

## 'Iran Determined to Continue Talks'

TEHRAN (Press TV) -- A senior Iranian official said on Sunday the Islamic Republic is determined to continue negotiations with six world powers over its nuclear program, expressing optimism about a positive outcome of the talks. "The Islamic Republic of Iran is determined to proceed with nuclear negotiations and is highly hopeful that these talks would end in positive and favorable results for Iran," Ali Akbar Velayati, a top adviser to Leader of the Islamic Revolution Ayatollah Seyyed Ali Khamenei, said in a meeting with Jordanian media crews here. He, however, emphasized that Iran would never bow to "any imposition" in the nuclear talks.

# Kayhan International



## Ex-Senator: U.S. Bribing Zionists on Iran

WASHINGTON (Press TV) -- Former Democratic Senator Mike Gravel says Washington's plan to increase annual military aid to the occupying regime of Israel is a bribe to the Zionist regime over a possible nuclear deal with Iran. "The fact that there is a discussion now in the media over the potential of the United States increasing the amount of military aid to Israel is really nothing more than a bribe essentially to the Israeli community, but not particularly them because Netanyahu is still making mischief with his comments about the nuclear deal with Iran, what it is, it's a buy-off of the American Jewish community; it's appalling," Gravel said.

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### Viewpoint

By: Kayhan Int'l Staff Writer

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## Significance of the 15th Eve of Blessed Sha'ban

(By: Seyyed Ali Quli Qara'i - Qom)

We are on the threshold of the auspicious 15th of Sha'ban, for which certain rituals have been prescribed. It is also the eve on whose morning the 12th and Last Infallible Heir of Prophet Muhammad (SAWA), Imam Mahdi al-Qa'em (AS), who will reappear in the end times to fill the earth with peace, prosperity, was born in Samarra, in 255 AH (869).

The Prophet's 6th Infallible Heir, Imam Ja'far as-Sadeq (AS) says that his father, Imam Muhammad Baqer (AS) when asked about the excellence of this night, replied: "It is the best of nights after the Night of Qadr. During it, God Almighty confers His grace on His servants and forgives them out of His favour and munificence. Therefore, try earnestly to obtain nearness to God during the course of this night. Indeed it is a night wherein God has sworn by His sacred Being not to turn away empty-handed any supplicant from His door, unless he requests something sinful. It is a night which God Almighty has appointed for us, the progeny of the Prophet, in the same way that He appointed the Night of Qadr for our Prophet. Therefore, apply yourself to celebrating His praise and supplicating Him on this night."

There are several observances pertaining to this night. First, one should perform a bath, an act which leads to remission of sins. Second, observing the night's vigil while engaging in prayer, supplication and "istighfar", or seeking forgiveness from the Lord Most High, as was the practice of the Prophet's 4th Infallible Heir, Imam Zain al-Abidin (AS). It is stated in a hadith that whoever keeps vigil during this night, his heart shall not die on the day when the hearts die. The Third highly recommended act on this night is performance of the "ziyarah" (salutation), of the Martyr of Karbala, Imam Husain (AS). This is the most meritorious of observances of this night and an effective means for forgiveness of sins. It has been said that whoever wishes to shake hands with the spirits of the 124,000 prophets, should perform the "ziyarah" of Imam Husain (AS) on this night (in Karbala). The least one can do in performing this observance is to ascend to the roof of the house and from there, after casting a glance to the right and the left, raise the head toward the sky and greet the Imam with the following words:

"O Abu Abdullah, peace upon you! Peace upon you, and may Allah's mercy and His blessings be upon you!"

Whoever greets the Martyr of Karbala in this manner, at whatever time and regardless of his location, there shall be written for him/her the reward of a Hajj pilgrimage and an Umrah. The famous scholar, Shaikh at-Ta'afa Tusi, who flourished a thousand years ago, has reported on the authority of Ismail al-Fazl al-Hashemi, who says that he was taught by Imam Ja'far Sadeq (AS) a special supplication, to be recited on the night of the 15th of Sha'ban, which we present you here:

"O Allah, You are the Living One, the All-Sustainer, the All-Exalted, the All-Great, the All-Creator, the All-Provider, the Giver of life and the Causer of death, the Beginner, and the Originator. To You belong all glory, grace, and praise, and to You belong all favours, generosity, munificence, command, majesty, and thanks! You are One and have no partner! O Single, O One, O All-Embracing, O You Who neither begat, nor were begotten, nor have You any equal!"

