

July 2016

Politics:

Heshmatollah Falahatpisheh, the Iranian MP for Eslamabad-e Gharb, [survived](#) an assassination attempt on his car when traveling in Dalaho city in the country's western province on July 10. Two others were killed in the attack.

During Eid al-Fitr prayers, the Iranian Supreme Leader Ayatollah Ali Khamenei [blamed](#) US, Israeli and British policies for nurturing terrorism in the Muslim World.

Iranian president Hassan Rouhani [declared](#) that the Iranian nuclear deal had brought regional and international stability on the deal's first anniversary.

Individuals involved in raids on the Saudi embassy in Tehran earlier this year [went on trial](#) on 18 July.

President Hassan Rouhani [declared](#) that Iran will continue to defend the holy Shrines by any means during celebrations at the end of Ramadan.

Islamic Republic of Iran Broadcasting (IRIB) [aired](#) partial confessions from ten alleged ISIS members who had purportedly planned 50 terrorist attacks in Iran.

The chief of the nuclear deal committee Abbas Araghchi [admitted](#) that nuclear negotiating team was forced to modify some of the Supreme Leader's red lines, but maintains that all changes were made with the Supreme Leader's approval.

Iran's foreign ministry [released](#) a progress report on the Joint Comprehensive Plan of Action (JCPOA) for the Iranian parliament. The report, which covered the second three months of the deal's implementation, said that it would take time for Iran to recover from sanctions.

International Relations:

The Iranian Foreign Ministry [summoned](#) the French Ambassador to Tehran François Sénémaud following the Iranian opposition conference led by the Mujahedin-e Khalq Organization (MKO) in Paris.

The Iranian Vice Minister of Foreign Affairs Morteza Sarmadi [met](#) with members of the board of the International Conference of Asian Political Parties (ICAPP) in Iran. They discussed Iran's observer status.

The Iranian Parliamentary Speaker Ali Larijani [met](#) with the Chairman of the Islamic Supreme Council of Iraq (ISCI) Ammar Hakim in Tehran. Larijani emphasised the importance of unity between all Iraqi groups in the fight against extremists.

Iran [welcomed](#) Kazakhstan's temporary membership of the United Nations Security Council.

Ali Larijani [held talks](#) with Bulgaria's Prime Minister Boyko Borisov in Tehran. Larijani announced that the trip could be a turning point in the two countries' relations. During the visit, the two countries signed memoranda of understanding on information technology, small-scale businesses and investment projects.

Iran's Foreign Minister Mohammad Javad Zarif attended the Caspian Sea Littoral States summit in the Kazakh capital of Astana from 12-13 July. He [insisted](#) that the sea's legal regime should factor in the interests of all littoral states.

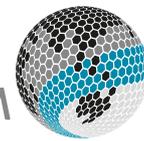
Foreign Minister Zarif [said](#) that the former Saudi intelligence chief's decision to speak at the Mujahedin-e Khalq Organization (MKO) Paris meeting underlines his level of incompetence.

Iran's deputy Foreign Minister Seyyed Abbas Araqchi [said](#) that his country would confront any measures that attempted to prevent Iran's missile activities. The comments followed a confidential report by the UN Secretary General Ban Ki-Moon, which claimed that Iran's missile tests "are not [consistent](#) with the constructive spirit" 2015 nuclear deal.

Iran's application to join the Shanghai Cooperation Organization (SCO) was [rejected](#) again, despite that India and Pakistan were granted full membership status. Iran's deputy Foreign Minister for Asia and the Pacific Ocean Area Ebrahim Rahimpour [denied](#) the reports.

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Foreign Minister Zarif [held a phone call](#) with his Turkish counterpart Mevlut Cavusoglu to discuss the July 16 attempted coup in Turkey.

Senior advisor to Ayatollah Khamenei, Ali Akbar Velayati, [stated](#) that Iran respects democracy and opposes the Turkish coup attempt. He asked Turkish officials to respect the Syrian people's votes in the same manner.

Iran's foreign ministry [held](#) a memorial for four Iranian diplomats who were kidnapped in Lebanon 30 years ago.

The Iranian Ministry of Foreign Affairs [dismissed](#) the recent NATO statement on Iran's missile activities.

Iran's Foreign Ministry spokesman Bahram Ghasemi [condemned](#) the Baghdad terrorist attacks. He said that ISIS's continued failures on the battlefield had forced the group to target innocent people.

Economics:

Iran is in negotiations [with](#) the Japanese company Mitsubishi Aircraft for the purchase of regional passenger planes.

Iran signed a [non-disclosure agreement](#) with the Russian state-owned energy company, Zarubezhneft. The agreement will allow Russia to explore whether the recovery rate in the Abadan and West Paydar oil fields in Iran's south can be increased.

US lawmakers [banned](#) the sale of Boeing aircraft to Iran, which annuls the US\$25 billion deal that was [signed](#) between Boeing and the Islamic Republic last month.

The Iranian president Hassan Rouhani [emphasised](#) Iran's commitment to the joint Indian-Iranian Chabahar port project during phone call with the Indian prime minister Narendra Modi.

The Iranian Supreme Leader Ayatollah Ali Khamenei [addressed](#) the Iranian wage scandal during remarks to celebrate Eid al-Fitr. The issue has been a [topic](#) of significant debate in Iran over the past two months.

The aerospace giant Lockheed Martin [denied](#) reports that it was considering selling helicopters to Iran.

Iran [signed](#) a deal with Italy's highway agency ANAS worth €3.6 billion euros (US\$4 billion) to build a 1,200 km (745 mile) highway between the Bandar Imam Khomeini port city in southern Iran and the Iran-Turkey border.

A 150-person Italian delegation [arrived](#) in Iran on 11 July to explore investment opportunities inside the country.

The chief of the Central Bank of Iran (CBI) [promised](#) that Iranians' personal banking details would not be disclosed to the Financial Action Task Force (FATF). The world's anti-money laundering body expressed its support for Iran's new action plan against money laundering.

NEW IRAN PUBLICATIONS: *Iran at the Crossroads, Amin Saikal.*

Professor Amin Saikal's latest book on Iran argues that President Rouhani has a unique opportunity to return Iran to its historic place in the world 'as a cradle of rich civilisation and culture, with a capacity to be a very influential and stabilising regional actor.'

Looking at Iran's history from the time of the Western-backed Shah, Saikal observes the deep changes that

have taken place in Iran as a result of the 1979 Iranian revolution, including the country's longstanding enmity towards the US.

Saikal argues that Iran is now at a key juncture where the country's very future is on the line. Rouhani's failure to achieve a sustainable detente with the US will not only undermine stability inside and outside Iran, but will also risk the US's place in the broader Middle East.

[Saikal, A. \(2015\): *Iran at the Crossroads*, Polity.](#)

