

Saudi official's anti-Iranian remarks on missile program

In his hostile anti-Iranian remarks, a Saudi official has once again leveled accusations against Iran and called for a confrontation with Iran's nuclear and ballistic missile program.

Saudi Arabia's Minister of Media Majid bin Abdullah Al Qasabi said that the Saudi cabinet discussed the latest developments in the world and in the region, including the UN Secretary-General's baseless claim that Iran was involved in last year's missile attack on Saudi Arabia, Saudi Press Agency reported.

He added that the Saudi cabinet has called for a confrontation with Iran's nuclear and ballistic missile program. During the meeting, the Saudi cabinet stressed the need for the international community to take a firm stand against Iran, as well as the need to take appropriate measures to continue Iran's arms embargo. Saudi Arabia, which daily attacks Yemen and kills innocent Yemenis, claims that it insists on regional stability and will not allow national security and its borders to be violated.

The Saudi cabinet also called Iran's actions in the region hostile, claiming that Iran is jeopardizing the security of waterways and the global economy.

This is not the first time that Saudi Arabia which is biggest sponsor of terrorism has intervened in Iran's affairs and called for a confrontation with Iran's missiles. The Saudi foreign minister's adviser previously in a tweet called for the suspension of Iran's ballistic missile program.

Turkey Tested S-400 Air Defense Systems on US-Made

Planes Last Year: Source

Turkey tested Russian-made S-400 air defense systems on US-made F-16 fighter jets in November 2019, a source close to the Turkish defense industry said on Tuesday. Earlier in the day, several media reported with reference to the Fighter Jets World portal that the Russian-made missile systems had been tested on US aircraft. The portal published a video footage by Turkey's TRT channel, featuring Russia's S-400 systems and US-made F-16 and F-4 aircraft, which was released via its official YouTube account on November 29, 2019.

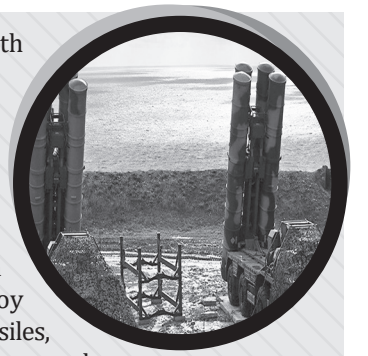
"Yes, such trials have indeed taken place last November," the source told TASS when asked to comment on those media reports.

On November 25, 2019, CNN Turk reported that various aircraft, including F-16 fighter jets, were scrambled near Ankara to test S-400. The Turkish military tested communication between the air defense systems and the aircraft during those exercises. Russia said in September 2017 that it had signed a \$2.5 bln contract for supplies of its S-400 missile systems with Turkey. The first batch under the contract was delivered to Ankara by air transport in July 2019.

The United States and NATO have been seeking to break down the deal. The White House said in mid-July that "Turkey's decision to purchase Russian S-400 air defense systems renders

its continued involvement with the F-35 impossible."

Russia's S-400 'Triumf' (NATO reporting name: SA-21 Growler) is the latest long- and medium-range surface-to-air missile system that went into service in 2007. It is designed to destroy aircraft, cruise and ballistic missiles, and can also be used against ground installations. The S-400 can engage targets at a distance of up to 400 km and at an altitude of up to 30 km under intensive enemy fire and jamming.



False news, Zionist psychological media war against Iran

Publishing the false news of Iran's intention to attack Israeli embassies is the second screen of a play directed by Zionist sponsored media to induce the regime's role in recent incidents in Iran.



Providing and publishing the news of Iran's intention to attack Israeli embassies is the second screen of a play, aimed

at inducing acceptance of Zionist regime's role in the recent incidents especially Natanz Facility's incident by the Islamic Republic of Iran. Since Thursday July 2 and after the incident occurred at Shahid Ahmadi Roshan Nuclear Complex (Natanz), the Zionist regime's media outlets, both official and proxy, were mobilized to attribute this incident to the high capabilities and determination of this regime for stopping Iran's nuclear program.

