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# IRAN DAILY

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## Mehmanparast: Meddling in Syrian Affairs Unacceptable

### Support for Nuclear Talks On Common Grounds

By Farzaneh Shokri

Foreign Ministry spokesman Ramin Mehmanparast dismissed assertions by Syria's Muslim Brotherhood accusing Iran of complicity in the killing of Syrian people.

Speaking in a weekly press conference on Tuesday, Mehmanparast said Iran has not interfered in Syria's internal affairs and considers meddling by other countries as unacceptable. He said in Syria there may be some groups who have demands and it could be good for the government to make reforms.

"But some countries and currents do not want Syria's internal issues to be resolved. Whenever there is talk of reforms, they seek to disturb the atmosphere and allegations against Iran are also in line with this policy."

He underlined that Iran wishes the best for Syria and believes that Syria's backing for the resistance movement has enraged the US, Zionist regime and their supporters and that they are taking revenge on Syria for that.

He regarded Russian and Chinese veto of an anti-Syria resolution in the UN Security Council as a proper move to prevent interference in Syria's affairs and said countries like Russia and China made a responsible move against the one-sided and politically-motivated stance of western countries.

"As we have said before, the best thing to do in Syria is for the government to introduce reforms and an appropriate atmosphere for dialogue," Mehmanparast said.

Syria has been experiencing unrest since mid-March 2011. Damascus says "outlaws, saboteurs and armed terrorist groups" are responsible for the unrest, which it says is being orchestrated from abroad.

On Friday, Moscow and Beijing voted against a US-led draft resolution that urged Syrian President Bashar Al-Assad to cede power. The veto sparked anger among the supporters of the resolution especially the US.

On Sunday, US Secretary of State Hilary Clinton accused the two of backing the Syrian government and criticized them for killing the resolution. 02



### Greeks Protest Austerity Measures

Demonstrators took to the streets of Athens on Tuesday to protest against tough austerity measures imposed by the European Union and the IMF as conditions for the 130-billion-euro (\$170-billion) international bailout.

According to Reuters, thousands of protesters holding banners and undeterred by heavy rain rallied in central Athens whilst tourists were locked out of the Acropolis and public transport was disrupted during the morning rush hour.

Rallies were organized by the General Confederation of Labor (GSEE) the country's main private sector union, the Confederation of Civil Servants (ADEDY) the main civil servants union, and PAME, a communist labor group of the Communist Party who said the government policies have only driven the economy into a downward spiral.

Doctors, teachers, judges, railway workers, bank employees and many more Greek workers from the private and public sector stayed away, closing banks, schools, ports, public services and causing some hospitals to work on skeleton staff.

"Employees at Greece's most famous monument joined in a general strike, turning away tourists wanting to enter the site."

"Despite disruptions, tourists said they supported the workers' strike."

"I think it's fair. I think they are entitled to strike if they want to. Obviously there is quite a lot of unrest going on at the moment. But it's up to them they are entitled to do it. They are allowed to show how they feel about it. So I think that's fine," said one British tourist Bailey Scott when she arrived at the closed site. 10

## Russia: Assad 'Committed' to Ending Unrest

Russia's foreign minister said after Damascus talks on Tuesday that President Bashar Al-Assad was "fully committed" to ending the unrest in Syria.

Sergei Lavrov said he had had a "very useful" meeting with Assad and that Moscow was eager to work towards a solution based on an Arab League plan that it had previously criticized, AFP reported.

"We (Russia) confirmed our readiness to act for a rapid solution to the crisis based on the plan put forward by the Arab League," said Lavrov, adding that Syria was also ready to see an enlarged Arab League mission in the country, Russian news agencies said. The pan-Arab bloc deployed an observer mission to Syria in December to oversee a plan to end unrest that has now lasted almost 11 months but suspended it late January after the mission's chief said that the violence had reached a new pitch of intensity.

The 22-nation League has since put forward a plan for Assad to hand his powers to Vice President Faruq Al-Shara and a national unity government to oversee the preparation of democratic elections.

