

MP urges Foreign Ministry to play more active role in FATF case

An Iranian lawmaker urged the Foreign Ministry to play a more active role in the case of Iran's possible accession to the Financial Action Task Force (FATF).

Shahriar Heydari, a member of the Iranian Parliament's National Security and Foreign Policy Committee, said both accession and non-accession to the FATF will entail consequences, according to Iran Front Page.

"I believe that the Foreign Ministry should be more active in the FATF project and convince the Expediency Council, Parliament and public opinion" in that regard, the lawmaker said. As of June 2022, Iran, along with North Korea and Myanmar, was on the FATF's blacklist. The FATF also recently suspended Russia's membership.

Iran has endorsed all but two FATF conventions on the grounds that approving those protocols would endanger the country's efforts to circumvent illegal U.S. sanctions imposed on its economy.

The global money laundering and terrorism financing watchdog is based in France and is heavily influenced by the United States and its sanctions policies against other countries.

It has agreed to a demand by the U.S. to toughen rules and regulations vis-à-vis Iran because the country has been evading sanctions imposed by Washington.

Iran is under no sanctions by the UN since it signed a major agreement with world powers on its nuclear program in 2015.

Tehran came under U.S. secondary sanctions after Washington pulled out of the nuclear agreement in 2018.

Iran likely ...

The report added that only parts of a recent defense agreement with Syria were being publicized.

The agreement, aimed at maintaining regional peace and stability, was made during a recent visit to Iran by Syria's Air Force commander who met with Iran's Defense Minister Mohammad Reza Ashtiani in Tehran.

Israel has been carrying out airstrikes against military positions in Syria over the past decade, targeting Syrian troops as well as allied forces helping Damascus fighting terrorist and militant groups.

Israel has also in recent months intensified strikes on Syrian airports and airbases to disrupt the country's allies' increasing use of aerial supply lines to deliver arms to Syria and Lebanon.

Iran building 2,000MW nuclear power plant: Nuclear chief

Iran's nuclear chief said a nuclear power plant in the southwestern province of Khuzestan aims to generate 2,000 megawatts of electricity, defying decades of sanctions that have targeted the country's peaceful nuclear program.

Head of the Atomic Energy Organization of Iran (AEOI) Mohammad Eslami said on Friday that the Karun nuclear power plant in Darkhovin District in Shadegan County of the southwestern province of Khuzestan will produce 300 megawatts of electricity in the preliminary phase, Press TV reported.

He said the AEOI will simultaneously follow other phases with the purpose of making the utmost use of the capacity in Darkhovin District.

"Enemies tried to break our will through sanc-

tions and did not cooperate with us regarding the construction of nuclear power plant even after many years," the Iranian nuclear chief said. However, he said, the organization developed the project by relying on domestic capabilities.

In December, Eslami inaugurated the construction operation of Karun, saying the government is moving towards the production of low-cost energy and fuel, and the development of nuclear power plants is on the agenda of the AEOI. According to reports, the power plant is of a pressurized water reactor (PWR) type and, with a capacity of producing 300 megawatts of electricity, it is to be built on a land of approximately 50 hectares in the vicinity of the Karun River.

In recent years, Iranian scientists have made re-



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markable progress in the field of peaceful nuclear technology despite tough sanctions imposed by the West.

Elsewhere in his remarks, Eslami said global arrogance has imposed sanctions in the atomic

energy sector since the victory of the 1979 Islamic Revolution in Iran to hinder the country's nuclear technology progress. He said the AEOI has in recent years decided to pursue the construction of a 360-megawatt

power plant, which was registered by the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA). Foreign firms had plans to design and build it but it was not implemented due to sanctions against Iran, he said.

Officials need to pursue Iran's water right from Hirmand river: MP



IRAN DAILY

EXCLUSIVE

An Iranian lawmaker has urged the country's officials, especially those of the Foreign Ministry, to immediately find a solution for the water shortage in southeastern province of Sistan and Baluchestan and negotiate with new rulers of neighboring Afghanistan to pursue the issue of Iran's water rights from

the Hirmand river which is known as Helmand in Afghanistan.