These foreign media outlets put a step further than storytelling about the Natanz incident and attributed various incidents, that happened accidentally in different parts of Iran, to the Zionist regime.

Officials of the Zionist regime, however, declined to confirm mostly Hollywood speculations in their own media, as they are well aware of the unrealistic nature of the allegations and know that a wave of such incidents could have brought about irreparable consequences for the Israeli regime.

Although Israeli officials are by no means willing to accept hazards of playing the role in the Hollywood scenarios, the actions and measures taken by Zionists' media outlets in the last few days and their proxies, including Iran International, Radio Farda, and Reuters, cannot be ruled out in this respect.



The Zionist regime's main goal in designing and implementing recent media scenarios is to make the news of Israel's role in recent events, especially in Iran's Natanz Nuclear Facility incident, "credible".

Over the past six days, all efforts by the dissident media have focused on finding clues in the statements of Iranian officials and even the Iranian media, which in a way confirm the Zionist regime's media line.

Iran has officially announced the cause of accident shortly after the incident occurred in Natanz nuclear site.

Keyvan Khosravi, spokesman for the Secretariat of the Supreme National Security Council (SNSC) said on Friday afternoon, one day after the incident, "the main cause of the incident has been determined, but due to some security considerations, the reasons will be announced in due course.

With the elapse of nearly six days after the incident, Iran has not yet commented on the cause of the accident. Meanwhile, due to the failure of the Zionist regime to make its role 'believable' in this incident by using media hype, the second curtain of the magic show, whose actor's hand was appeared

in the first show, kicked off last night through publishing surprising news.

A Farsi channel of foreign media outlet last night quoted "Israeli news sources", which are close to the regime's foreign intelligence service (Mossad), announced that this organization was able to discover and foil Iran's plan to attack Israeli embassies in Europe and elsewhere.

Israel's Channel 12 TV Network said names of countries where Mossad said that Israeli embassies in those countries would have been targeted by Iran, are not disclosed "for security reasons."

The Israeli newspaper "The Times of Israel" quoted Mossad as saying that the motive behind this attack was Iranian government's intense frustration with a series of fires and explosions at sensitive military and nuclear facilities in recent days.

According to the newspaper, Iranian government officials believe that Israel was involved in the recent attack to Natanz Nuclear facility and that their goal was to seek revenge and warn Israel by attacking Israeli diplomatic missions in other countries.

comment on the attacks or the report attributed to Mossad.

By publishing this news by foreign media outlet, that it is reporting a very important incident, but that "the source and location of the incident are unknown, it tramples the professional binding rules and regulations by a media severely.

It is very obvious that the preparation and publication of this news was a continuation of previous scenarios, with the aim of inducing the acceptance of the role of the Zionist regime in recent events, especially the Natanz incident by Iran. Different has been done with the same approach and spread of false news about the intention of the Islamic Republic to target embassies of this regime in different countries has been done with the same approach.

The Zionist regime's continued harassment of its "powerful display" at the cost of undermining the prestige of the media, which claims to be neutral and professional, shows the regime's extreme weakness and vulnerability, and confirms the fact that Israel's leaders are disappointed. They are looking for repetitive shows to fantasize about their unattainable dreams.

NEWS

Border police cmdr.: Efforts underway to release Iranian abducted border guards

Commander of the Border Guard of the NAJA said that Iran is engaged in consultations with Pakistan to bring the abducted border guards at the Mirjaveh border back home.

Commander of the Border Guard of the Law Enforcement Force of the Islamic Republic of Iran (NAJA) Second Brigadier General Ahmad Ali Goudarzi said that a series of negotiations have been held with Pakistani security authorities to secure the release of the two Iranian border guards who have been abducted at Mirjaveh border.

The Ministry of Foreign Affairs and the Border Guards are engaged in consultations with Pakistan to return the Iranian border guards home, he added. 12 Iranian border guards were abducted by the so-called Jaish ul-Adl terror group near the Pakistan-Iran border point of Mirjaveh on October 16, 2018 and were taken across the border to Pakistan. On November 22, 2018 five of them returned home through the efforts and cooperation between Iran and the Pakistani side.

