saleh was not the first to suggest a way out of the political crisis. Prime Minister Adil Abdul-Mahdi and parli-

ament speaker Muhammad Hal-Halbusi have both proposed a laundry list of reforms to address popular grievances.

On Sunday night, rallies there left at least 13 people dead after they escalated into clashes with troops. The army acknowledged using "excessive force" and said they would hold commanding officers accountable.

The calm returning to Baghdad comes a few weeks ahead of Arba'een, the massive pilgrimage that sees millions of Muslims walk to the holy city of Karbala, south of Baghdad.

Nearly two million came last year from neighboring Iran. Leader of the Islamic Revolution Ayatollah Seyyed Ali Khamenei said Monday "enemies" were trying to drive a wedge between Tehran and Baghdad.

"Iran and Iraq are two nations whose hearts & souls are tied together through faith in God, love for Imam Hussein and the progeny of the Prophet (PBUH). This bond will grow stronger day by day," the Leader's official Twitter account cited Ayatollah Khamenei as saying.

Iran's Judiciary chief Ebrahim Raisi on Monday said those responsible for the unrest in Iraq aimed to undermine Arba'een.

"The seditionists intend to undermine and sap enthusiasm for this great event," he said. "The vigilant people of Iraq exposed this sedition. But everyone must be careful. The seditionists are seeking new tricks at any moment to overshadow the Arba'een ceremony and to undermine it."

The Iranian daily Kayhan said "evidence" pointed to the U.S., Saudi Arabia and the occupying regime of Israel being involved.

A columnist in Iran's reformist Shargh daily also suggested the Americans, Israelis and Saudis might be the "hidden hands" behind the Iraqi protests.

"Even if that is not the case, the chaotic and tense situation in Iraq today can prepare the grounds for these actors to ride the wave to fulfill their objectives and demands," wrote Abdelrahman Fathollahi.

Leader Underlines During 2-Hour Tour of Iran Exhibition:

Diversifying Away From Oil



This combo by Tasnim news agency shows Leader of the Islamic Revolution Ayatollah Seyyed Ali Khamenei touring the exhibition of knowledge-based Iranian companies and top technologies in Tehran, Oct. 8, 2019.

TEHRAN (Dispatches) -- Leader of the Islamic Revolution Ayatollah Seyyed Ali Khamenei on Tuesday called on the Iranian government to lift the barriers that the young Iranian inventors are faced with.

Ayatollah Khamenei made the remarks during a visit of an exhibition of knowledge-based Iranian

companies and top technologies, held in Tehran.

During the two-hour visit, Ayatollah Khamenei visited 30 pavilions and talked to technologists and researchers about their latest scientific and technological achievements and projects.

High-tech medical systems in

cancer diagnosis, haemodialysis, robotic surgery and neural prosthesis, laboratory equipment, Iranian-made vaccines and advanced drugs, jet engines, power grid control systems, oil and gas catalysts, deep water reconnaissance and drilling systems, steel tanks and tools, advanced optical, scanning,

measurement, cutting, simulation and processing systems, industrial freeze drying and computer games are on display.

Ayatollah Khamenei underlined the need to diversify away from oil and its "cultural repercussions". He said one of the complaints of the young participants of the exhibition was that sometimes the government imports the same product already made by them.

"You should not let these barriers challenge the active youths. Make as much as efforts you can in this regard, and I will help as much as I can," Ayatollah Khamenei told Vice President for science and technology Sorena Sattari.

The Leader also thanked researchers, technologists and organizers of the exhibition and signed the event's memorial book.

"We saw the brilliant manifestation of the Iranian talent and revolutionary endeavor in this exhibition and thanked God. The fundamental work to use high motivations and abilities must be pursued seriously. This is the most important task of government officials. Trust in God and go ahead with hope and enthusiasm; you will surely be able to put an end to the country's economic troubles, God willing," Ayatollah Khamenei wrote.

Iran, Russia Oppose Incursion Syria Opens Arms to Kurds Against Turkey

ANKARA (Dispatches) -- Turkey will not bow to threats over its Syria plans, the Turkish vice president said Tuesday in an apparent response to President Donald Trump's warning to Ankara the previous day about the scope of its planned military incursion into northeastern Syria.

Trump said earlier this week the United States would step aside for an expected Turkish attack on Syrian Kurdish fighters, but he then threatened to destroy the Turks' economy if they went too far.

The U.S. president later cast his decision to abandon the Kurdish fighters in Syria as fulfilling a campaign promise to withdraw from "endless war" in the Middle East, even as Republican critics and others said he was sacrificing a U.S. ally.

Trump insisted in new tweets on Tuesday that, "in no way have we Abandoned the Kurds," while also lauding "very good" relations with "big trading partner" Turkey.

Trump said he and Turkish President Recep Tayyip Erdogan will meet at the White House next month.

In Ankara, Turkish Vice President Fuat Oktay said Turkey was intent on combating Kurdish militants across its border in Syria and on creating a zone that would allow Turkey to resettle Syrian refugees there.

"Where Turkey's security is concerned, we determine our own path but we set our own limits," Oktay said.

In the Syrian capital of Damascus, Deputy Foreign Minister Faisal Meqdad called on the country's Kurds to rejoin the government side after apparently being abandoned by their U.S. allies.

"The homeland welcomes all its sons and Damascus will solve all Syrian problems in a positive way, away from violence," Meqdad said in an interview with the daily Al-Watan.

As for the expected Turkish incursion, Meqdad added that the Syrian government "will defend all Syrian territory and will not accept any occupation of any land or iota of the Syrian soil."

The Syrian Kurdish force has pledged to fight back, raising the potential for an eruption of new warfare in Syria.

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Zionists Raid Al-Aqsa Mosque to Mark Yom Kippur

OCCUPIED AL-QUDS (Dispatches) -- Hundred of Israeli settlers broke into the Al-Aqsa Mosque compound in annexed East Jerusalem Al-Quds on Tuesday - guarded by Zionist troops and escorted by an Israeli MP and a minister - to mark the Jewish holiday of Yom Kippur, local media reported.

Around 300 hardline settlers raided the compound - a week after around 400 extremists barged into the site to mark the Jewish holiday of Rosh Hashanah.

Agriculture minister Uri Ariel and Yehuda Glick, an MP from the right-wing Likud party, were among those who entered the compound on Tuesday as well as last week.

Both Ariel and Glick have been encouraging extremists to raid the Al-Aqsa compound.

On Monday evening, thousands of settlers occupied compound around the Buraq Wall known to Jews as the Western Wall.

Zionist troops set up checkpoint on roads leading to the Buraq Wall, and Palestinians were required to show their identity cards at the gates of the Al-Aqsa compound in order to enter.

Israeli extremists regularly enter

the Al-Aqsa Mosque compound, where they claim the second Jewish temple once stood.

Extremists like Glick have advocated for the destruction of the Muslim compound to make way for a third Jewish temple.

They have repeatedly sought to build support for an increased Jewish presence at the site, despite a longstanding joint guardianship agreement between the occupying regime of Israel and Jordan, which retains custodianship over Christian and Muslim holy sites in Jerusalem Al-Quds.

According to the agreement, non-Muslim prayer is not authorized at Al-Aqsa. However, Israeli forces regularly accompany groups of extremists seeking to violate the rules in the compound.

The Al-Aqsa Mosque is one of the holiest sites in Islam. It was also Islam's first Qibla, the direction towards which Muslims must turn to pray, before that was changed to Mecca, in Saudi Arabia.

Palestinians fear that settler tours inside the Al-Aqsa compound may erode their claims to Old City which is home to Dome of the Rock.

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