

TEHRAN – The foreign minister of Iran and the prime minister of Serbia discussed ways to promote cooperation between the two countries in various fields on Monday.

Hussein Amir-Abdollahian and Serbia's Prime Minister Ana Brnabic met in Belgrade, stressing the need to carry out the agreements that the presidents of Iran and Serbia have made in the past. Amir-Abdollahian expressed hope for expansion of ties between Tehran and Belgrade within the framework of a road map to cooperation.

TEHRAN – The spokesperson for the Iranian Foreign Ministry on Monday denounced the U.S. attempt to remove Iran from the UN Commission on the Status of Women (CSW), warning that such an illegal precedent would question the UN member states' right to vote.

"Currently, the U.S. is trying with the help of certain European governments to put obstacles in the way of Iran's membership in the CSW in a totally political and illegal move by imposing pressures, using political potentials, and influencing independent states," Nasser Kanaani said.

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Tuesday, December 6, 2022, Azar 15, 1401, Jamadi al-Awwal 11, 1444, Price 200,000 Rials

Viewpoint

Islamic Iran, not Israel, Heir to Abraham's Immortal Legacy

UK Opposition Vows to Abolish House of Lords

LONDON (AFP) -- Britain's opposition Labour party vowed on Monday to scrap the unelected and "indefensible" House of Lords as part of a constitutional revamp to redistribute economic growth after Brexit.

Labour looks set to take power in the next election, due by January 2025, streaking far ahead of the governing Conservatives in opinion polls after a tumultuous period politically and economically.

Labour leader Keir Starmer promised "the biggest ever transfer of power from (the UK parliament in) Westminster to the British people", arguing that many voters in 2016 opted to quit the European Union because of a sense of lack of democratic control.

The party's blueprint for reform, drafted by former prime minister Gordon Brown, envisions new devolution to the UK's regions and countries including Scotland, where the nationalist government is pressing for a new referendum on independence.

Brown, who led the successful 2014 campaign for his fellow Scots to stay in the United Kingdom, proposed greater devolution, with the Edinburgh parliament included in international agreements that involve Scottish areas.

Addressing an audience in Leeds, northern England, Starmer said a "failure of economic growth over the past 12 years" under Conservative rule was caused in part by the UK failing

as a whole to power growth, relying too much on London and southeast England.

The blueprint is not yet Labour policy. It now goes to a public consultation, with agreed changes set to be incorporated into the party's next election manifesto.

Starmer said he hoped to push through the eventual reforms within the first five years of a Labour government, possibly including the redeployment of 50,000 civil service jobs out of London.

Tackling widespread public disgust with perceived malpractice in parliament, the proposals would clamp down on MPs holding second jobs and create a new anti-corruption commissioner.

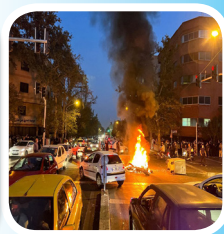
The 40-point plan's centrepiece is to scrap the upper house of parliament in its current guise -- which is a mixture of political appointees, hereditary peers and Church of England bishops.

"I think the House of Lords is indefensible. Anybody who looks at the House of Lords would struggle to say that it should be kept," Starmer told BBC television.

"So we want to abolish the House of Lords and replace it with an elected chamber that has a really strong mission."

Brown proposed a new assembly comprising members drawn from the UK's regions and countries -- a "smaller, more representative and democratic" chamber, although details will be left to the consultation.

West Ties Cutting Support for Riots to Concessions



Iran Women Handball Team Qualifies for World Championship



Army Spokesman: Yemen Can Retaliate With Dozens of Missiles, Drones



IRGC Hails Judiciary Rulings

No Mercy to Thugs and Terrorists



The first row of pictures shows Iranians attending funeral for victims of a terrorist attack on the holy shrine of Shah Cheragh in Shiraz on Oct. 29, 2022. The second row shows people taking part in a procession in Isfahan on Nov. 20, 2022 for three security forces martyred during riots.

TEHRAN – The Islamic Revolution Guards Corps (IRGC) on Monday hailed the judiciary for its firm dealing with a number of rioters affiliated with the Zionist spy agency, saying no mercy will be shown to rioters, thugs and terrorists serving the country's enemies.

The force made the remark in a statement in which it thanked judicial officials for putting four main members of the gang of mobsters related to the Zionist intelligence

service to death.

The IRGC added that the sentences handed down to rioters cooperating with the occupying regime Israel proved the judiciary's "sensitivity and seriousness" in administering justice and safeguarding the security of citizens.

Demanding all state bodies to pay more attention to peaceful protests and people's rightful demands, the IRGC said, "Security, intelligence, police and Basij forces ... will not

hesitate in dealing firmly and powerfully with those who threaten the social security and order ... including rioters, armed thugs, and terrorists working at the behest of the enemies, and will show them no mercy."

It added that the handling of cases related to destructive, terrorist and secessionist activities that target the country's security as well as people's lives and property, and have inflicted heavy and irrepa-

rable losses on the nation and the country is now a public demand, which should be attended to by the judicial officials.

Protests broke out in several Iranian cities after the September 16 death of Mahsa Amini, a 22-year-old Iranian woman who died at hospital three days after she collapsed at a police station in Tehran. An investigation attributed her death to her medical condition, dismissing allegations that she had been beaten by police forces.

Despite Iranian officials' clarification on the circumstances surrounding Amini's death, violent street riots followed her death and finally culminated in attacks on security officers and acts of vandalism against public property and sanctities.

