

Iran Dismisses EU Rights Report

TEHRAN (Tasnim) – Iran's Foreign Ministry spokeswoman Marzieh Afkham on Wednesday dismissed allegations of human rights violation raised in a recent European Union report against Iran.

"We reject the report and at the same time call on the European Union officials to adopt a more realistic and logical approach towards Iran," she said. Her comments came after the EU criticized what it called "lack of fundamental freedoms and violations of basic human rights including women's rights" in Iran.

Kayhan International



Gov't: Iran Open to Extension of Deadline

TEHRAN (Tasnim) – Government spokesman Muhammad Baqer Nobakht said Wednesday Iran would agree to the extension of the deadline for a nuclear deal with six world powers beyond June 30 should that help resolve the possible remaining ambiguities.

"If a good deal that the Islamic Republic of Iran is after is not reached and there remain ambiguities that could be resolved with an extension of the time of the negotiations, we will naturally agree on such an extension," Nobakht said.

VOL NO: LV 9790 TEHRAN / Est.1959

Thursday, June 25, 2015, Tir 4, 1394, Ramadhan 8, 1436 Price 10000 Rials

Viewpoint

By: Kayhan Int'l Staff Writer

West Is Politicizing Global Drug War

23rd Tehran Intl. Quran Expo Kicks Off



France Summons U.S. Envoy Over NSA Spying



Hezbollah, Syrian Troops Gain More Territory in Qalamoun



Education Minister Survives Impeachment

TEHRAN (Dispatches) – Iran's parliament voted overwhelmingly Wednesday against impeaching the education minister, in a victory for President Hassan Rouhani.

Critics had accused Education Minister Ali Asghar Fani of failing to address complaints from teachers over low salaries.

The impeachment motion was rejected by 167 lawmakers in the 290-seat parliament, with 76 voting in favor.

It had been expected to fail after the majority group in parliament, the "Followers of the Leader" faction, had assured the minister of its support.

A member of faction, Behrouz Nemati, denounced the motion as "partisan hostage-taking by anti-government lawmakers".

Fani defended his record in parliament, telling lawmakers that he had been dealing with problems "inherited from the past" in his 22

months in office.

Lawmakers backing the motion denied any ulterior motives, but also suggested Fani was using his office for political purposes.

One of them, Farhad Bashiri, said "the ministry has become the campaign headquarters of certain individuals" ahead of parliamentary elections in February next year.

Parliament last August successfully impeached then-science minister Reza Faraji Dana who had been accused of appointing officials to his cabinet who participated in the June 2009 sedition.

Under the Iranian Constitution, lawmakers can impeach a minister when they deem it necessary.

The minister must appear on parliament floor within ten days after the submission of the impeachment motion to answer the questions raised by legislators, give explanation on his performance and seek a vote of confidence.

Leader Rules Out Unconventional Inspections



Ayatollah Khamenei meets with heads of three branches of power and senior officials in Tehran.

tollah Khamenei said Iran would not permit inspections at military sites or "unconventional inspections" at other facilities.

The Leader also called into question the duration of limits under a final accord. A preliminary framework agreed on April 2 stated that Iran's enrichment of uranium would be curtailed for 10 years, with other parts of its nuclear activities being curbed for longer.

Noting that some restrictions are acceptable, "extreme demands" are not, Ayatollah Khamenei said.

"Unlike the insistence from the Americans, we do not accept long-term limitations of 10, 12 years. We have told the negotiating team how many specific years of restrictions are acceptable," Ayatollah Khamenei said. "Research and development must continue during the years of restrictions," the Leader added.

The Leader said the U.S. is offering a "complicated formula" for lifting sanctions. Ayatollah Khamenei added waiting for the UN's International Atomic Energy Agency to verify its cooperation would take too long.

"Lifting sanctions can't depend on implementation of Iran's obligations," the Leader said.

Ayatollah Khamenei said U.S.'s "goal is to uproot and destroy the country's nuclear industry". "They want to keep up the pressure and are

(Continued on Page 7)

Top Russian Bank Interested in Iran Business

TEHRAN (Press TV) – Russian billionaire Mikhail Prokhorov's Renaissance Capital is interested in business in Iran and has already started scoping out opportunities in the country.

The top-ranked investment bank is evaluating equity trading, deals and analyst coverage for Iran and is informing clients for possible ventures.

Ben Samuels, global head of equities and interim head of research, described Iran as the "largest economy in the world that is currently closed to institutional investors."

The Moscow-based firm is trying to "identify potential investment opportunities in the Iranian market," Bloomberg cited him as saying.

RenCap, as the company is known, operates in high-opportunity emerging and frontier markets.

The headquarters of Renaissance Capital in Moscow is seen in this company photo.

International money managers are preparing a major entry into the Tehran stock market as interest builds up in trade with Iran in anticipation of a nuclear deal.

According to the Western media, London-based Charlemagne Capital and First Frontier Capital would rather jump the gun than get lost in the rally that could allow Tehran's \$110 billion equity market to take off.