"Bless Mohammad and the Progeny of Mohammad and forgive me and have mercy upon me! Suffice me concerning that which is of concern to me, pay my debts, and expand my Your provision, for You resolve every vital matter on this night, and provide any of Your creatures that You wish! So provide me, as You are the Best of providers! Indeed You have said, and You are the Best of speakers, "Ask Allah for His grace." So I beseech You for Your grace, having turned toward You, putting my reliance on the son of Your Prophet, I pin my hopes in You! so have mercy on me, O Most Merciful of the merciful!"

Here is another supplication for this night quoted from Prophet Muhammad (SAWA): "O Allah, grant us a share of Your fear that may serve as a barrier between us and disobedience to You. Grant us a share of Your obedience that will enable us to attain Your approval. Grant us a share of certainty that may enable us to bear with ease the afflictions of this world! O Allah, grant us to enjoy the benefit of hearing, sight and strength, as long as You keep us alive! Appoint him our heir and avenge our blood against those who wrong us. Help us against those who are hostile to us, and do not let our afflictions be those that affect our religion. Do not make mundane concerns our biggest worry, and the sum and substance of our knowledge. Do not impose on us someone who will show us no pity, by Your mercy, O Most Merciful of the merciful!"

Among the other observance of the blessed night of mid Sha'ban are the special "Salawat" from Imam Zain al-Abidin (AS) that is recited daily in this month at the time of noon. It is also highly recommended to recite on this night the Du'a Kumail, the famous supplication taught by the Commander of the Faithful, Imam Ali ibn Abi Taleb (AS) to his disciple Kumail ibn Ziyad, which is indeed an eloquently moving petition in the Divine Court that opens up the doors of mercy for the suppliants. Shaikh Tusi has cited a report in the book "Misbah al-Mutahajjed" about the excellence of this night transmitted by Abu Yahya, who says: "I asked my master Imam Ja'far Sadeq (AS) about the best supplication for this night. He replied: "After offering the Isha Prayer, perform two raka'ahs with "Surat al-Hamd" and "Surat al-Kaferoun" in the first, and "al-Hamd" and "Surat at-Tawhid" in the second. After salaam, say "Subhan-Allah" (Glory to God) 33 times, "al-Hamdu lillah" (Praised be Allah) 33 times, and "Allahu Akbar" (God is Greatest) 34 times. Then recite this supplication:

"O You, Who are the refuge of Your servants in exigencies and with whom the creatures take shelter in misfortunes! O Knower of all that is open and hidden! O You, from Whom are not hidden the thoughts that pass in the minds and their unrestrained ideas! O Lord of the creatures and the earth's denizens! O You in Whose hand is the dominion of all the heavens and the earths! You are Allah, there is no god besides You, and I turn to You for there is no god besides You! O You besides whom there is no god, appoint me this night among those at Whom You look and have mercy on them, listen to their supplications and answer them, and knowing their failings You forgive them, and overlook their past errors and major offences. For with You do I seek refuge from my sins and with You do I take shelter for covering my defects! O Allah, be generous to

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## Report: Houthis Seize Israel Arms at Saudi Embassy



Houthis, hold up their weapons to protest against Saudi airstrikes during a rally in Sanaa.

SANAA (Dispatches) -- Yemen's Israeli-made weapons on Saturday after Houthis seized what they claim are the Yemeni capital of Sanaa. According to Iran's state news agen-

cy Fars, the weapons were found by the fighters after they had routed the embassy's 40 man security team and were intended for forces loyal to Yemen's deposed president, Abd-Rabbu Mansour Hadi.

Houthi fighters captured the capital Sanaa in September 2014 and ultimately seized the presidential palace in January, driving the Yemeni president and his government to resign.

Hadi consequently went into exile in Saudi Arabia.

Along with the discovery of Israeli weapons, Fas news also reported that documents were found indicating U.S. plans to construct a military base in Saudi Arabia in order to monitor the Bab el-Mandab, the straits leading from the Gulf of Aden to the Red Sea.

The death toll in Yemen's ongoing civil war has reached as high as 2,000, a UN report from May announced, with approximately 115 children counted among those killed since April.