Four out of seven remaining border guards, who were held hostage by a terrorist group in Pakistan, have been released in March 2019.

Spokesman Dismisses Rumors about Iran-China Agreement

Iran's Foreign Ministry spokesperson quashed rumors about a comprehensive cooperation plan between Tehran and Beijing, saying the old trick of using false information to get details of the agreement will get nowhere.

In a post on his Twitter account on Tuesday, Seyed Abbas Mousavi said "Iran-China comprehensive cooperation plan" is a clear roadmap that sets the stage for relations between the two major countries in future, "when China, as the world's top economic power in the near future, and Iran, as the great power in the West Asia region, can fulfill the common interests and stand against the pressure of bullies with complementary relations that are independent of the traditional and hegemonic Western powers." The spokesman underlined that the cooperation agreement between the two countries neither entails any Chinese control over the Iranian islands, nor any presence of military forces, nor the "other illusions."

"The old trick of falsification and release of wrong information in order to get the right details and information, which is seriously pursued by the enemies of interests of the two nations, will go nowhere," Mousavi added.

In remarks on Sunday, Iranian Foreign Minister Mohammad Javad Zarif said everything about a 25-year cooperation agreement with China is clear and the two countries have nothing to hide about it. He also noted that Tehran will make the contents of the agreement public.

News

Enemies After Internal Discord in Iran, President Warns

Iranian President Hassan Rouhani warned that the main objective pursued by the enemies, above all by the US and Israel, is to create rift and division between the Iranian people and establishment. Addressing a cabinet session on Wednesday, Rouhani said the US and the Zionist regime's main objective is to mount pressure on Iran, foment disappointment in the country, and create division and rift between the people, the establishment and the branches of power.

Highlighting the need for the three branches of power – the administration, the parliament and the Judiciary- to join hands for the settlement of the country's problems, the president said, "The administration always favors cordial and

brotherly relations with the other power branches within the framework of the Constitution, and will continue this policy."

It is no good time for disputes amid the widespread pressure of sanctions imposed by the enemies and the outbreak of the coronavirus, Rouhani underlined. He further lauded the Ministry of Foreign Affairs as the symbol of Iran's political power, saying the ministry has made great achievements over the past seven years, such as the great job of termination of the sanctions imposed on Iran under Chapter 7 of the UN Charter.

The president also pointed to the new wave of coronavirus in Iran, saying the Health Ministry has been assigned to take action against the problematic and threatening crowded places.

He declared a ban on all wedding and mourning ceremonies in Iran until further notice, saying wearing face masks in the public and indoor places and in all administrative offices remains obligatory.



On Tuesday, the spokesperson for the Iranian administration said new decisions might be made to tighten restrictions in Tehran as the novel coronavirus is taking more lives. Iran's Health Ministry on Tuesday reported 200 new deaths from the novel coronavirus, the highest single-day toll since the viral disease broke out in February.

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World getting used to US stupidity: envoy

Referring to the withdrawal of US from WHO, Iranian Ambassador to Pakistan said, "We are getting used to their stupidity." In a tweet on Wednesday, Seyyed Mohammad Ali Hosseini wrote, "US formally notifies #UN of decision to withdraw from @WHO." "Blunder after Blunder. We are getting used to their stupidity," he added. The US has sent a letter officially notifying the United Nations that it is leaving the World Health Organization, starting the formal process of withdrawal that President Trump first threatened in April when he halted funding to WHO. To leave the organization, the US is supposed to give a one-year notice and pay outstanding dues, according to language that the US added to the WHO constitution when it joined the treaty in 1948. As of June 30, the US owed \$198 million in unpaid membership dues. Trump has repeatedly criticized WHO for being slow to respond to the pandemic and for being too "China-centric."