They are putting together sanctions-compliant funds to allow investors to buy Iranian equities ahead of the interest that they expect a final agreement would generate, Bloomberg said.

Global economic analysts project that Iran's unfettered economy could grow 6-8% annually when the sanctions are totally voided.

Even with sanctions in place, the Tehran stock market gauge jumped 300% in dollar terms in the five years through 2013.

Iran's main bourse, however, lost \$3.5 billion in the month of Khor-dad that ended on June 21 as a lingering recession took its toll on major businesses, the daily Hamshahri reported on Tuesday.

Over 450 financial entities are listed on the Tehran Stock Exchange. Many others, include refineries, petrochemical plants and other big businesses, are waiting for initial public offering (IPO) as part of a massive privatization program.

Last month, a foreign delegation of asset managers, including Americans, visited Tehran Stock Exchange for the second time in as many weeks.

The group of 17 investment managers from Russia, Britain, Egypt, Greece, Switzerland, the US, Turkey, Italy and the UAE visited the bourse and held talks with its chief Hassan Qalibaf-Asl.

TEHRAN (Dispatches) – Leader of the Islamic Revolution Ayatollah Seyyed Ali Khamenei has restated Iran's red lines for a nuclear deal with world powers.

Ayatollah Khamenei, who will have the last word for Iran in its talks with the West, made the comments after Iran's parliament passed a bill on the country's nuclear program.

With obstacles remaining just one week until the June 30 deadline for

a nuclear deal, the Leader said Iran seeks to reach a fair deal that will serve the country's national interests.

"All Iranian authorities, while insisting on the red lines, are pursuing a good deal which is a fair and honorable agreement in line with Iran's interests," the Leader said in a meeting with the heads of the three branches of power and senior officials here.

Banking and economic sanctions

imposed on Iran by the United Nations or U.S. Congress must be lifted immediately when an agreement is signed, Ayatollah Khamenei said. "Other sanctions can be removed gradually by a reasonable timetable," the Leader added, noting cancellation should not be linked to implementation by Iran of its commitments.

Describing the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA) as "neither independent nor fair", Aya-

U.S. to Deploy Heavy Weapons Near Russia

WASHINGTON (Dispatches) – The Pentagon chief says the United States will deploy heavy military equipment in several Eastern European countries to boost NATO presence there, amid standoff with Russia over Ukraine.

Speaking at a joint press conference with three Baltic defense ministers in Tallinn, Estonia, U.S. Defense Secretary Ashton Carter said Washington will spread about 250 tanks, armored vehicles and other military equipment across seven European nations.

"We will temporarily stage one armored brigade combat team's vehicles and associated equipment in countries in central and eastern Europe," Carter said.

"This pre-positioned European activity set includes tanks, infantry fighting vehicles, artillery," he said.

Carter added that Estonia, Lithuania, Latvia, Bulgaria, Romania and Poland had "agreed to host company- to battalion-sized elements

of this equipment" which would be "moved around the region for training and exercises".

He said the move is to reassure NATO states against "threats" from Russia and terrorist groups.

His comments came a day after he announced that the U.S. would be contributing weapons, aircraft and forces for NATO's new rapid reaction force.

According to the Associated Press, the contribution will consist of intelligence and surveillance capabilities, special operations forces, logistical aid, transport aircraft, and a range of weapons.

This is the first time since the end of the Cold War that Washington stations heavy military equipment in newer NATO members.

Military tensions between the United States and Russia have escalated steadily since April 2014, when the Black Sea peninsula of Crimea reunited with the Russian Federation following a referendum

a month earlier.

Washington accuses Moscow of arming and supporting pro-Russian forces fighting in the predominantly Russian-speaking areas in eastern Ukraine. Moscow calls the accusations "groundless".

The U.S.-led military buildup in NATO member states bordering Russia has drawn strong objections from Moscow, followed by warnings of a well-measured response.

The United States plans to bolster its armored presence and keep rotations of American troops in Eastern Europe to provide "deterrence against Russian aggression".

Anti-China Funding

Speaking at the conference for the China Aerospace Studies Initiative, Deputy Secretary of Defense Robert Work pushed for more U.S. military spending on weapons research, saying that the Chinese air force is rapidly catching up with its Ameri-

can counterpart in capabilities.

Work described China as a rising power, and insisted that interaction with the U.S., an established power, would likely eventually result in war, saying the U.S. has historically relied on its technological superiority and massive nuclear arsenal as a "hedge" against China.

With the technological gap getting narrower, the huge nuclear arsenal apparently isn't enough to cut it anymore, and Work urged the U.S. to spend up ways to get that technological superiority back in place, putting particular emphasis on laser weaponry.

Work noted that directed energy weapons could theoretically knock expensive missiles out of the sky for a fraction of what the missiles themselves cost. That's all true, of course, but exactly how much the Pentagon will spend on getting such weapons working in the first place is unclear, and the Pentagon, as

(Continued on Page 7)