

September 2017

## Politics:

Iran's parliament [offered](#) a vote of confidence to all nominated ministers except for Habibollah Bitaraf, who had previously served under a reformist administration.

Mohammad Javad Zarif was confirmed as Iran's Foreign Minister for a [second](#) term. Zarif stated that Iran's foreign affairs will focus on boosting economic [relations](#) with its neighbouring countries.

Iranian President Hassan Rouhani appointed Mohammed Nahavndian as the new Vice-President for Economic Affairs. In another decree, highly experienced Mahmoud Vaezi was [appointed](#) Rouhani's new Chief of Staff.

Three women have been [appointed](#) vice presidency positions in President Rouhani's new cabinet.

Mohammad-Ali Najafi, Iran's ex-minister from the reformist camp, has been [elected](#) Tehran's new mayor with the votes of Tehran city council.

Iran's Supreme Leader Ayatollah Ali Khamenei [appointed](#) Ayatollah Mahmoud Hashemi Shahroudi, the ex-Chief Justice of Iran, as the new Chairman of Iran's Expediency Council.

Supreme Leader Khamenei [promoted](#) General Abdolrahim Mousavi to the rank of major general and appointed him as the new commander of the Iranian Army. Major General Ataollah Salehi was appointed by the Supreme Leader as the new second-in-command for the Iranian Armed Forces' Chief of Staff.

Iran has opened its first women's police station in Tehran metro in an effort to [enhance](#) women's security on trains and subways.

Vice President of Iran for Women and Family Affairs, Masoumeh Ebtekar, announced that the department is in [consultation](#) with the Minister of Sport and Youth over the presence of women in sports stadiums.

In an address to the joint strategy committee of Iran-Japan in Tehran, Masoumeh Ebtekar called for enhancing the role of women in [promoting](#) peace and security in the international arena.

Demonstrations have been carried out in Baneh, in the Kurdistan Province of Iran, to [protest](#) the deaths of two Kurdish cross border carriers. The demonstrations led to violence and several arrests were made by Iranian authorities.

Mohsen Hojaji, an Iranian military advisor in Syria, was taken [hostage](#) and beheaded by the Islamic State group in Syria.

## International Relations:

Head of Iran-Australia Parliamentary Friendship Group Mahmoud Sadeqi met with Australian Ambassador to Iran Ian Biggs in Tehran. Ambassador Biggs stated that Canberra [strongly](#) supports the landmark nuclear deal and considers it an opportunity to establish peace in the region.

The head of Iran-Britain Parliamentary Friendship Group [announced](#) that British delegates are planning to travel to Tehran in the coming weeks.

The United Nations' Special Envoy for Yemen Ismail Ould Cheikh Ahmed met with Foreign Minister Zarif and his Deputy for Arab and African Affairs, Hossein Jaber Ansari, in Tehran. They [discussed](#) the Yemen conflict and UN confidence-building efforts in the country.

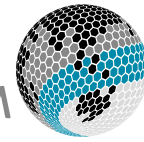
President Rouhani met with South Africa's Speaker of the National Assembly Baleka Mbete in Tehran. Rouhani stated that Iran is [eager](#) to consolidate its relations with the African continent, particularly South Africa.

Syrian President Bashar al-Assad met with Iranian Deputy Foreign Minister for Arab and African Affairs Hossein Jaber Ansari in Damascus. Assad [emphasized](#) the need to maintain coordination between the two countries and expressed his appreciation of Iran's support in the fight against terrorism.

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Chairman of Iran's Expediency Council Ayatollah Seyyed Mahmoud Hashemi Shahroudi met with Iraq's Vice President Nouri al-Maliki. They discussed the importance of [solidarity](#) among Islamic nations to fight terrorism.

In a press conference, Qatari Foreign Minister Mohammed bin Abdulrahman al-Thani announced that Qatar's ambassador to Iran Ali bin Hamad Al Sulaiti will return to Tehran. Ambassador Sulaiti was [recalled](#) following demonstrations held in front of the Saudi Arabian embassy in Tehran. After his return, Ambassador Sulaiti [met](#) with Foreign Minister Zarif in Tehran. At the meeting, Zarif stated that issues in the region must be resolved through dialogue and that Iran opposes anyone who strives to resolve them via pressure and threats against neighbouring countries.

Foreign Minister Zarif met with visiting Archbishop Paul Richard Gallagher in Tehran. Zarif [expressed](#) his appreciation of the Vatican's efforts in Myanmar regarding the persecution of Rohingya Muslims.

Vice President of Iran for Women and Family Affairs Masoumeh Ebtekar sent a letter to UN Under-Secretary-General and Executive Director of the UN Women Phumzile Malmbo Ngcuka to urge the UN to [stop](#) the violence in Myanmar.

Chairman of the Chief of Staff of the Iranian Armed Forces Major General Mohammad Baqeri met with Turkish President Recep Tayyip Erdogan in Turkey. Baqeri declared that Iran and Turkey are [determined](#) to increase ties in all fields, with a particular focus on military and defence cooperation.

President Rouhani met with the new ambassadors of Uruguay, Serbia and Austria. Rouhani [stressed](#) the importance of bilateral relations with these countries.

President Rouhani [attended](#) the First Summit on Science and Technology of the Organization of Islamic Cooperation (OIC) in Astana, Kazakhstan. On the side-lines of the summit, Rouhani met with the Presidents of Uzbekistan, Kazakhstan, Azerbaijan and Venezuela to [discuss](#) bilateral relations.

Iran's Deputy Foreign Minister Abbas Araqchi and Japan's Prime Minister's Special Envoy Masahiko Koumura met in Tehran to [discuss](#) enhancing bilateral relations.

## Economics:

Iranian and French companies [signed](#) an agreement on cooperation in flare gas recovery at a refinery in Iran's South Pars gas field.

Iran's Minister of Road and Urban Development Abbas Akhundi met with Emir of Qatar Sheikh Tamim bin Hamad al-Thani in Doha. They discussed ways to develop cooperation, with a specific [focus](#) on urban development.

The first freight train departed from Yinchuan, the capital of the Ningxia Hui Autonomous Region in central China, to Tehran. The new route between China and Iran was [established](#) under the Silk Road plan named One Belt One Road Initiative.

Governor of the Central Bank of Iran Valliollah Seif announced that Iranian and South African central banks have [prepared](#) a memorandum of understanding (MoU) to boost Tehran-Pretoria banking relations.

Private lenders from Iran and South Korea signed an agreement to expand banking [cooperation](#).

Iran has [discovered](#) a new iron ore mine in Iran's central city of Yazd. It is estimated that the mine holds 2 billion tonnes of reserves with iron content of 70 percent.

Iran's Minister of Petroleum Bijan Zangeneh announced that a delayed pipeline project set to carry Iranian gas to energy-starved Pakistan will [commence](#) soon.

Apple [removed](#) Iranian apps from its Apple store. Iran's new Minister of Information and Communication Technology Mohammad Javad Azari Jahromi said that Iran will look into the issue. In a similar move, Google Play removed Iranian apps from its store, while [citing](#) US sanctions against the Islamic Republic of Iran in its justification.