Lavrov said Syria was also pressing ahead with the reform program promised by Assad in a series of speeches last year and would soon announce the timetable for a referendum on a new constitution to replace the current one which enshrines the leading role of his Baath party. At the opening of the talks, Lavrov said he was confident that the Syrian leader knew what he had to do. 09

## Editorial

### Can History Be Omitted?

By Enad Abshenas

Chief Editor

A new high school history book for Afghan students is published, funded and sponsored by "The US military's foreign aid arm, the Commander's Emergency Response Program" and is supposed to be taught in Afghan schools.

However, the period pertaining to the era following the overthrow of King Mohammad Zahir Shah in 1973 and the establishment of the new Islamic Republic has been omitted.

That means there is no mention of the Soviet invasion, the communist rule, the Mujahidin era, the Taliban militia rule and the U.S. military occupation.

In efforts to promote a single national identity, Afghan leaders deem their own history too controversial. Foreign donors reviewed the books to ensure there was no religious content and that materials were well designed, but they made no suggestions about the omission of recent history. 02

## Drone Equipped With Co-Pilot, GPS Tracking

Iranian researchers managed to design and build a drone equipped with co-pilot and Global Positioning System (GPS) tracking. 08

## Regional Cooperation Urged in Persian Gulf

Political Desk

Commander of the Islamic Revolution Guards Corps Navy Rear Admiral Ali Fadavi said countries of the region should cooperate based on common interests to prevent domineering policies of ultra-regional states.

He made the remark on Tuesday in a meeting with visiting Omani Navy Commander Rear Admiral Abdullah bin Khamis bin Abdullah Al-Raisi, adding that Iran's policy is to cooperate with the Persian Gulf countries.

Admiral Fadavi pointed to the sensitive political and security situation in Middle East and the Persian Gulf region and reiterated the need for coordination among regional states as their interests are intertwined.

He also said Americans seek to involve some Arab countries in their perilous game and push ahead their evil policies using the rulers of these countries.

The Omani commander, for his part, highlighted good and brotherly relations between Tehran and Muscat and called for expansion of bilateral cooperation. He also said regional countries can move toward securing their common interests through cooperation.

Admiral Al-Raisi, who is heading a military delegation in his visit to Iran, on Monday also visited Iran's Jamaran destroyer in the Army's First Navy Base in Bandar Abbas. 02

**Second Announcement**

National Iranian Oil Company National Iranian Drilling Company

**Public Call for Quality Evaluation of Tenders**  
**Indent No.: 8804748057 Tender No.: SD/90/22**

**Subject:**  
 9 5/8", 7" Hydraulic Whipstock for Window Opening Retrievable One Trip Type, Complete With Running Tools

NIDC hereby intends to purchase its requirements from qualified and interested tenderers through public tender upon following terms and conditions.

A) Brief description of the materials.  
 B) Estimated value of request: 9,800,000,000 rials  
 C) Quality evaluation criteria of tenderers:

- 1) Natural/legal entities
- 2) Financial soundness to supply materials in question, offer Bank Guarantee, Coded Check or deposit the equal amount (34,258 euro) in favor of NIDC.
- 3) Goodwill
- 4) Standardized products
- 5) Adequate knowledge and experience in the relevant field
- 6) Company's good reputation
- 7) Quality guarantee of products
- 8) Suitability of products volume

D) Minimum acceptable point of quality is 60.  
 E) The quality evaluation documents for bidders to be met are available at [SD.TENDER.G@NIDC.IR](mailto:SD.TENDER.G@NIDC.IR). Tenderers can also provide the above-mentioned documents in person at the following address:  
**P.O. Box 61635-901 Procurement & Material Affairs Dept., of Special Drilling Services Directorate, Management of Procurement & Material Affairs New Dept., Main Office, Pasdaran Blvd., Airport Square, Ahvaz, Iran. Tel: 0611-4145279**

F) Qualified tenderers shall submit the completed documents within 14 days of the publication of such a call (second announcement) to the following address:  
**#207, Tender Opening Committee Office, Second Floor, Workshop No. 1, NIDC Main Office, Ahvaz, Iran. Tel: 0611-4145162**

G) Qualified tenderers, whose documents have been accepted, will be considered for awarding tender documents thereafter.  
 H) The recording number in national database portal of IRAN tender's information: 1,241,792

**First Announcement**

**K.S.C.**

**Invitation to International Tender No: 283990**

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