

TEHRAN – Diplomats from Iran and the UN at a meeting in Tehran weighed plans to deliver humanitarian aids to people in the conflict zones, particularly in Yemen, Syria, Afghanistan and Iraq. Iranian Deputy Foreign Minister for Legal and International Affairs Mohsen Baharvand held talks with the UN Secretary General's Special Envoy for Yemen Martin Griffiths in Tehran. In the gathering, the Iranian diplomat stressed the importance of the UN's humanitarian aid in the conflict zones, specifically in Yemen, Syria, Afghanistan and Iraq, regardless of political considerations and pressures.

LONDON (Dispatches) -- Thousands of people gathered in Canada's London for a vigil to remember and grieve the Muslim family slain in a racist attack. A vigil was held for the Muslim family police say were targeted in a violent attack that left a nine-year-old boy in hospital and his sister, parents and grandmother dead in London, Ont. The vigil started shortly after 7 p.m. outside of the London Muslim Mosque and lasted around two hours, filled with prayers and calls for action against Islamophobia.

Why Are Saudi Arabia, UAE Engaging With Iran?



China: U.S. Bill Displayed Cold War Mentality



Report: Sardar Azmoun on AS Roma's Radar



Zionist Army Chief: Dead Espionage Officer Was About to Reveal 'Big Secret'



Nasrallah: We Will Pray Together at Al-Aqsa

BEIRUT (Dispatches) -- Sayyed Hassan Nasrallah, head of the Lebanese resistance movement Hezbollah, said that he was ready to go to Iran to seek fuel to help Lebanon deal with a shortage.

"We, Hezbollah, can go to Iran and negotiate with the Iranian government and buy shipments of fuel," Nasrallah said.

Lebanon is in the throes of a deep financial crisis, and shortages in essential goods such as fuel and medicine have been worsening.

The purchases, he said, would be made in Lebanese pounds and would not require long waits for the central bank to approve dollar allocations.

"These scenes of humiliation, people should not bear," he said, referring to long fuel lines in recent weeks.

Nasrallah reassured supporters that he was well after coughing episodes during his last speech caused concerns about his health.

"A human being is a human being, you get sick or tired sometimes," Nasrallah said in his first media appearance since he coughed his way through a speech on May 25, when he said he was suffering from allergies and nothing serious.

Referring to social media rumors suggesting he had a grave illness, he said, "Some people killed us off and some started looking for a successor. I reassure them."

Nasrallah has Hezbollah for nearly three decades, turning it into a group of regional influence.

"There are some people who expressed their love and distributed bread and salt and wrote and called and I reassure these," Nasrallah said. "I cherish their love and thank [them] all."

Nasrallah made his comments while delivering a speech on Lebanon's financial crisis and political deadlock.

He urged politicians to urgently form a new cabinet.

Lebanon's financial situation is complicated by the political deadlock as Prime Minister-designate Saad al-Hariri and President Michel Aoun squabble over naming ministers.

A new cabinet is needed to enact reforms that could unlock foreign aid.

"Those responsible for gov-

ernment formation need to listen to people's voices and look with pain at the cars queuing up for fuel and the loss of electricity and medication," Nasrallah said.

He also said Muslims will eventually prevail over the Zionist regime and its allies' efforts to interfere with their observing their religious rituals at Al-Aqsa Mosque in the holy occupied city of Al-Quds.

"I am still hopeful that we will pray together at the sacred Al-Aqsa Mosque," he said.

He pointed to the anniversary of Naksa (Setback), which marks the Israeli regime's occupation of a whole host of regional territories -- including the Palestinian territory of the West Bank, where Al-Quds is located, Lebanon's Shebaa Farms, and Syria's Golan Heights -- in a Western-backed war in 1967.

The Hezbollah chief noted how the Palestinians across the occupied territories have been struggling "with patience and sacrifice" to preserve the status quo in Al-Quds and the Al-Aqsa Mosque's compound throughout decades that have passed since the war.

Now, the international Muslim Ummah (Nation) has to pursue this matter shoulder to shoulder with them, Nasrallah said.

He also commemorated the memory of Imam Khomeini, the late founder of the Islamic Republic in Iran.

Nasrallah hailed how the late revolutionary leader breathed life into the global Muslim Nation and revitalized the spirit of resistance and fighting against oppression.

The Hezbollah leader thanked Abdul-Malik al-Houthi, leader of Yemen's popular Ansarullah movement, for his expression of support for resistance efforts aimed at preserving Al-Quds and the Islamic sanctities there.

Nasrallah also congratulated the Yemeni people for their successful resistance and struggle against a U.S.-backed Saudi coalition that has been attacking the impoverished country since 2015.