In a statement published on Saturday, the Security Council of Iran's interior ministry said the enemy waged a hybrid war against the Islamic Republic to weaken national solidarity and hinder the country's progress, stressing that some 200 people have lost their lives in the riots sparked by separatist and terrorist groups since their outbreak in September.

It said rioters conducted acts of vandalism, violence and insecurity in Iran and paved the way for separatist and terrorist groups to infiltrate into the country and carry out brutal attacks against innocent people.

Video Shows Zionist Regime Lying About Murder

NABLUS (Dispatches) -- The killing of 21-year-old Palestinian Raed al-Naasan at the hands of Israeli troops has been laid bare by new video evidence published by the BBC that contradicts the occupying regime's account of his murder.

Naasan was one of five Palestinians martyred by Zionist forces on November 29.

Israeli occupation forces initially claimed that Naasan was killed while throwing a Molotov cocktail. They entered the village of Al-Mughayyir in the occupied West Bank to demolish a Palestinian home that the Zionist regime claims was built illegally.

Newly released footage of the minutes leading to Naasan's martyrdom reveals him and others throwing rocks at Zionist forces before two shots ring out, the second of which fatally wounds him.

In his last moments, captured on camera, Naasan is seen running around a corner before stumbling to the ground just as emergency services arrive at the scene.

Following Naasan's death, the occupying regime's military said

its troops responded with live ammunition after a suspect "spotted hurling Molotov cocktails" at them.

The new video evidence shows that neither Naasan nor any of the people around him were throwing any Molotov cocktails.

In response to the killing, the Israeli human rights group B'Tselem said, "There are many cases of protests where the Palestinians are using rocks, stones and sometimes other means, and Israel's army almost always uses disproportionate force."

The killing of the five Palestinians on Tuesday brought the death toll in the occupied Palestinian territories this year to 207 Palestinians, of whom 155 were martyred in the West Bank and occupied East Al-Quds making it the deadliest year recorded for Palestinians since 2005.

The occupying regime of Israel's "shoot-to-kill policy" has been widely criticized as the number of Palestinian deaths at the hands of Zionist forces increases.

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Sudan Resistance Calls for Protests After U.S.-Led Deal

KHARTOUM (Middle East Eye) -- Sudan's resistance committees have called for nationwide protests after widely rejecting a U.S.-brokered political deal between the country's military leaders and key civilian elites signed on Monday.

The agreement aims to resolve the political crisis created when the military seized power in October 2021 and build a civilian-led transitional government, but opponents believe it is just a reproduction of the coup and could even allow associates of the previous regime to return to power.

The signatories to the agreement include the military, civilian groups under the umbrella of the Forces Freedom and Change (FFC), the Popular Congress Party (PCP), part of the Democratic Unionist Party (DUP), some rebel movements, Salafists, tribal leaders and some civil society organizations.

The signing of the deal was attended by the so-called "Quad powers", which include the United States, the United Kingdom, Saudi Arabia and the United Arab

Emirates, with the support of the European Union, the United Nations, the African Union, and the Inter-governmental Authority on Development (IGAD) trade bloc.

The deal will reportedly guarantee the exit of the military from politics and enable a "full civilian democratic rule". The two-year transitional period is set to begin after the appointment of a prime minister by the civilian groups.

A previous transition from military rule following the overthrow of President Omar al-Bashir in 2019 was derailed after two and a half years when the military seized power in October 2021.

Addressing the ceremony, military chief General Abdul Fattah al-Burhan and his deputy and chairman of the Rapid Support Forces (RSF), Mohamed Hamdan Daglo (Hemedti), vowed that the military will no longer interfere in politics and governance, will protect the transition and put an end to repeated coups in Sudan.

Some issues will need to be addressed through talks between the two sides in order to finalize the agreement.

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India Says Will Continue to Buy Russian Oil

NEW DELHI (AP) — India will prioritize its own energy needs and continue to buy oil from Russia, its foreign minister signaled Monday, as Western governments press Moscow with a price cap to squeeze its earnings from oil exports.

Minister of External Affairs Subrahmanyam Jaishankar made the comments after holding talks with his visiting German counterpart, Annalena Baerbock, in which they discussed bilateral relations and Russia's war in Ukraine. Jaishankar said it isn't right for European countries to prioritize their energy needs but "ask India to do something else."

"Europe will make the choices it will make. It is their right," he told reporters.

India has so far not committed to the \$60-per-barrel price cap on Russian oil set by the Group of Seven major industrialized countries and European Union that is expected to come into effect Monday. The move is an attempt by Western governments to limit fossil fuel earnings that support Moscow's budget, its military and

its invasion of Ukraine, while also avoiding a possible sharp price spike if Russia's oil is suddenly taken off the global market.

Jaishankar did not make any direct reference to the price cap but said the European Union was importing more fossil fuel from Russia than India. Indian officials have defended buying oil from Russia, saying the lower price benefits India.

Since the Ukraine war, India has steadily increased its purchases of discounted Russian oil. Indian imports of Russian oil hit a record high in October, with Russia becoming India's top oil supplier in terms of barrels per day, the Press Trust of India news agency said, quoting data from energy tracker Vortexa.

India and Russia have close relations and New Delhi has not supported Western sanctions on Moscow, even though it has repeatedly urged an "immediate cessation of violence" in Ukraine. India, also a major market for Russian-made weapons, has so far abstained from UN

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