



Tehran Threatens Counter Sanctions in Wrestle with Washington

TEHRAN - Iran will counter the fresh sanctions the United States has imposed against entities and individuals involved in its ballistic missile program, Iranian Foreign Ministry said in a statement on Friday. The U.S. sanctions, which came days after Iran conducted a ballistic missile test, are "inconsistent with the U.S. commitments and in contradiction with the spirit of the UN Resolution 2231," it said. Iran "will counteract any measure which targets the national interests of the Iranians." "Iran will also exercise legal restrictions on some U.S. individuals and companies who have the role in formation of and assistance to the extremist and terrorist groups in the region," it said, adding that related names will be announced shortly.



Meanwhile, Iran again defended its missile launch as being part of its deterrent policy. "Developing missile capabilities of the country, which is

solely designed for defensive purposes and carrying the conventional weapons, is the international right of the Iranians based on the UN charter," it said, reiterating that

Iran's security is non-negotiable. UN Security Council Resolution 2231, adopted in July 2015 to endorse a nuclear deal between Iran and six world powers, opposes

Iranian activities related to ballistic missiles capable of delivering nuclear weapons, including launches using such ballistic missile technology. (Xinhua)

Fuel, Sugar Prices Down in Kabul



KABUL - The prices of fuel and sugar have edged down while other items' rates remain steady during the ongoing week in the capital Kabul, market source said Saturday. Abdul Hadi, a worker at Wazir Abad Fuel Station, told Pajhwok Afghan News that price of a litre of petrol dropped from 46 Afghanis to 45 Afghanis and the same quantity of diesel from 42afis to 41afis this week. Sayed Islam, a firewood seller

in Charahi-i-Shahid area, said 560 kilograms of peeled oak was counted for 6,800afis and the same quantity of cedar for 6,600afis, the same prices of last week's. Meanwhile, Ahmad Siyar, a gas seller in Kolala Poshta, also said the rate of gas remained steady at 50afis per kilogram. In food items, the price of only sugar has dipped. Food Traders Union head Sayed Islam, a firewood seller

Jalalabad Mayor Details Last Year's Achievements



JALALABAD - At a well-attended gathering, Jalalabad Mayor Hamidullah Afghan briefed residents of the eastern city on last year's achievements and plans for 2017. Municipal district chiefs, influential figures, civil society representatives, poets, youth and municipality officials attended Thursday's meeting in the provincial capital. The mayor said hundreds of culverts, 50 concrete and 200 steel garbage cans, were constructed, more than 5km of roads graveled and some streets brick-lined last year.

Also, water streams were constructed in various municipal districts and a building for the 2nd municipal district constructed in the outgoing year. He said 90 percent of asphalt work on eight kilometers of roads around the Shaheed Musa Shafiq and Baboryano parks and customers' service centre had been completed. Other uplift works were also carried out by the municipality. "To make the city green, we have sown nearly 15,000 plants. We have also constructed ... (More on P4)...(9)

16 Taliban Return to Insurgency in Sar-i-Pul

SAR-I-PUL - A 16-member Taliban group has returned to the insurgency after joining the peace process in northern Sar-i-Pul province, a public representative claimed Saturday. Mohammad Noor Rahmani, the provincial council head, told Pajhwok Afghan News the 16-member group, headed by Noor Mohammad, had been part of an uprising group after reconciliation before rejoining the insurgency. He said the group switched sides due to government's negligence in Sayad locality of the province. He said families of the mentioned insurgents lived in areas under Taliban control and that was why they rejoined the Taliban. A security official, who declined to be identified, confirmed the incident and said Noor Mohammad surrendered to the Taliban with 12 Kalashnikovs, two pistols, nine motorcycles and one rocket launcher. (Pajhwok)

Pakistan Pushes for Improved Afghan Border Management

ISLAMABAD - Pakistan is seeking cooperation from Afghanistan to secure their nearly 2,600 kilometer-long common border to consolidate achievements made in major military operations in tribal regions. Pakistan had long been insisting that loose border control benefits militants by allowing them to move freely across the border and carry out terrorist activities in both countries, which is a source of tension



and mistrust between the two neighboring countries. The military and other forces, after conducting major operations against the Pakistani and foreign militants in tribal regions bordering Afghanistan in ... (More on P4)...(10)