"Now, we are witnessing the defeat of the aggressive Saudi-American coalition," he said, adding, "Ever since the first day [of the war], we had faith in the Yemeni people's strength for steadfastness and victory."

U.S. Secretary of State Blinken:

Hundreds of Sanctions to Remain If U.S. Rejoins JCPOA



Former U.S. president Donald Trump holds a document after signing new sanctions against Iran in this file photo.

WASHINGTON (Dispatches) -- Secretary of State Antony Blinken says that "hundreds" of U.S. sanctions will remain on Iran even if the United States rejoins a nuclear accord.

President Joe Biden's administration says it is ready to reverse former president Donald Trump's exit from the 2015 nuclear accord, formally known as the Joint Comprehensive Plan of Action (JCPOA), but it is refusing to remove sanctions

imposed on Iran.

"I would anticipate that, even in the event of a return to compliance with the JCPOA, hundreds of sanctions remain in place, including sanctions imposed by the Trump administration," Blinken told a Senate hearing.

"If they are not inconsistent with the JCPOA, they will remain unless and until Iran's behavior changes," he said.

The discussions in Vienna

have been locked in dispute over the U.S. intention to maintain the sanctions as a leverage of pressure.

Iran has insisted on a removal of all sanctions -- while the Biden administration has insisted that some will remain if they were imposed over other pretexts not related to the nuclear program.

A host of barriers to the revival of the nuclear deal remain firmly in place ahead of talks due to

resume this week, suggesting a return to compliance with the 2015 accord is still a way off, Reuters said.

Iranian demands about sanctions relief are among questions that may need weeks or possibly months of further negotiations, it cited four unnamed Iranian diplomats and international analysts as saying.

Iran wants all sanctions lifted and no expansion of the terms of the agreement which the Biden administration is reportedly pushing for.

European Union envoy Enrique Mora, the chief coordinator of the talks, said last week he believed a deal would be reached at the upcoming sixth round of negotiations in Vienna, expected to resume on Thursday or Friday.

Reuters said adding to the impetus to make progress is an election in Iran on June 18 to replace President Hassan Rouhani, who promoted the original deal. He is widely expected to be followed by a principlist successor.

The election is not likely to change Tehran's negotiating stance: regardless of who is

(Continued on Page 7)

'Economy Must Be Fortified Against Any Shock'

TEHRAN -- Presidential candidate Seyyed Ebrahim Raisi said Wednesday he has set an agenda for securing a removal of the sanctions imposed on the Iranian nation, emphasizing the need for the country's economy to be fortified in the face of both sanctions or any other shock that may hit.

Raisi, the Judiciary chief, told reporters that the Iranian administration should do all in its power "to confront those who seek to breach the Iranian nation's rights and pursue the removal of the sanctions."

"Definitely, action should be taken to [bring about] the removal of the sanctions, and the strategy [to do so] is al-

ready there," he said. "Iran's economy should be built in a way that neither sanctions nor any other shocks, from the coronavirus to flooding and incidents, can shake it."

Iran has been the subject of tough American sanctions over the past decades. The U.S., however, tightened the economic restrictions in May 2018, after it withdrew a multinational nuclear agreement on the Iranian nuclear program.

Raisi said the current economic conditions in the country was "unacceptable" since the people are not able to predict their financial situation due to constant fluctuations.

(Continued on Page 7)

Iran Begins Second Phase Human Trial of Fakhra

TEHRAN -- Iran on Wednesday launched the second phase in the human trial of a COVID-19 vaccine developed by the Defense Ministry's research center formerly headed by nuclear scientist Mohsen Fakhrazadeh, who was assassinated last year.

The process began with the administration of the vaccine dubbed Fakhra to the spouse of Dariush Rezaeinejad, a young Iranian scientist who was assassinated in July 2011.

The official in charge of Fakhra's clinical trial said 135 volunteers got jabs in the first phase, adding that the vaccine proved to be "safe and secure."

"The second phase kicks off with the injection of the vaccine to the wife of Martyr Rezaeinejad, and at this stage, 500 people will get jabs," he noted. "The second phase will be summed up in the next two

months."

Speaking at Wednesday's event, Deputy Health Minister Iraq Harirchi hailed the Fakhra vaccine as an "extraordinary and stunning" product of the Iranian Armed Forces which has brought honor to the country.

"In the entire world, there are a limited number of states that are able to make vaccines. Fortunately, Iran has now joined these countries by producing several vaccines," he said.

In addition to Fakhra, Iran has developed three other vaccines against the COVID-19 disease named COVIran Barekat, Razi COV-Pars and the joint Iran-Cuba vaccine.

It has also imported foreign vaccines despite the illegal U.S. sanctions that have seriously hampered the country's fight against the coronavirus pandemic.