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Politics:

Iran's Foreign Ministry [released](#) a letter explaining that Iran will not grant visas to three US Republican lawmakers that planned to visit nuclear sites. The letter stated that the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA) is the only body with the mandate to observe the nuclear deal's implementation.

Iran [condemned](#) the June 7 Istanbul terrorist bombing. Iran's then-Foreign Ministry spokesman, Hossein Jaber Ansari emphasised the need to fight against terrorism worldwide.

Iran's Parliamentary Speaker Ali Larijani [declared](#) that documents released by the BBC that purportedly revealed Ayatollah Khomeini's secret contacts with the US were forged.

Iran [expressed](#) its condemnation of the June 7 terrorist attack on Iraq's holy city of Karbala. Iran's then-Foreign Ministry spokesman, Hossein Jaber Ansari offered his condolences to the people and government of Iraq.

Armenia and Iran [agreed](#) to abolish existing visa requirements. The new agreement will allow citizens of each country to stay for a maximum of 90 days during a 180-day period without obtaining a visa.

Homa Hoodfar, a Canadian-Iranian professor of social anthropology was [arrested](#) in Tehran by the Islamic Revolutionary Guards Corps (IRGC) on June 9.

Iran [condemned](#) a Canadian court's decision to award US\$13 million in Iranian assets to American victims of Iran-linked terrorism.

Iran's Supreme Leader Ayatollah Ali Khamenei [declared](#) the importance of "remaining revolutionary," "thinking revolutionary" and "acting revolutionary" in a series of speeches.

Foreign Minister Mohammad Javad Zarif [told](#) the parliament that the nuclear deal would not end all hostility against Iran.

Larijani was [re-elected](#) by Iranian lawmakers as the speaker of the 10th parliament by a significant majority.

The 10th Iranian parliament was [inaugurated](#) on May 28, following the February parliamentary elections.

Iranian border guards [killed](#) five alleged members of Jaish ul-Adl in the country's southern province of Sistan and Balochestan.

International Relations:

Iran's President Hassan Rouhani [met](#) the Armenian Foreign Minister, Edward Nalbandian, in Tehran.

Foreign Minister Zarif [spent](#) three days in Norway this month to meet Norwegian officials and attend the Oslo Forum. He also met with the European Union foreign policy chief Federica Mogherini and the US Secretary of State John Kerry on the sidelines of the Forum.

Iran, Syria and Russia [held](#) a trilateral meeting in Tehran on June 10. The three countries discussed counter-terrorism policies.

Foreign Minister Zarif [met](#) with the Latvian President, Raimonds Vejonis, in Riga on June 2. They discussed developing bilateral relations in the fields of politics, trade and tourism.

Iran's then-Deputy Foreign Minister Hossein Amir-Abdollahian [met](#) the Japanese Foreign Ministry's Director-General for Middle Eastern and African Affairs, Tsukasa Uemura, on June 7 in Tehran.

Foreign Minister Zarif [arrived](#) in Paris on June 21 for a two-day trip to meet with French officials.

Foreign Minister Zarif [met](#) his Swedish counterpart, Margot Wallström, in Stockholm on June 1.

202 Iranian MPs [criticised](#) the United Nations Secretary General Ban Ki-moon's decision to erase criticism of Saudi Arabia from a report on children and armed conflict following Saudi pressure.





Foreign Minister Zarif held [talks](#) with his Finnish counterpart, Timo Soini, in Helsinki. They discussed expanding political, economic and banking ties.

The Polish Foreign Minister Witold Waszczykowski [met](#) Foreign Minister Zarif in Warsaw. The two foreign ministers signed a Memorandum of Understanding on political issues. Zarif was [accompanied](#) by a 60-member Iranian trade delegation.

Foreign Minister Zarif [declared](#) that his longstanding deputy Foreign Minister for Arab and African Affairs Hossein Amir-Abdollahian would be replaced by Jaber Ansari. The new appointment received heavy coverage in Iran's conservative's media outlets.

Economics:

Kayhan newspaper [revealed](#) the salaries of a number of Iranian bank managers on June 7, arguing that their scale contradicted the principles of Iran's "resistance economy." The debate received so much attention that Rouhani ordered an investigation into the salaries.

Following long negotiations, Iran's national airline Iran Air [signed](#) a US\$25 billion deal to purchase planes from Boeing.

The South Korean firm SK Networks [signed](#) a US\$1 billion spare parts deal with Iran's second largest auto manufacturer, SAIPA.

Russia's Deputy Finance Minister Sergey Storchak [said](#) that his country will provide Iran with infrastructure loans worth €2.5 billion, which are to be spent on joint contracts with Russian companies.

The Iranian Oil Minister Bijan Zangeneh [told](#) the parliament on June 14 that the production of condensate had doubled since sanctions were lifted and has now reached 600,000 barrels per day.

The Director of Iran's Chamber of Commerce Mohsen Jalalpour [announced](#) that Iran had signed agreements with Poland and Finland worth US\$200 million during the Iranian delegation's trip to the countries in late-May.

The Iranian Minister of Finance and Economic Affairs Ali Tayyeb-Nia [met](#) with the Austrian Finance Minister, Hans-Joerg Schelling, in Vienna on Jun 4. They discussed enhancing bilateral banking relations.

Foreign Minister Zarif [made](#) his first visit to the new parliament on June 12. He announced that since the signing of the nuclear agreement, US\$700 million dollars had been deposited into the treasury and 4172 letters of credit (LC) had been registered.

The Iranian press [reported](#) a sharp rise in foreign investment in the Iran Fara Bours market. US\$57.7 million was traded in the first two months of the Iranian calendar year, already surpassing the annual figure from last year.

NEW IRAN PUBLICATIONS: Iran and Daesh: The case of a Reluctant Shia Power, *Shahram Akbarzadeh*.

Iran's President Hassan Rouhani was elected on the promise of reconfiguring Iran's regional relations. He promised 'moderation and hope' in Iran's foreign policy, and quickly tried to rebuild the relationships damaged under his predecessor. Yet regional events have stood in Rouhani's way. The deepening of the Syrian and Yemen wars, and the rise of Daesh has undermined Rouhani's push for regional peace, and has empowered Rouhani's

detractors in the Islamic Revolutionary Guards Corps (IRGC). This combination of regional events and IRGC empowerment has led to Iran taking a highly provocative foreign policy stance, ensuring that today it looks more like an sectarian power than the regional peacemaker that Rouhani had envisaged. This paper explores how these dynamics have unfolded.

Akbarzadeh, S (2015): 'Iran and Daesh: The case of a Reluctant Shia Power,' *Middle East Policy*, Vol. XXII No. 3. pp. 44-54.