The fighting in Yemen is largely taking place between Saudi forces, and its Arab coalition partners, and the Houthi movement which is largely in control of the country's Northwest, much of which abuts the Saudi border.

## Top Security Official Outlines Red Lines on ISIL

TEHRAN (Press TV) -- Secretary of Iran's Supreme National Security Council (SNSC) Ali Shamkhani outlines the three red lines Iran has in dealing with the situation in neighboring Iraq where Takfiri militants have been committing crimes against humanity. In an interview with IRIB, Shamkhani reiterated Tehran's red lines in regard to ISIL Takfiri terrorists wreaking havoc in Iraq. ISIL "threats against Baghdad", or

the Shia holy shrines, as well as any Takfiri advance towards the Iranian borders are "considered the Islamic Republic's three red lines", said the Iranian senior politician. Iran's support for Iraqis, including Shias, Sunnis, and Kurds, has managed to "weaken the terrorist groups", Shamkhani said, adding that if Iran had not helped Iraq, "the situation of the country would have definitely changed". Referring to the Takfiri groups' at-

tempts to enter Iran via its western borders, Shamkhani said, "We have been able to push them back," and that Iran is watching every terrorist activity of the groups, which are "now very vulnerable" in their fight against the Iraqi government. ISIL militants have been carrying out attacks in different parts of Iraq since June 2014 while they also battling the Syrian army forces. Apart from a shaky five day ceasefire, Saudi Arabia's onslaught on

Yemen has now been going on for two months, with this belief that the Ansarullah movement fighters must give up their weapons and return to their former location, he said. "This is as the group has been ignored for years in Yemen," he added. Yemen has been under Saudi airstrikes since March 26. The military aggression, carried out without a UN mandate, is meant to restore

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## Kerry Breaks Leg in Bicycle Crash

GENEVA (Dispatches) -- U.S. Secretary of State John Kerry broke his leg in a bicycle crash Sunday after striking a curb, and scrapped the rest of a four-nation trip that included an international conference on combating the ISIL group. Kerry was in stable condition and in good spirits as he prepared to return to Boston for further treatment with the doctor who previously operated on his hip, U.S. State Department spokesman John Kirby said. He said X-rays at a Swiss hospital confirmed that Kerry fractured his right femur. "The secretary is stable and never lost consciousness, his injury is not life-threatening and he is expected to make a full recovery," Kirby said in a statement. Kerry, 71, was taken by helicop-

ter to Geneva's main medical center, HUG, after hitting a curb with his bike near Scionzier, France, about 40 kilometers southeast of the Swiss border. Paramedics and a physician were on the scene with his motorcade at the time and provided him immediate attention. They quickly decided to order the 10-minute-long helicopter transport. The Dauphine Libere, a local newspaper, said Kerry fell near the beginning of his ride to the famed mountain pass called the Col de la Colombiere, which has been a route for the Tour de France more than a dozen times. Right around the time of his fall, a Twitter feed about local driving conditions warned of the danger

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## Iraqi Volunteers Lead Push to Retake Ramadi

HABBANIYAH, Iraq (Dispatches) -- Iraqi forces have seized from ISIL militants a string of hamlets and villages in the dust-choked desert southeast of Ramadi in recent days, closing in on the key city for a counteroffensive. But the yellow-and-green flags that line the sides of the newly secured roads and flutter from rooftops leave no doubt as to who is leading the fighting here: Kitaeb Hezbollah. While Shia volunteers have spearheaded the fight elsewhere, the Iraqi army and counterterrorism units had been on the front lines in Anbar province. But with the fall of Ramadi, the province's capital, this month, paramilitary forces are now taking the upper hand. They include groups such as Kitaeb Hezbollah, responsible for thousands of attacks on U.S. soldiers who fought in Iraq after the 2003 invasion. Until recently, the Iraqi government had held back from ordering Iraq's popular mobilization units, a mix of Shia militias and volunteers that formed last summer, to Anbar. Authorities were concerned that sending them to battle in a Sunni majority province could provoke sectarian conflicts. But Prime Minister Haider al-Abadi dispatched them when regular forces crumbled in Ramadi and local politicians asked for the units' help. Now Shia militias including the Badr Organization are pressing toward

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