

Happy Eid al-Fitr

Kayhan

International



Institute Denies Zarif Peace Prize Nomination

TEHRAN (Tasnim) – The Stockholm International Peace Research Institute (SIPRI) on Wednesday denied media reports that it had nominated Iranian FM Muhammad Javad Zarif and U.S. Secretary of State John Kerry for the 2016 Nobel Peace Prize. “This was an individual opinion of one of our staff members, and SIPRI has not made any official decision on this issue,” a representative of the institute told TASS news agency. A SIPRI director had been quoted as saying that Zarif and Kerry could be possible candidates for the 2016 Nobel Peace Prize.

Central Bank Seeks to Repatriate \$29 Billion

TEHRAN (Tasnim) – Central Bank of Iran (CBI) Chief Valiollah Seif said on Wednesday Tehran seeks to recoup \$29 billion in frozen assets overseas.

He said the Central Bank holds \$23 billion in frozen assets in Japan, South Korea and the United Arab Emirates. Another \$6 billion from oil sales is kept in India which will be released following the removal of anti-Iran sanctions. Seif further added that the Central Bank of Iran had \$5 billion in foreign debt.

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Viewpoint

By: Kayhan Int'l Staff Writer

Iran Back in Business

Iranian Calligrapher Among Top Participants at Dubai Calligraphy Meeting



By Lifting the Sanctions, FIFA Releases Iran's Blocked Money

FIFA®

US War in Afghanistan Costs American Taxpayers \$4 Million Every Hour



Blessings of Eid al-Fitr

By: Seyyed Ali Shahbaz

“Look! Today is a day that Allah has appointed a festival for you, considering you worthy of it. So remember Allah that He may remember you; supplicate Him that He may answer you; and pay the Zakat of Fitrah, for it is the sunnah (practice) of your Prophet and a duty prescribed by your Lord.”

The above passage is from the sermon delivered by the Leader of the Pious and the Commander of the Faithful, Imam Ali ibn Abi Taleb (AS), after the Special Prayer for Eid al-Fitr – a day which Muslims celebrate with festivities after the month long fasting of Ramadhan.

The Eid in Islam, unlike the feasts of other creeds, cults, and religions, has an aura of spirituality, in addition to its material blessings that the believers are permitted to enjoy.

It is the day of thanksgiving to the Lord Most High for having blessed the believers with the spiritual feast of Ramadhan, during which the faithful have been the Guests of God.

It is the day of contemplation, while visiting family members and friends to exchange greetings and gloss over the state of affairs of the community, the society, the city, the country, and world at large – all of which play their own particular roles in our life.

It is the day to set aside before start of the Special Eid Prayer, our Zakat of Fitrah, in accordance with the teachings of Prophet Muhammad (SAWA) as per the instructions of God, so this meagre sum collectively becomes a huge amount to be channeled for the relief of the poor and the needy.

No wonder, Imam Ali (AS), the Prophet's divinely-designated vicegerent whose four-and-a-half year rule of the Muslim World remains the only instance of the modal administration of social justice, has rightly remarked:

“Indeed Eid is for those whose fasting has been accepted by God and whose worship has been appreciated, and any day on which God has not been disobeyed is Eid.”

This year's Ramadhan with all its blessings has come to its end. Let us take stock of ourselves in order to be sure that we have not violated the laws of God, in order to make Eid al-Fitr a really joyous occasion. Of course, the gates of divine mercy are open for all penitents who are eager to repent, to reform themselves and return to God.

What better way to judge ourselves than the instructions of the Barometer of Faith, Imam Ali (AS), whose famous Letter of Instructions to Malek Ashtar, his governor of the then Christian-majority Egypt, was expounded on Tuesday as the blueprint of ideal governance by the Leader of the Islamic Revolution, Ayatollah Seyyed Ali Khamenei to President Hojjat al-Islam Hassan Rouhani and his cabinet while praising the efforts of Iran's negotiating team in Vienna for the seemingly fair accord concluded with the arrogant powers for continuing the country's peaceful nuclear programme.

This year's Eid al-Fitr provides an opportunity to have a correct assessment of the political and economic situation in the region and the world, and whether or not the arrogant powers will live up to their promise of lifting the illegal sanctions and releasing Iran's unjustly blocked hundreds of billions of dollars.

This year's Eid al-Fitr has also exposed as Godless the hypocrites in our midst who despite their lip service to Islam, continue to rain bombs upon the defenceless men, women, and children in Yemen; and who gang up with the Zionists to cause death, destruction and vandalism in Syria, Iraq, and elsewhere.

Of course, we have firm faith in God's Promise of the reappearance of Saviour of mankind, the Prophet's 12th and Last Infallible Heir, Imam Mahdi (AS), who will establish the global government of peace, prosperity and justice by weeding out oppression and corruption from Planet Earth.