In an interview with Iran Daily, Esmail Hosseinzehi said the Taliban group, which has been in power in Afghanistan since 2021, has not given Iran's water right from the river in the past years. The issue has caused a severe water crisis in Sistan and Baluchestan Province.

Under a 1973 treaty signed with Iran on water allocations from Hirmand, Afghanistan is obliged to give Iran's share of water from the river. However, it has not been respected by the Afghan officials in recent years.

Hosseinzehi also warned that Hamoun wetland in the province is also facing the danger of drought which would cause environmental problems not

only for Iran, but also for other regional countries. Hirmand river is the main source of water supply to the lake.

The Iranian lawmaker said that Hamoun wetland has been the main source of the drinking water for many cities in Sistan and Baluchestan Province in recent years. But, the new circumstances have created severe water crisis for the people across the province.

Referring to the agricultural and industrial capacities of Sistan and Baluchestan Province, Hosseinzehi said that the water shortage has become a problem for exploitation of these capacities in such a way that the province is not able to use them despite having abundant mineral reserves. The water shortage has also made many people leave

the province.

He also pointed to the government's efforts to transfer water from the Sea of Oman to the province to resolve its water shortage. But, the parliamentarian said the implementation of the project takes time and that the government should exercise other options, including the pursuing of Iran's water right from the Hirmand river.

Hosseinzehi also pointed to the construction of the Kamal Khan Dam on the Hirmand river in Afghanistan, which has restricted the flow of water into Iran. It has been about five years now that no water from Afghanistan and the Hirmand river has reached the lake. In the past, the river flowed in both Afghanistan and Iran, but after the separation of Herat Province from Iran in 1857 under

the Paris Treaty and the refusal of the Afghan rulers to give Iran's water right, the Hirmand river has been one of the most important political, social and environmental issues between the two neighboring countries.

The Iranian lawmaker warned if the government does not immediately act on the water shortage situation in the province, people will face many problems in the near future.

He asked the Foreign Ministry to use the capacity of the tribes in Sistan and Baluchestan Province to negotiate with the Taliban authorities.

Hosseinzehi advised the officials to trust the tribes and their connections with their counterparts in Afghanistan in a bid to gain the country's rights. It will surely yield good results.

White House: Russia may send fighter jets to Iran

The White House on Friday said it believed Moscow might provide Iran with fighter jets and other military equipment, White House national security spokesman John Kirby said.

Kirby told reporters the United States had information that Russia has offered "unprecedented defense cooperation" including on missiles, electronics and fighter jets, according to Reuters. He said Iran was also seeking to purchase attack helicopters, radars and combat trainer aircraft.

Media reports, citing military experts, said last December that Russia will soon provide a complete squadron of Sukhoi Su-35

fighter jets to Iran, Press TV reported.

The development will likely further rile up the West as Tehran and Moscow deepen their defense and economic cooperation in defiance of sweeping sanctions and coercive measures.

Media reports said 24 units of the twin-engine and super-maneuverable aircraft, a fourth-generation fighter jet designed primarily for air superiority roles, will be supplied to Iran.

It is believed that the Islamic Republic of Iran Air Force (IRIAF) Tactical Air Base (TAB) 8 in the central Iranian city of Isfahan

will accommodate some of the combat aircraft.

Iran hasn't acquired any new fighter aircraft in recent years, excluding a few Russian MiG-29 Fulcrum fighters it bought in the 1990s.

Besides the MiG-29, IRIAF mainly uses locally modified F-4 Phantom II, F-14 Tomcat, and F-5E/F Tiger II planes from the 1970s that the toppled US-backed Pahlavi regime received before the 1979 Islamic Revolution.

Iran and Russia have signed major deals in recent months to boost their economic, trade, energy and military cooperation.

