

TEHRAN (Press TV) – Iranian Parliament Speaker Ali Larijani said on Tuesday the United States is the root cause of Iran-Saudi Arabia conflicts, slamming Washington for hindering a resolution of the disputes between the two Middle Eastern countries.

“Iran is not opposed to the settlement of issues between Iran and the Saudis but the Americans do not allow that to happen because they are benefiting from such conflicts,” he told president of Austria’s Federal Council Ingo Appé in Belgrade on the sidelines of the 141st assembly of the Inter-Parliamentary Union (IPU).

TEHRAN (Tasnim) – Iranian Foreign Minister Mohammad Javad Zarif denied a report that the national security adviser of the United Arab Emirates had paid a secret visit to Iran.

In an interview with ICANA on Tuesday, Zarif said he has investigated a report claiming that Tahnoun bin Zayed -the UAE’s national security adviser and the Emirati crown prince’s younger brother- has paid a secret visit to Tehran, adding, “Such a report is not true.”

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Viewpoint

Reactionary Arab Regimes Turn Blind Eye to Zionist Desecration of al-Aqsa

Iranian Students Sweep Medals at UK Invention Expo



Iran Finish 8th at 2019 FIVB World Cup



‘U.S. Seeks to Transfer Thousands of Daesh Terrorists From Syria to Iraq’



President Rouhani:

U.S. Sanctions ‘Crimes Against Humanity’

TEHRAN (Dispatches) – President Hassan Rouhani here on Tuesday decried U.S. sanctions on the Iranian people as a crime against humanity and an act of economic terrorism, saying the country is moving towards full self-sufficiency despite the pressures.

“There is no doubt that the U.S. administration has perpetrated a crime against humanity. The U.S. measure is an act of economic terrorism, but that does not mean the Iranian nation has been brought to its knees,” he said.

What is more shameful is that the U.S. has imposed sanctions on the supplies of food and medicine to the Iranian people, he told a session of the WHO Regional Committee for the Eastern Mediterranean.

The U.S. economic terrorism has failed to bring the Iranian nation to its knees, Rouhani said, adding Iranian scientists, researchers and entrepreneurs have doubled their efforts in spite of the unprecedented economic pressures and unfair sanctions from the U.S.

“Today, we are moving towards full self-sufficiency,” the president said.

Officially, the American sanctions exempt humanitarian goods, such as medicine and medicinal instruments. But in reality, the measures have restricted Iran’s access to medical and health services.

Rouhani explained that more than 95 percent of pharmaceutical products needed in Iran are being produced inside the country.

Health Minister Saeed Namaki said last week Iran is now exporting pharmaceuticals to countries in Europe, Africa and Central Asia.

In his remarks on Tuesday, Rouhani said it is a “shame” for the U.S. to withdraw from the 2015 multilateral nuclear agreement with Iran and reimpose tough economic sanctions on the country.

“This disgrace becomes more notable when the agreement has been endorsed by UN Security Council, and the U.S. has violated international regulations,” he said.

Russia Says Incursion ‘Unacceptable’; Turkey Ignores U.S. Sanctions

Residents Welcome Syrian Army to Manbij



People ride motorcycles and hold a Syrian flag and a portrait of Syrian President Bashar al-Assad as they welcome Syrian troops to the village of Ghebeesh, west of the town of Tal Tamer in northern Syria on October 14, 2019.

DAMASCUS (Dispatches) – Syrian government troops have deployed inside the northern city of Manbij, Syria’s Ikhbariya state TV said on Tuesday.

The broadcast showed residents of Manbij celebrating the arrival of government troops.

The U.S. military also said its forces left Manbij Tuesday. U.S. troops “are executing a deliberate withdrawal from northeast Syria. We are out of Manbij”, military spokesman Col. Myles B. Caggins said in a tweet.

Reuters said its journalists accompanied Syrian government forces who entered the center of Manbij, a flashpoint where U.S. troops had previously conducted joint patrols with Turkey.

Russian and Syrian flags were flying from a building on the city outskirts, and from a convoy of military vehicles, the news agency said.

Russia’s Interfax news agency, citing Moscow’s Defense Ministry, said later that Syrian forces had taken control of an area of more than 1,000 square kilometers around Manbij. This included Tabqa military airfield, two hydroelectric power plants and several bridges across the Euphrates river, it said.

In Manbij, Syrian troops were manning joint checkpoints alongside regional Kurdish militia (YPG), witnesses said.

A YPG official said Turkish-backed militants were still 15 km north of the city. Turkey’s state-owned Anadolu agency said six civilians were killed

and 13 wounded in three villages near the town of Jarablus in a YPG attack launched from north of Manbij.

Syrian troops arrived Monday in the northern province of Raqqah. Troops moved into the towns of Tal Tamr, about 20 kilometers from the Turkish border, Ein Issa and Tabqa, known for its dam on the Euphrates River and a nearby air base of the same name.

The army’s deployment near the Turkish border came after Syrian Kurdish forces previously allied with the U.S. said they had reached a deal with President Bashar Assad’s government to help them fend off Turkey’s invasion, now in its eighth day.

