



Iranian Foreign Minister Mohammad Javad Zarif

## Iran seeking peace, stability in region: Zarif

Iranian Foreign Minister Mohammad Javad Zarif highlighted Tehran's support for regional peace and stability.

In a post on Twitter on Tuesday, Foreign Minister Zarif hailed the "fruitful talks" he held earlier in the day with the UN Secretary-General's special representatives for Afghanistan and Yemen, Jean Arnault and Martin Griffiths, respectively, according to Tasnim News Agency.

The top Iranian diplomat said the key theme in the talks with UN officials was the fact that the "peace processes must be owned by all Afghans and Yemenis—without external imposition".

"Important common denominator: Iran seeks regional peace

and stability. Ready to facilitate," Zarif underscored.

In the meeting with Griffiths, Zarif underlined the need for lifting the years-long blockade imposed by the Saudi-led coalition on the Yemeni people and facilitating the shipment of humanitarian aid to the war-torn country, according to IRNA.

He said Iran believes that the war is not a solution for Yemen's crisis which will be over only through holding peaceful and political negotiations.

During the Tuesday meeting, both sides discussed different dimensions of the Yemen's crisis and ways to achieve peace and stability in the Arab country.

Saudi Arabia and a number

of its regional allies launched a brutal war against Yemen in March 2015. The ongoing war was launched to eliminate Yemen's Ansarullah movement and restore the Saudi-backed former regime of Abd Rabbuh Mansour Hadi to power in Yemen.

In talks with Arnault on Tuesday, the Iranian foreign minister elaborated on Tehran's views about peace and security in Afghanistan and the process of peace under the control of Afghan people and reaffirmed Iran's support for the intra-Afghan negotiations and for the protection of what the Afghan nation has achieved in recent years, particularly the basic rights of people.

## Iran launches second phase in clinical trial of Fakhra vaccine

Iran 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 Fakhrizadeh, who was assassinated last year.

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

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."

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.

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

### Import of Russian vaccine

The ninth batch of the Russian vaccine, Sputnik V, including 100,000 doses, was delivered to the Iranian Embassy in Moscow on Wednesday to be transferred to Iran, according to IRNA.

So far, 900,000 doses of Sputnik V vaccine have been delivered to Iran by Russia.

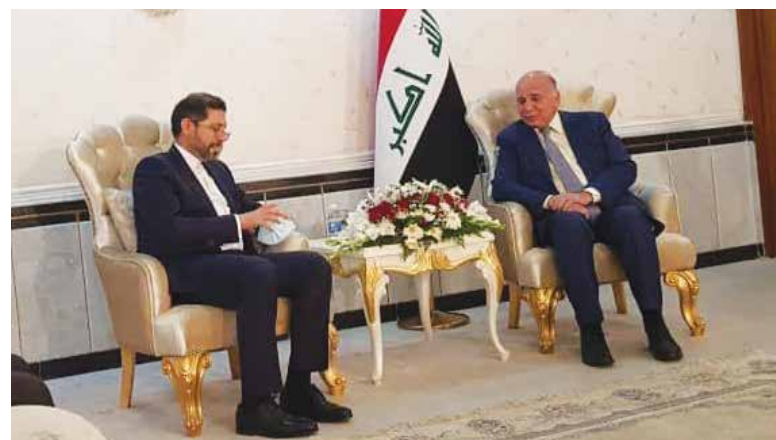
Iran and Russia signed a contract in February 2020 for the purchase of two million doses of Sputnik V vaccine and another contract for buying 60 million doses was signed late last month, which is scheduled to be sent to Iran from June to December.

Russia's Sputnik V vaccine has been approved by the health ministries of 60 countries. More than 30 countries have already begun vaccinating their nations with this vaccine.

Iran on Wednesday reported 157 fatalities from COVID-19 in 24 hours, bringing the total death toll to 81,519.

The Health Ministry's spokeswoman Sima Sadat Lari said that 10,598 people tested positive for the coronavirus, from Tuesday to Wednesday, putting the total number of new cases at 2,990,714.

## Iran reaffirms support for independent Iraq



Iranian Foreign Ministry spokesman Saeed Khatibzadeh (L) holds talks Iraq's Foreign Minister Fuad Hussein in a meeting in Baghdad, Iraq, on June 9, 2021.

The Iranian Foreign Ministry spokesman reiterated Iran's support for a strong, free, developed, united and independent Iraq during a visit to the neighboring country.

Saeed Khatibzadeh, who is in Iraq on an official visit, discussed ways to expand all-out relations between Tehran and Baghdad in meetings with Iraq's Foreign Minister Fuad Hussein, Iraqi National Security Council Advisor Qasim al-Araji, former Prime Minister Nouri al-Maliki, and Sheikh Humam Hamoudi, leader of the Islamic Supreme Council of Iraq (ISCI) on Wednesday, according to Press TV.

During his meeting with Iraq's foreign minister, both officials discussed a range of issues including mutual interest, regional developments and bilateral relations, repayment of Iraqi debts and Shalamchah-Basra railway, according to the Foreign Ministry's official website.

He also sat down with a number of Sunni clerics, visited al-Tamayoz Strategic Institute and al-Nahrain Research Institute, and spoke with Iraqi scholars and thinkers about the latest regional developments and Iran-Iraq relations, and answered questions from the audience.

Iran's full support for the Iraqi government and the will of the Iraq people as well as backing parliamentary elections in Iraq were among issues discussed in Khatibzadeh's meetings on his first day of visit to Baghdad.

Iranian Foreign Minister Mohammad Javad Zarif visited Iraq last April, where he held "excellent" talks with top Iraqi officials and senior Shia and Sunni leaders.