Headlines

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Enemies After Internal Discord in Iran, President Warns

Iranian households buy two million carats of precious stones annually

CALL TO PRAYER TIME IN ISFAHAN

Morning call to prayer:

04:25:45

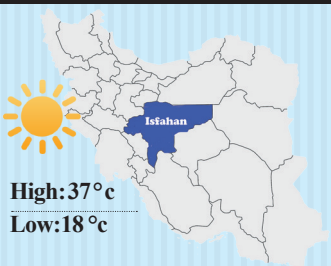
Noon call to prayer:

13:08:39

Evening call to prayer:

20:33:47

WEATHER



Tavanir: Reward for Reporting Illegal Cryptocurrency Mining

The government will offer incentives to whistleblowers who name unauthorized cryptocurrency miners to the relevant authorities, managing director of Power Generation, Distribution and Transmission Company (Tavanir) said. Incentives include rewards worth 100 million rials (\$480) for those who cooperate with energy officials in identifying illegal crypto mining centers, according to Mohammad Hassan Motevalizadeh. Tavanir is legally authorized to shut down illegal crypto mining businesses, he said, adding that 1,100 illegal mining centers have so far been identified, Tasnim News Agency reported. Motevalizadeh said those who want to use the national power grid for mining cryptocurrency should play by the rules and must have permit for their work.



Iran exports 273,000 bpd of crude oil in June

US Formally Starts Withdrawal from WHO

US President Donald Trump on Tuesday formally started the withdrawal of the United States from the World Health Organization (WHO), making good on threats to deprive the UN body of its top funding source over its response to the coronavirus.

Public health advocates and Trump's political opponents voiced outrage at the departure from the Geneva-based body, which leads the global fight on maladies from polio to measles to mental health - as well as COVID-19, at a time when cases have again been rising around the world.

After threatening to suspend the US\$400 million (\$550 million) in annual US contributions and then announcing a withdrawal, the Trump administration has formally sent a notice to UN Secretary-General Antonio Guterres, a State Department spokesman said.

The withdrawal is effective in one year - July 6, 2021 - and Joe Biden, Trump's presumptive Democratic opponent, is virtually certain to stop it and stay in the WHO if he wins the November election.

A spokesman for Guterres and the global health body itself confirmed that the United States, a key founding WHO member, gave its notice. In a speech earlier in the day, WHO chief Tedros Adhanom Ghebreyesus said of COVID-19, "National unity and global solidarity are more important than ever to defeat a common enemy." In line with conditions set when the WHO was setup in 1948, the United States can leave within one year but must meet its remaining assessed financial obligations, the UN spokesman said, AFP reported.

In late May, Trump said that China exerted "total control" over the WHO and accused the UN body led by Tedros, an Ethiopian doctor and diplomat, of failing to implement reforms.

Blaming China for the coronavirus, Trump, a frequent critic of the UN, said the United States would redirect funding "to other worldwide and deserving, urgent, global public health needs." Democratic lawmakers have accused Trump

of seeking to deflect criticism from his handling of the pandemic in the United States, which has suffered by far the highest death toll of any nation despite the president's stated hope that the virus will disappear.

"To call Trump's response to Covid chaotic and incoherent doesn't do it justice," said Senator Robert Menendez, the top Democrat on the Foreign Relations Committee.

"This won't protect American lives or interests - it leaves Americans sick and America alone," he wrote on Twitter.

Representative Ami Bera, himself a physician, said that the United States and World Health Organization had worked "hand in hand" to eradicate smallpox and nearly defeat polio.

"Our cases are increasing," Bera said of COVID-19. "If the WHO is to blame: why has the US been left behind while many countries from South Korea to New Zealand to Vietnam to Germany return to normal?"

Even some of Trump's Republican allies had voiced hope that he was exerting pressure rather than making a final decision to abandon the World Health Organization.

The investigative news outlet ProPublica reported last month that most of Trump's aides were blindsided by the WHO withdrawal announcement, which he made during an appearance about China.

The Trump administration has said that the WHO ignored early signs of human-to-human transmission in China, including warnings from Taiwan - which, due to Beijing's pressure, is not part of the UN body.

While many public health advocates share some criticism of the WHO, they question what other options the world body had other than to work with China, where COVID-19 was first detected late last year in the city of Wuhan.

