

February 2017

## Politics:

Chairman of the Expediency Council Ayatollah Akbar Hashemi Rafsanjani passed away at the age 82 due to heart conditions. Rafsanjani was one of the most [influential](#) political figures in the post-revolution period. Huge crowds of mourners poured into streets of Tehran to take part in his funeral ceremony.

Iran's oldest high rise building Plasco collapsed following a [major](#) fire in the building. Many firefighters and civilians were killed and injured.

The first and only female Minister in Iran Marziyeh Vahid-Dastjerdi [denied](#) speculations that she will be running in the next Iranian presidential elections.

The Vice President of Iran in the cabinet of President Hassan Rouhani in the section of Women and Family Affairs, Shahindokht Molaverdi, [announced](#) that the women's social security plan had been submitted to the Ministry of Interior for final approval.

Iran's Defence Minister General Hossein Dehqan [confirmed](#) that Iran had successfully tested ballistic missiles. According to Dehqan, the missile test was not in breach of the Iranian nuclear deal.

Iran's Interior Minister Abdolreza Rahmani Fazli announced that the candidate registration for the city council election will [commence](#) at the beginning of next month.

Iran's Supreme Leader Ayatollah Seyyed Ali Khamenei met with members of Iran's Air Force. He [declared](#) that the Iranian people will respond to Donald Trump's threats directed against Iran.

## International Relations:

Syria's Foreign Minister Walid al-Muallem met with Iranian Parliament Speakers Ali Larijani and Ali Akbar Velayati in Tehran. The Iranian officials [stressed](#) the importance of enhancing strategic relations with Syria, while praising the Syrian regime's victory in Aleppo.

Ali Larijani and Ali Akbar Velayati [met](#) with Iraqi Vice President Nouri al-Maliki. At the meeting al-Maliki praised Iran for its anti-terrorism campaign in the region.

Iran objected to the United States participation at the Syria peace [talks](#) in Kazakhstan. The following week the United States sent only its Kazakhstan ambassador to the talks.

Iranian officials [confirmed](#) that Saudi Arabia had officially invited Iran to attend bilateral talks regarding the next annual Hajj pilgrimage.

Chairman of the Iranian Parliament Committee on National Security and Foreign Policy Alaeddin Boroujerdi met with Lebanese President Michel Aoun in Beirut. They [discussed](#) enhancing Iranian – Lebanese relations in the fields of trade, economics and security. Boroujerdi later expressed that Iran was determined to [offer](#) military aid to Lebanon.

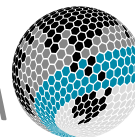
The [new](#) Romanian ambassador to Tehran Adrian Kozjanski submitted his credentials to President Rouhani.

President Rouhani met with Afghanistan's Chief Executive Abdullah Abdullah in Tehran. They underscored the need for a [campaign](#) against terrorism in Afghanistan in order to foster national unity, security and political stability in the country.

President Rouhani met with Syrian Prime Minister Imad Khamis in Tehran. During the meeting, Rouhani [declared](#) that the Syrian regime's victory in Aleppo could change the future of uncertainty in the Middle East.

Iranian, Turkish and Russian delegates attended Syrian peace talks in Astana. They [agreed](#) to set up protocols to help implement a partial ceasefire in Syria.

Iranian Foreign Minister Mohammad Javad Zarif [attended](#) the annual meeting of the World Economic Forum (WEF) in Davos, Switzerland. At the meeting, Zarif stated that cooperation between Iran and Saudi Arabia had the potential to end regional conflicts if Saudi Arabia was able to see the realities on the ground.



On the first anniversary of the Iranian Nuclear deal's implementation, EU and UN officials [reaffirmed](#) their support for the deal.

French Foreign Minister Jean-Marc Ayrault travelled to Iran to reaffirm Europe's [commitment](#) to Iran's nuclear agreement.

President Rouhani met with Kuwaiti Foreign Minister Sheikh Sabah al-Khalid al-Hamad al-Sabah in Tehran. Al-Sabah presented a message to President Rouhani from the Amir of Kuwait Sheikh Sabah Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah that [detailed](#) relations between Iran and the Persian Gulf countries.

Iranian Parliament speaker's special advisor on international affairs Hossein Amir-Abdollahian met with Lebanese Foreign Minister Gebran Bassil in Beirut. Both [agreed](#) that supporting Palestine and confronting Israel must be of top priority when dealing with regional issues.

Hossein Amir-Abdollahian met with Syrian President Bashar al-Assad in Damascus. They [discussed](#) options for a peaceful ceasefire in Syria and the continuation of their anti-terrorism campaign.

Iranian Foreign Minister Mohammad Javad Zarif met with the special representative of the UN Secretary General for Afghanistan Tadamichi Yamamoto in Tehran. Zarif [reiterated](#) Iran's commitment to securing peace and stability in Afghanistan.

President Rouhani met with Belarusian Council of the Republic Speaker Mikhail Myasnikovich. Rouhani [voiced](#) Iran's willingness to develop cooperation with Minsk and other countries in the Eurasia region in the fields of economics, investment, science and technology.

## Economics:

Spokesman of the Atomic Energy Organization of Iran Behrouz Kamalvandi [announced](#) that the final shipment of 149 tons of natural uranium from Russia is scheduled to arrive in Tehran.

French Foreign Minister Jean-Marc Ayrault stated that France will [double](#) the visas available for Iranians in 2017.

Iran's Minister of Petroleum Bijan Zanganeh and Oman's Minister of Gas and Oil Mohammed bin Hamad Al Rumhi [confirmed](#) that Iran would increase gas exports to Oman.

Government spokesman Mohammad Bagher Nobakht stated in a press conference that all Iranian funds previously blocked by sanctions have now been [released](#) after the nuclear deal.

Several German oil and petrochemical companies expressed [interest](#) in investing \$12 billion in Iran's oil sector.

Apple company has reportedly started to [remove](#) apps developed by Iranians from the App stores.

Iran and Syria [signed](#) several agreements that will allow Iran to operate Syria's third largest mobile service provider.

## NEW MESF IRAN PUBLICATIONS:

### **Women and Iran's elections: 'This is not the atmosphere for change',** *Rebecca Barlow*

This post examines the outlook of women's participation in the 2017 Iranian elections. To view click [here](#)

### **Impact and significance of the 2016 'Campaign to Change the Male Face of Parliament' in Iran,** *Rebecca Barlow*

This article explores the impact and significance of the 'Campaign to Change the Male Face of Parliament' for the future of women's empowerment in Iran.

To view click [here](#)