In the meantime, while praying for easing of the sufferings of our brothers-in-faith, coupled with whatever moral and material aid we can provide them, no matter the super terrorist are annoyed, let us ponder on the timeless wisdom of the Gateway of the City of Knowledge – Imam Ali (AS) – as spelled out in his Special Eid al-Fitr Sermon, for we are answerable to our Creator and not the tyrannical powers:

“Death is the destiny of the creatures and the common route of the world's denizens. Tied to the forelocks of the living, it cannot be frustrated by escaping. At its onset, it fetters the covetous, destroying all pleasures, making all joys vanish, and all delights cease; for the world is an abode for which Allah has decreed annihilation, and made banishment the lot of its denizens.”

“Yet most of them regard it as eternal and marvel at its architecture. Regarded as charming, luxuriant and a ready prize by the seeker, enchanting the heart of the onlooker, it is begrudged by the rich to the weak, but shunned by those who are apprehensive of it.”

“Behold! Today is the race and tomorrow is the finish line. Indeed the stake is paradise and the pitfall is hell. Look! Is there anyone who will repent from his misdeeds before the day of his demise? Is there anyone who will work for himself before the day of his distress and need?”

President: A New Page Has Turned



Ayatollah Khamenei addresses ministers during a visit by President Hassan Rouhani and his cabinet members for an Iftar hosted by Leader of the Islamic Revolution in Tehran.

TEHRAN (Dispatches) – President Hassan Rouhani said on Wednesday the West's wrong perception of the Islamic Republic has changed with the conclusion of nuclear talks between Iran and world powers.

“My understanding is that ... a page has turned in the history of Iran,” President Rouhani said Wednesday while addressing members of his

Cabinet, adding that the conclusion showed that the negative image of Iran that had been portrayed in the West has now changed.

Rouhani said the Western governments viewed Iran as a threat to the peace and stability of the region and the world and never wanted to benefit from Iran's power for settling regional and international issues.

He said the mere participation of Iran in diplomatic efforts to settle the nuclear issue should be viewed as a “legal, political and technical” victory for the country as it showed that the Islamic Republic is ready to engage in high-level negotiations on major issues.

Iran's Foreign Minister Muhammad Javad Zarif said the deal ended

a “manufactured crisis” over Iran's nuclear program.

Zarif, who led Iran's negotiating team in the 18 straight days of talks that culminated in Tuesday's deal, said on his return home that common ground had been found with the six powers led by the United States.

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Pentagon No. 2: ISIL No Threat to U.S.

WASHINGTON (Dispatches) -- Testifying to the U.S. Senate Armed Services Committee, incoming Vice Chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff Gen. Paul Selva raised some eyebrows by openly declaring that ISIL poses no threat to the U.S. homeland, insisting they are simply something to be dealt with abroad.

Selva appeared eager to echo comments from the nominee for chairman, Gen. Joe Dunford, in his own testimony, declaring Russia an “existential threat to the United States” and laying out a list of threats, in order, topped

by Russia.

But while Dunford's list last week was Russia, China, North Korea, then ISIL, Selva's version was Russia, China, Iran, North Korea, and Al-Qaeda, in that order. Selva then insisted neither ISIL nor “lone wolf” terrorists inspired by ISIL were a real threat.

Selva then went on to pledge to provide President Obama with a range of military options to use against Iran after Tuesday's nuclear deal, saying the pact posed a threat if Iran used the money to “sponsor state terrorism”.

Shipping Firms Removed From U.S. Blacklist

TEHRAN (Dispatches) -- The Islamic Republic of Iran Shipping Lines and the country's leading ports operator, the Tidewater Middle East Maritime Company, have been removed from the U.S. list of companies designated for sanctions and assets freeze.

The removal came after officials from Iran and P5+1 sealed a historic nuclear accord on Tuesday.

The names of 16 shipping executives, including IRISL Managing Director Mohammad Hussein Dajmar, and their companies have been delisted along with the related firms, the IRNA news agency reported.

Iran's shipping had the biggest number of nationals on a Western blacklist of sanctioned entities for years. IRNA said 132 shipping companies and 16 executives were on the US list in total.

Tidewater had been added to the list of Specially Designated Nationals by the US Department of the Treasury in 2011.

A statement by the company said all sanctions against Tidewater had been formally abolished, adding it would soon begin “serious” talks with foreign sides for new trade.

“From now on, Tidewater is ready to participate with all power and

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NIOC to Raise Oil Production From All Fields

TEHRAN (Dispatches) -- The National Iranian Oil Company (NIOC) is set to increase production from all oilfields this year and can reach its pre-sanctions output capacity of 4 million barrels per day if there is sufficient market demand, a top Iranian oil official told a newspaper on Wednesday.

Iran and six major world powers concluded nuclear negotiations on Tuesday, clearing the way for an easing of sanctions on Tehran and higher oil exports.

“We want to reach to our pre-sanctions capacity. We tested a production increase in the main oilfields last year,” Roknoldin Javadi, NIOC managing director told Iran's

Shargh newspaper.

“This year we have been ordered to increase production in all fields.” He said it might take six months to a year until Iran can claim its previous position in the global oil market.

“Iran's oil production capacity was 4 million barrels a day before the sanctions. We can reach that if there is demand in the market,” Javadi told Shargh.

Iran can increase oil output by 500,000 to 600,000 bpd and the main market targeted for the extra supplies will be South East Asia, he added.

Minister of Petroleum Bijan Zangeneh (Continued on Page 7)