The anti-poverty campaign ONE said the United States should work to reform, not abandon, the WHO.

"Withdrawing from the World Health Organization amidst an unprecedented global pandemic is an astounding action that puts the safety of all Americans and the world at risk," it said.

U.S. envoy plays down expectations for North Korea meet, but ready to talk

U.S. Deputy Secretary of State Stephen Biegun on Wednesday rejected reports that he was seeking to meet North Korean officials during a visit to South Korea this week but reiterated that Washington is open to resuming talks.

Biegun's visit had sparked speculation about a last-ditch effort to revive the North Korea talks ahead of the U.S. presidential election in November, but he played down expectations for new meetings.

The U.S. point man for North Korea, Biegun was in Seoul for meetings with South Korean officials, overshadowed by North Korea's insistence that it has no intention of returning to denuclearisation negotiations as long as the United States clings to "hostile policies".

Biegun met South Korean Foreign Minister Kang Kyung-wha briefly before holding longer meetings with Vice Foreign Minister Cho Sei-young and chief nuclear negotiator Lee Do-hoon.

Talks covered a range of issues, including responses to the novel coronavirus and negotiations over the sharing of the costs of the U.S. military deployment in South Korea, but North Korea dominated the agenda, South Korean officials said.

Biegun's visit had sparked speculation about a last-ditch effort to revive the North Korea talks ahead of the U.S. presidential election in November, but he played down expectations for new meetings.

"Let me absolutely be clear, we did not request a visit," Biegun said after meeting Lee. "This visit this week is to meet with our close friends and allies, the South Koreans."

But Biegun said he was ready to resume talks at any time the North Koreans designate.

"We look forward to continuing our work for a peaceful outcome of the Korean peninsula, I believe this is very much possible," he said, noting that U.S. President Donald Trump had given his full support.

Biegun reiterated that the United States was willing to be flexible and reach a "balanced agreement" with North Korea, should it decide to return to talks, Lee said.

Biegun is also likely to meet Suh Hoon, Moon's new national security adviser who, as spy chief, was instrumental in facilitating summits between Trump and North Korean leader Kim Jong Un, a South Korean official said.

Talks with North Korea have since stalled, and its officials say they have no intention of sitting down with the United States.

Biegun said he does not focus on such statements, but instead was guided by the "vision" outlined by Trump and Kim at their meetings.

The two met for the first time in 2018 in Singapore, raising hopes for a negotiated end to North Korea's nuclear programme. But their second summit, in 2019 in Vietnam, and subsequent working-level negotiations fell apart.

NORTH KOREA NOT ENGAGING

Trump said on Tuesday he was open to another meeting with Kim and thought it might be helpful, Voice of America reported, citing a transcript of an interview Trump gave to Gray Television, due to be aired on Sunday.

Kim has been maintaining a low profile in recent months, making far fewer public appearances than usual, according to analysts who monitor his movements.

On Wednesday, North Korean state media reported Kim had marked the anniversary of the death of his grandfather, North Korea's founding leader Kim Il Sung, by visiting his mausoleum at Pyongyang's Kumsusan Palace of the Sun.

Biegun has previously played down the likelihood of another summit between Trump and Kim, saying the coronavirus made that unlikely before the election.

North Korea's strident rejection of new talks means Biegun's visit is more likely to focus on coordination between the two allies, rather than seizing some opening for diplomacy, said John Delury, a North Korea expert at Yonsei University in Seoul.

"I don't see signals from North Korea that they are looking for engagement," he said. U.S.-South Korean coordination was critical now, said Duyeon Kim, a senior adviser at the International Crisis Group think-tank.

"The allies should get on the same page about upcoming defence drills, how their working group can support inter-Korean projects while enforcing existing sanctions, and how to jointly respond if Pyongyang escalates or tests more weapons," she said.

The Trump administration has said that the WHO ignored early signs of human-to-human transmission in China, including warnings from Taiwan - which, due to Beijing's pressure, is not part of the UN body.

