Iran says not to attend London conference on Afghanistan

TEHRAN, — Iran's Foreign Ministry Spokesman Ramin Mehman-Parast said Wednesday that Iran will not attend the London conference on Afghanistan which will be held on Thursday, the semi-official Fars news agency reported.

"Since the approach of this conference is still towards increasing military actions in Afghanistan... and so it does not take into consideration the root cause of the problems in Afghanistan and does not take advantage of the regional capacities to solve those problems, Iran does not consider it necessary to attend this conference," Mehman-Parast told Fars.

Iran’s Foreign Minister Manouchehr Motaki said on Jan. 21 that Tehran will take part in the conference on Afghanistan in London to provide that its viewpoints are fully taken into consideration.

He did not elaborate the details of Iran's conditions, but Iran has already called on the NATO forces in Afghanistan to leave the country and allow the Afghan people to defend themselves with the help of regional countries. Iran does not consider it necessary to attend this conference," Mehman-Parast told Fars.

The White House made the announcement in a brief statement, saying Obama called Medvedev to thank him for his hard work and leadership on the negotiations, as the two sides have made steady progress in recent weeks.

The presidents agreed that negotiations are nearly complete, the White House said.

"Kushinjalivaikawati kushengechena mhuri pakasungwa murume wavo dzimwe mhuru disipurha."

Iran sends military satellite into space

MOSCOW, — A military satellite launched early Thursday has successfully entered orbit, the Defense Ministry said.

"There is no reason to fear that this launch will be used for military purposes," the spokesman of the Defense Ministry's Space Forces Commander Oleg Datapenko told the satellite's "new project that will help significantly increase the capabilities of the space communications system."

"Let us honour our heroes by ensuring that each one of us, wherever we are, promotes unity, harmony and peace in our country," the President said. "I am delighted that the family was fed and when we were arrested and detained, Amii Takawira suffered in the hands of the colonialists," he said. The President said Mai Takawira's legacy was a resolute and strong person who never looked back and was admirable.

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Afghan protest against killing of civilian by NATO-led troops

KABUL, — Scores of people in Pakhtilkot district in east of Afghan capital Kabul came to the street Thursday to protest at the killing of a civilian by the NATO-led forces. The protesters accused NATO-led International Security Assistance Force (ISAF) of opening fire and killing a man from the locality.

"We cannot confirm one civilian was killed by ISAF forces this morning during an incident involving an ISAF convoy," the statement said.

The troops expressed regret in the statement and promised a thorough investigation in cooperation with authorities (Xinhua)

We’re masters of our destiny, says President

Herald Reporter

Zimbabwe's sovereignty is non-negotiable and outsiders will only be entertained as partners in exploiting its resources for the development of the nation, President Mugabe has said.

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Russia sends military satellite into space

"This is the enduring legacy that we the surviving ones should guard jealously and bequeath to future generations," President Mugabe said.

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