The army’s return to the region troops abandoned in 2012 at the height of the Syria war is a turning point in the eight-year conflict, giving yet another major boost to the government since the crisis began.

The new situation was set in motion last week, when U.S. President Donald Trump ordered American troops in northern Syria to step aside, clearing the way for an attack by Turkey, which regards the Kurds as terrorists.

The Kremlin’s envoy for Syria on Tuesday called Turkey’s military offensive in northeast Syria “unacceptable” and denied Ankara’s operation had been cleared by Moscow in advance.

Alexander Lavrentiev, Russian President Vladimir Putin’s

envoy for Syria, was speaking to reporters in Abu Dhabi during an official visit there by Putin.

When asked if there had been an advance agreement between Russia and Turkey about Ankara’s operation, Lavrentiev said, “No. We had always urged Turkey to show restraint and always considered some kind of military operation on Syrian territory unacceptable.”

Lavrentiev’s comments, which suggest growing tensions between Turkey and Russia, came a day after the Kremlin complained that Turkey’s incursion was “not exactly” compatible with Syrian territorial integrity.

“The security of the Turkish-Syrian border must be ensured by the deployment of Syrian government troops along its entire length,” said Lavrentiev. “That’s why we never spoke in favor or supported the idea of Turkish units (being deployed there) let alone the armed Syrian opposition.”

Lavrentiev said Turkey’s actions risked upsetting delicate religious sensitivities in northern Syria.

In particular, he said the area was populated by Kurds, Arabs and Sunnis who would not take kindly to their lands being resettled by people who had never lived there, a reference to Turkey’s plan to house refugees from other parts of Syria there.

Lavrentiev confirmed that Russia had brokered an agreement between the Syrian gov-

ernment and Kurdish forces that saw the Kurds cede control of territory to Syrian troops.

Those talks had taken place at Russia’s Hmeimim air base in Syria among other places, he said.

Turkey ignored U.S. sanctions and pressed on with its offensive in northern Syria on Tuesday.

A week after reversing U.S. policy and moving troops out of the way to allow Turkey to attack Washington’s Syrian allies, Trump announced a package of sanctions to punish Ankara.

But the measures - mainly a hike in steel tariffs and a pause in trade talks - were less robust than financial markets had anticipated, and Trump’s critics derided them as too feeble to have an impact.

The Turkish lira, which had fallen on the expectation of tougher U.S. measures, recovered after the sanctions were announced, as did its bond and stock markets, with traders noting that Trump had spared Turkish banks.

Bilateral trade between Turkey and the United States is relatively small - around a tenth the size of Turkey’s trade with Europe. Washington’s most effective form of economic leverage would be to hinder Turkey’s access to U.S. financial markets, a step Trump has so far avoided.

In a potentially more damaging blow, German carmaker Volkswagen said it was postponing a final decision on whether to build a 1 billion euro (\$1.1 billion) plant in Turkey, citing concern over “current developments” after international condemnation of the incursion.

Following Trump’s announcement, the U.S. Treasury said on Monday it had sanctioned Turkey’s energy, defense and interior ministers, as well as the ministries of energy and defense.

Trump’s unexpected decision to withhold protection from Syria’s Kurds after a phone call with Turkish President Tayyip Erdogan a week ago swiftly upended five years of U.S. policy in the Middle East.

The United States announced on Sunday it was withdrawing its entire force of 1,000 troops (Continued on Page 7)

Europeans Feel Brunt of U.S. Sanctions on Iran

BRUSSELS (Dispatches) – U.S. sanctions on Tehran are hurting the Europeans in ways unheard of until now, where Afghans migrating from Iran pose an immediate problem to the bloc.

Official data released on Tuesday showed Afghans are now the largest nationality entering the bloc, with many relocating from Iran due to the hardship caused by US sanctions.

The EU is currently bracing itself for a new influx of refugees in the wake of Turkey’s incursion into Kurdish-controlled northeastern Syria, but “EU officials warned that the increasing number of Afghans posed a more immediate problem,” Reuters reported.

According to the latest data from EU border agency Frontex, nearly 17,000 Afghans have crossed the Aegean sea to reach EU shores since the beginning of the year.

Around half of them had been living in Iran before attempting the crossing through Turkey into the EU,

a senior EU official cited by Reuters said, adding that in many cases Afghan migrants arriving to Europe were born in Iran.

Iran has been hosting one of the most important refugee populations in the world, mostly from Afghanistan and Iraq.

About 3 million Afghan refugees have been living in Iran since the Soviet Union invaded Afghanistan in 1979. Many arrived when the Islamic Republic was in the throes of an eight-year war launched by the former Ba’ath regime of Saddam Hussein who was supported both by the East and the West.

Despite being a social and economic burden, Afghan refugees were allowed to work everywhere in Iran. And as the war ended, many refugees who had settled in Iran or had a chance for better life did not go back to Afghanistan even after the Taliban fell.

That has changed to a degree (Continued on Page 7)