



Raesi urges continuation of vaccinating foreign nationals against COVID-19



US renews sanctions waiver for Iraq to import Iranian energy



Civilian killed, more injured in US drone strike in Syria's Idlib



Iran's Rostami wins world para powerlifting silver



Iran, China review cinematic cooperation

Baqeri Kani: Iran's proposals for JCPOA 'cannot be rejected'



AFP

China's Wang: Progress should not be underestimated

Blinken: Withdrawal isolated US, not Iran

Saudi strikes on Yemen kill 16 civilians, including children

At least 16 civilians, including children, were killed in Saudi-led strikes in Yemen's southwestern province of Ta'izz, local media reported, as Saudi Arabia kept bombing its southern impoverished neighbor in defiance of international calls to end the bloody war.

The deadly attacks occurred on Friday evening, when Saudi-led warplanes targeted a gathering of civilians in Muqabana district of the province, Yemen's Arabic-language Almasirah television network reported on Saturday.



REUTERS

It added that continued presence of the enemy warplanes in the skies of Muqabana and the possibility of other strikes prevented the paramedics to reach the crime scene to exhume the bodies of the victims and attending the wounded.

The airstrikes came as the Saudi-led forces and its mercenaries escalated their aggression in the western coastal region of Yemen, Press TV wrote.

Saudi Arabia, backed by the US and other key Western powers, launched the war on Yemen in March 2015, with the goal of bringing the former Riyadh-backed regime back to power and crushing the popular Ansarullah resistance movement which has been running state affairs in the absence of an effective government in Yemen.

The war has stopped well shy of all of its goals, despite killing hundreds of thousands of Yemenis and displacing millions more. The war has also taken a heavy toll on the country's infrastructure, destroying hospitals, schools, and factories.

An all-out blockade was also imposed on Yemen since the onset of the bloody war, pushing Yemen into the world's worst humanitarian crisis, including by hampering access to aid.

Despite heavily-armed Saudi Arabia's continuous bombardment of the impoverished country, Yemeni armed forces and the Popular Committees have grown steadily in strength against the Saudi invaders and left Riyadh and its allies bogged down in the country.

International Desk

Iran's chief negotiator Ali Baqeri Kani said the draft proposals he submitted during talks with world powers aimed at reviving a 2015 nuclear deal "cannot be rejected".

In an exclusive interview with Al Jazeera in the Austrian capital Vienna, Baqeri Kani said on Friday Iran would deliver a third proposal once the first two it handed over the previous day were accepted.

"Iran's proposals to the world powers cannot be rejected. They are based on the provisions of the 2015 agreement," he said, adding that all nuclear-related US sanctions must be removed immediately.

On Thursday, the lead negotiator said the two proposals were related to "the removal of sanctions" and "Iran's nuclear steps", both main issues facing the JCPOA.

"Now the other side must examine these documents and prepare itself to hold negotiations with Iran based on these documents," he said.

Representatives of Iran and China, France, Russia, Britain plus Germany, the P4+1 group, convened Monday in Vienna for the seventh round of talks to restore the landmark accord, formally known as the Joint Comprehensive Plan of Action (JCPOA).

Biden says crafting plan for Russia-Ukraine crisis

U.S. President Joe Biden said on Friday he is developing comprehensive initiatives to prevent any Russian invasion of Ukraine as US intelligence officials reportedly claimed that Moscow is planning to do so early next year.

"What I am doing is putting together what I believe to be the most comprehensive and meaningful set of initiatives to make it very, very difficult for Mr. Putin to go ahead and do what people are worried he's going to do," Biden said on Friday night ahead of a video call with his Russian counterpart Vladimir Putin that is expected to take place within days.

The United States, which unilaterally withdrew from the pact in 2018 and reimposed tough sanctions against Iran, is only participating indirectly as Iran refuses to hold direct negotiations with it.

After the meeting of the JCPOA Joint Commission on Friday, Baqeri Kani demanded a "logical response" from the P4+1 to the draft proposals.

The third proposal will be mainly on the verification process and the guarantees Iran is requesting from the world powers in order to revive the nuclear deal.

If successful, the talks will remove US sanctions while scaling back Iran's nuclear activities to the terms of the JCPOA.

Diplomats are expected return to Vienna to resume talks next week.

Progress helpful

China's envoy Wang Qun said progress made during the negotiations this week should not be underestimated although "a breakthrough is far from being achieved".

China hopes that each party's consultation with their own governments during the adjournment of the talks will inject new political impetus into the negotiations, Wang said on Friday, according to Xinhua.

The talks helped other parties increase their understanding of the position of the

new Iranian negotiating team, he explained.

China hopes all concerned parties will continue to work toward creating a good atmosphere for negotiations, Wang added.

China will continue to play a unique and constructive role, working with all parties for achieving results at an early date, he stressed.

US pullout consequences

US Secretary of State Antony Blinken on Friday accused Iran of not being serious about reviving the tattered deal.

Blinken threatened that the US would pursue "other options" if diplomacy failed.

He also blamed former US president Donald Trump, for unilaterally pulling the United States out of the JCPOA, isolating Washington.

"Ironically, the United States was isolated as a result of pulling out of the agreement, not Iran," Blinken said.

Senior diplomats from the E3 group of Britain, France and Germany also expressed "disappointment" after analyzing Iran's proposed changes to the draft text produced during the previous six rounds, which took place earlier this year, AFP reported.

"Our governments remain fully committed to a diplomatic way forward. But time is running out," they said.

Albania arrests MKO terror group members for drug smuggling, human trafficking: Report

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Asian Youth Para Games: Iranians bag 29 medals on Day 3



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Sports Desk

The third day of the 2021 Asian Youth Para Games in Bahrain saw Iranians collect 29 medals, including 10 golds.

Iran dominated the first day of the athletics contests on Friday, grabbing 23 medals, while the country's swimmers added six more to Iran's tally.

Atena Mohammadi (F33), Abolfazl Kouhpeyma (F57), Mohammad-Ebrahim Pourtalaei (F34), and Ali-Asghar Abareqi (F56) walked away with four javelin throw golds, coupled with two shot put golds for Amir-Mohammad Mansourinejad (F37), and Mohammad Shah-Moradian (F46).

Meanwhile, Sakineh Zakeri, Ardan Hosseinzadeh, Fatemeh Tarabian, Amir-Mehdi Abolhassani, Mohammad-Mehdi Rahmatian, and Mostafa Marian settled for six silvers across javelin throw and shot put events, with Taha Moshtaq, Mehdi Qorbani, and Negar Qorbani taking three bronzes.

Iranians also snatched three golds, four silvers, and a single bronze in the blinds and partially blinds competitions.

In swimming, Ali Hassanzadeh won the backstroke 100m gold in the S11 class with the best time of 1:35.37, with Amir-Mohammad Farkhondeh-zad (S13) and Mohammadreza Reihani (S12) also taking backstroke silver and bronze medals respectively. Abolfazl Zarif, meanwhile, won a 200m medley silver.

In the morning session, Ali Motallebi and Danial Mohsenian had opened the account for the country with two freestyle 400m silvers.

Some 700 athletes from 30 countries will be participating across nine events – athletics, taekwondo, swimming, badminton, boccia, goalball, powerlifting, table tennis, and wheelchair basketball – at the fourth edition of the Games, held under the motto: "Together. Rising. Stronger.", in Manama until Monday.

The Iranian squad has been represented by 111 athletes at the Games.