

April 2016

Politics:

The commander of Iran's Border Guard Brigadier General Qasem Rezaee [said](#) that Iran, Russia and Azerbaijan had discussed border security cooperation in a trilateral meeting in Baku on 15 March.

The Supreme Leader Ayatollah Seyyed Ali Khamenei [declared](#) that Iran must strengthen its defence capabilities as well as its political, economic and social capacities.

Ali Janati, Iran's minister of Culture and Islamic guidance, [said](#) that Saudi Arabia is attempting to sabotage the Hajj this year by making it difficult for Iranian pilgrims to enter the country. Saudi Arabia has demanded that Iranian pilgrim visas be issued in a third country.

Mohammad Momani, a Jordanian government spokesman, [said](#) that Jordan had summoned its ambassador to Iran for consultations regarding Iran's alleged interference in "Arab countries' affairs."

Reformist politician Minoo Khaleghi was [rejected](#) by Guardian Council after she won parliamentary election of February 2016 for the city of Isfahan.

Ali Motahari, a senior conservative parliamentary representative, [asked](#) President Rouhani to uphold former-Reformist presidential candidate Mehdi Karoubi's demand for a trial. Karoubi has been under house arrest since the unrest that followed the disputed 2009 election.

The Iranian Intelligence Minister Mahmoud Alavi [announced](#) that 13 would-be terrorists were arrested in several operations across the country.

Former Iranian Defence Minister Brigadier General Ahmad Vahidi [blamed](#) the US and Saudi Arabia for spreading terrorism in the region.

President Rouhani [attended](#) a ceremony for National Army Day on 17 April in Tehran. He emphasised that Iran must combine soft and hard power to achieve its goals.

The Iranian Revolutionary Guard Corps announced that Iran had [tested](#) two ballistic missiles to assure the country's deterrent power on March 8. Both the [European Union](#) and the [United States](#) expressed concern.

International Relations:

The Iranian Foreign Minister Mohammad Javad Zarif [participated](#) in the Paris Agreement signing ceremony on April 18. He [met](#) with US Secretary of State, John Kerry, on the sidelines to discuss the nuclear agreement.

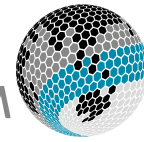
Iran's foreign ministry [hailed](#) Syria's parliamentary election, congratulating the Syrian government and the Syrian people.

The foreign ministers of Iran and India [met](#) in Tehran to discuss enhancing energy cooperation.

Foreign Minister Zarif [met](#) the Foreign Minister of Venezuela, Delcy Rodriguez, in Tehran. They discussed expanding bilateral cooperation.

The EU [extended](#) sanctions against 82 Iranian individuals for one year on accusation of human rights violations.





Air France [resumed](#) its flights to Tehran after 8 years.

The Deputy Minister of Foreign Affairs of the Czech Republic Martin Tlapa [met](#) with Iran's Deputy Foreign Minister for European and American Affairs, Majid Takht-Ravanchi. They discussed expanding cooperation.

Iranian President Hassan Rouhani [met](#) the Serbian President, Tomislav Nikolic, in Tehran. President Rouhani emphasised that Iran is ready to boost its relations with the EU and Balkan countries.

President Rouhani [met](#) the Azerbaijani President, Ilham Aliyev, on the sidelines of the OIC summit in Istanbul. Rouhani said that every effort should be focused on sustaining the ceasefire in Nagorno-Karabakh.

President Rouhani [attended](#) the OIC summit in Istanbul.

Iran [condemned](#) a draft OIC declaration that included statements against both Iran and Lebanon's Hezbollah.

Iran's Chief Justice Sadeq Amoli Larijani [accused](#) the US of attempting to influence the Organization of Islamic Cooperation (OIC) by exerting pressure on Muslim states.

The EU foreign policy chief Federica Mogherini held a joint press conference with Foreign Minister Zarif in Tehran on 16 April. They [urged](#) full commitment to nuclear agreement.

Iran's Foreign Ministry spokesman Hossein Jaber-Ansari [announced](#) that Moscow had started delivering S-300 missile defence systems to Iran.

Ayatollah Khamenei [met](#) the Kazakh President, Nursultan Nazarbayev, in Tehran. The Supreme Leader accused Western countries (particularly the US) of being insincere in the fight against terrorism.

Economy:

Iran Khodro, a major Iranian vehicle manufacturer, [plans](#) to produce cars in Oman at the request of the Omani government.

The President of the Petrochemical Contractors Union of Iran Ahmad Mahdavi Abhari [reported](#) that some South Korean banks have released frozen Iranian funds. Just under US\$1 billion was frozen in South Korean banks.

Iran's parliament [passed](#) a proposal to increase the country's defence and industry budgets by 10 percent.

French Transport Minister Alain Vidalies [said](#) that Iran's purchase of 118 planes from Airbus would be put into effect in the coming weeks.

Matteo Renzi, the Italian prime minister [visited](#) Iran on 11 April. During his trip, Iran and Italy signed six political, economic and cultural cooperation documents.

India announced that it would [invest](#) US\$20 billion in the Chabahar port in southeastern Iran.

Iran's Central Bank Governor Valiollah Seif [complained](#) that Iran has not been able to access US\$100 billion held abroad, even though the nuclear deal has been in force for three months.

Iran [signed](#) seven cooperation agreements with Austria worth more than US\$2 billion in relation to the steel industry, the automobile sector and the pharmaceutical field.

The Speaker for the US House of Congress Paul Ryan [indicated](#) his opposition to Iran accessing the US financial system. Iranian Conservatives have [argued](#) that Ryan's position contravenes the nuclear agreement.

Ayatollah Ahmad Jannati, Tehran's provisional Friday Prayer Leader, [stressed](#) that the government must take steps toward creating a resistance economy, in line with the Supreme Leader's vision for the new Iranian year.

South Korea [increased](#) its monthly imports of Iranian crude by 100 percent between February 2015 and February 2016.

Iran and Kazakhstan [announced](#) that they will establish a joint shipping company in the Caspian Sea.