Nearly A Dozen Soldiers Among 65 Killed in Helmand

LASHKARGAH - At least 54 Taliban fighters and 11 soldiers have been killed during a clash in the Garmser district of southern Helmand province, officials said on Saturday. A well-placed government official based in Helmand told Pajhwok Afghan News the Taliban conducted a coordinated attack on the district centre and police headquarters on Friday night. In retaliatory gunfire, 54

insurgents were killed and many others wounded, the source said, confirming the killing of 11 Afghan National Army (ANA) soldiers and wounding of seven others. The governor's spokesman, Omar Zwak, also verified the attack. But he put the toll Taliban at 15 dead and nine others wounded. He said five ANA soldiers also suffered injuries in the assault. Garmser district chief

Ayub Umar, also confirmed the clash. But he did not have any information about casualties. "The clash has ended now and the insurgents pushed back." Meanwhile, the Taliban's spokesman Qari Mohammad Yusuf Ahmadi claimed the attackers had seized two checkpoints, inflicting casualties on 20 security personnel. But he did not say anything about fighters' casualties. (Pajhwok)

Gym for Women in Kabul Looks to Expand

KABUL - Gyms have grown popular in Afghanistan's capital in recent years, but the country's conservative culture meant that women could not use them with men. One female entrepreneur saw that as an opportunity, and five years ago opened Ladies World, a women-only exercise facility with modern equipment, a sauna, swimming pool, beauty salon and area for physiotherapy. Five years later, Shabnam Nazari says her business is thriving and she is looking into opening several branches in other parts of the capital. "Our initiative may come across as something unusual to some people in Afghanistan, but those who understand where I am coming from appreciate our efforts," Nazari told VOA. "They encourage us to expand our business in other areas of Kabul ... (More on P4)...(11)

Afghanistan-A Cruise to 4-0 Series Lead over Zimbabwe with 4th Win

KABUL - The Afghanistan A cricket team, development team, cruised to a 4-0 series lead over Zimbabwe-A with the 4th consecutive win an unofficial One Day International (ODI) series. Played at Harare, the Afghan team elected to field first in the fourth match, with the Zimbabwe team setting a target of 213 runs for Afghanistan. Tinotenda Mutombodzi in the middle order scored the highest runs for Zimbabwe with 62 from 84 balls, despite they lost early wickets in the top order. Innocent Kaia scored 33 runs, Ryan Burl 24 runs, Malcolm Waller 25 runs, Nathan Waller 22 runs, Wellington Masakazada 7 runs, Peter Moor 5 runs, Tarisai Musakanda 9 runs, Richard Ngara ... (More on P4)...(13)

Owners of Daesh-Torched Homes in Kot Awaiting Aid



JALALABAD - Residents of the Kot district in eastern Nangarhar province, whose houses were torched by Daesh rebels, complain the government has provided them no assistance far. They visited provincial council members and other government officials, who gave the assurances of support on different occasions. But the authorities failed to keep their promises of supporting the victims. Twenty days ago, Daesh

fighters burnt around 80 homes in Sei Pai locality, government officials say but residents put the number of the homes torched at 1,000. Malik Ahmadzai, a tribal elder, said they had frequently met Governor Gulab Mangal, provincial council members and refugee department officials but they were yet to receive any assistance. "The district chief claimed sharing the issue with the governor. The governor said assistance ... (More on P4)...(12)

Child Suicide Bomber Surrenders

LASHKARGAH - A child suicide bomber who was forced to carry out suicide attack by the Taliban militants surrendered him to the police forces in southern Helmand province of Afghanistan. The Ministry of Interior (MoI) said the 12-year-old child, Abdullah, was originally hailing from southern Zabul province. A statement said the child was appointed for a suicide attack by the Taliban insurgents but he managed to es-

cape on Friday and handed over himself to the Afghan Local Police forces in Helmand. The anti-government armed militant groups including the Taliban insurgents have not commented regarding the report so far. This comes as the parties involved in the conflict have long been criticized for recruiting children in wars. The United Nations in a report earlier last year said they have ... (More on P4)...(14)

PE Tarpaulin

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