## Araqchi: Key issues unresolved in Vienna talks

From Page 1

"If the nuclear deal is not restored, all of this will continue and get worse. However, the IAEA has managed to ensure a proper level of transparency on Iran's nuclear program so far .... For all we know, despite certain routine issues, Tehran is ready for cooperation and creates no obstacles for the work of inspectors," Ulyanov said.

EU says committed to JCPOA

In the meantime, the European Union affirmed what it called "its resolute commitment" to the JCPOA.

"The EU is determined to continue working with the international community to preserve this agreement of strategic importance and a key element of the global nuclear non-proliferation architecture," it said in a statement on Tuesday.

The 27-nation bloc also called on all countries to support the JCPOA implementation in line with UN Security Council Resolution 2231 that endorsed the deal.

It voiced support for the diplomatic process aimed at reviving the JCPOA, saying, "We welcome the discussions held in Vienna at various levels in view of a possible return of the US to the JCPOA, and the perspective of Iran's return to full JCPOA

implementation."

The EU, however, expressed concerns about Iran's decision in February to stop the voluntary implementation of the Additional Protocol to the Non-Proliferation Treaty (NPT) Safeguards Treaty, which stipulates enhanced international access to nuclear sites and snap inspections by the IAEA.

The halt came under the Strategic Action Plan to Counter Sanctions, a law passed in December 2020 by the Iranian Parliament, and adds to Iran's previous steps away from the JCPOA in response to the US unilateral withdrawal and the other parties' failure to fulfill their commitments.

At the time, the IAEA and the Atomic Energy Organization of Iran (AEOI) reached a temporary bilateral technical understanding, under which the latter would continue to use cameras to record information at its nuclear sites for three months, but it would retain the information exclusively. If the US sanctions are lifted completely within that period, Tehran will provide the footage information to the UN nuclear watchdog, otherwise it will be deleted forever.

The understanding expired last month, but it was extended for a further month until June 24 allowing the agency to continue necessary verification and monitoring work in the country.

## CANDIDATES & CAMPAIGNS



### National Desk

On May 26, Iran's Interior Ministry announced the names of the seven candidates approved by the country's top vetting body, the Constitutional Council, to run for president in the June 18 election.

What follows is a brief account of the candidates' latest remarks:

### Jalili: Every village can be a source for progress

Presidential candidate Saeed Jalili said in a broad view, considering rural development, every village can be a source for progress in the different areas of the country. Jalili said that progress must occur in all villages and cities, noting that he would discuss the rural development's plan in the third televised debate, Iran Press reported.

Explaining his program for the health system in the country, Jalili highlighted that he had a comprehensive plan to promote the health of the members of society, which is defined in his health system program.

### Raeisi: My administration would plan for lifting 'cruel' US sanctions

Presidential candidate Ebrahim Raeisi said his administration has plans for lifting "cruel" US sanctions imposed on Iran after Washington's withdrawal from the 2015 nuclear agreement in 2018.

During an interview with the Islamic Republic of Iran Broadcasting (IRIB) Radio on Wednesday, Raeisi underlined that his administration would strongly confront those who want to violate the rights of the Iranian people.

He also said that the economy and livelihoods of the people should not be affected by sanctions and pandemics and events such as floods. Raeisi noted that people's economy should be predictable and stable.

### Zakani: 'Action and Reform' gov't will give priority to ties with neighbors

Alireza Zakani, a principlist candidate, elaborated on his administration's foreign policy, saying that the "Action and Reform" administration will give priority to relations with the country's neighbors, according to IRNA.

Zakani also said he would seek to reduce tensions and increase cooperation and economic interactions in the region.

Regarding relations with other parts of the world, he said that in relation with the West and the East, his administration would adopt an approach that considers the emerging powers of the East and long-term treaties with China and Russia as a basic principle.

He also pointed to his administration's seriousness in expansion of relations with South American, African and South Asian countries.

### Hemmati: Sports should be administered by sports professionals

Abdolnaser Hemmati, a reformist candidate for the 13th presidential election in a message posted on his Twitter account said that in his government, sports should be administered by sports professionals and the country should be run by economists, according to IRNA.

In another Twitter post, Hemmati described education as a major asset of the country, adding that the government's investment in increasing the quality of public education is the most effective way to expand justice and reduce inequality.

During Tuesday's debate, Hemmati repeated an assertion that he was the voice of a purportedly underrepresented majority of the Iranian people, whom he said had decided not to vote, Press TV wrote.

### Rezaei: 'Action and Change' administration will respect rights of all ethnic groups

Mohsen Rezaei, a principlist candidate, said the "Action and Change" administration will respect the rights of all ethnic groups.

Addressing a gathering of Iranian tribes on Wednesday, Rezaei said in the year 1400, "We will begin a new era for the prosperity of the Iranian nation in the field of economy, industry, agriculture, culture, brotherhood and friendship".

This is the beginning of unity among all Iranian ethnic groups, he noted.

"I will form my government with the help of all Iranian ethnic groups. No ethnic group or province in my government will be without a representative. We will have a minister and a deputy minister from the Sunni brothers, the Arabs, the Turks, the Baluchis, the Kurds and all the provinces," he underlined.

### Qazizadeh Hashemi calls decentralization most important program of his government

Seyyed Amir Hossein Qazizadeh Hashemi, another principlist candidate of the 13th presidential election, in a televised interview said that decentralization and increase in the authorities of cities would be the most important program of his government.

In line with the decentralization plan, his government would transfer all the authorities of the cabinet to the cities' governors.

### Mehralizadeh: Country's current problems are economic

The Reformist candidate Mohsen Mehralizadeh said the current problems of the country are economic, noting that the future president should be aware of these issues.

In a televised interview on Wednesday, Mehralizadeh said the country is in a dangerous historical situation and people will elect a president to find a way out of the country's numerous and complex problems.



Mohammad Ali Rajabi