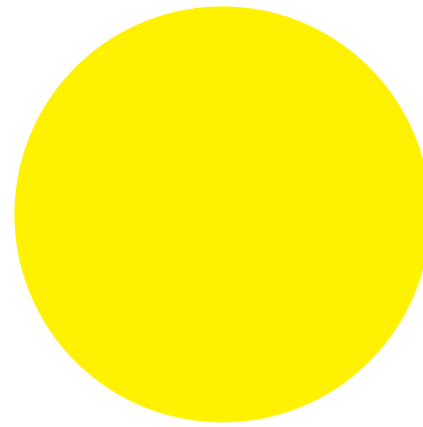




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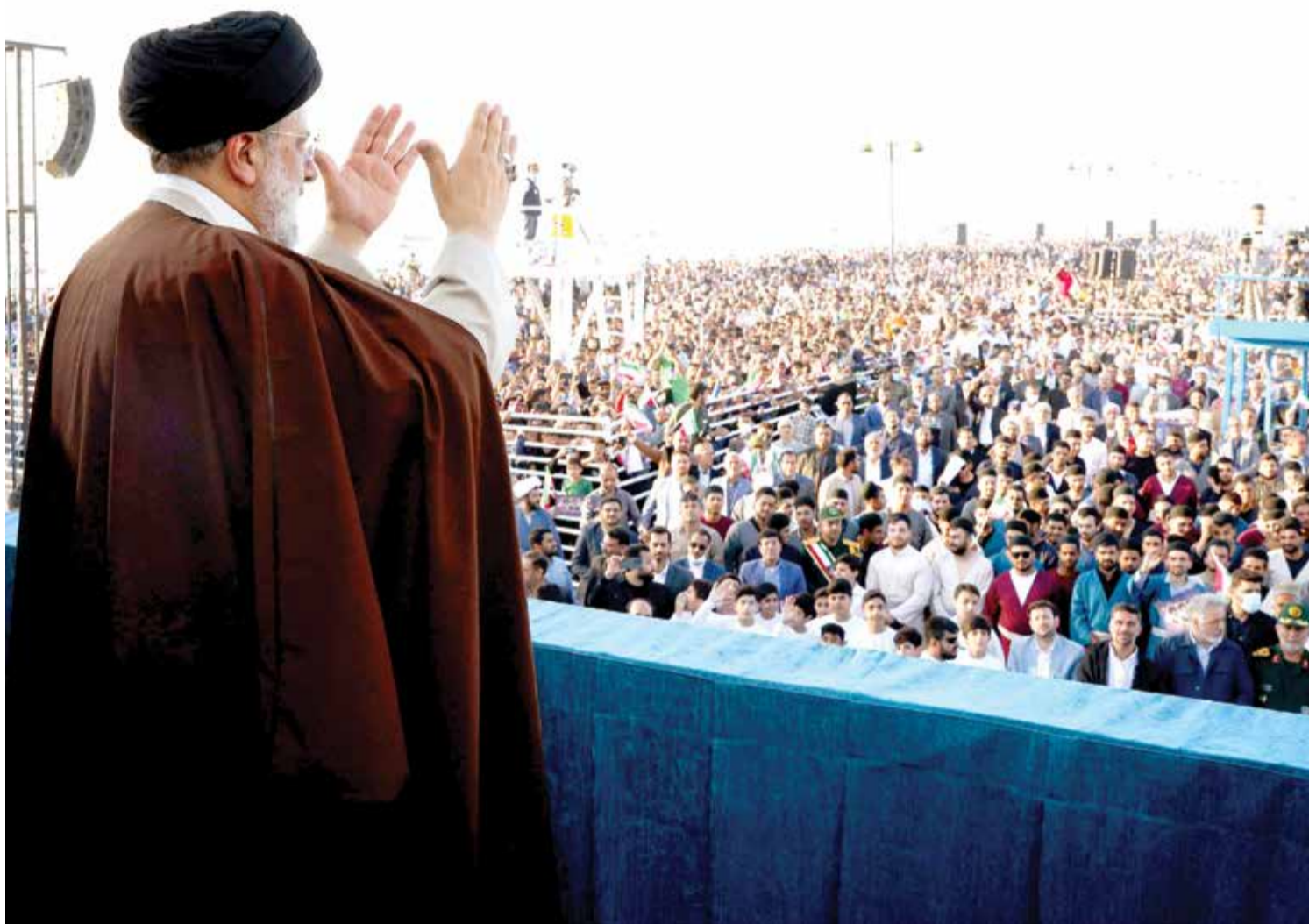
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Tehran Trip: Tough Test

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Iran opens \$2.7b gas project

Iranian President Ebrahim Raeisi said the enemies cannot put the brakes on the country's economic progress and production, as he officially inaugurated Phase 14 of the giant South Pars Gas Field. Phase 14 project of the gas field has been fully designed, carried out and operated by Iranian experts regardless of unilateral Western sanctions, Press

TV reported. A homegrown project that has been developed by using the largest amount of domestic capacities in comparison with the other phases, Phase 14 is going to produce a daily output of 50 million cubic meters of sweet gas, 400 tons of sulfur, and 75,000 barrels of gas condensates. The new phase of South Pars gas field is also expect-

ed to produce one million tons of ethane and one million tons of liquefied petroleum gas (LPG) as petrochemical feedstock per annum. Iranian Oil Minister Javad Owji said the country has spent \$2.7 billion on development of the Phase 14 project of the South Pars gas field, stating that return on investment (ROI) is expected to be achieved with-

in a year. Addressing local people during a ceremony in Iran's southern port city of Bushehr on Thursday, Raeisi said since the victory of the 1979 Islamic Revolution, the enemies have sought to accomplish their objectives in Iran through all kinds of plots, conspiracies and acts of sedition, but all to no avail.

Iranian President Ebrahim Raeisi addresses a crowd of people in the southern city of Bushehr on March 2, 2023, after inaugurating a major project in Iran's South Pars gas field. president.ir

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Grossi's new opportunity in Tehran

Hadi Mohammadi
International affairs expert

EXCLUSIVE

Rafael Grossi, Director General of the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA) arrived in Tehran on Friday. This trip takes place while the nuclear talks have been halted for six months and we are on the verge of convening the quarterly meeting of the IAEA Board of Governors (BoG) next week. In recent weeks, Grossi had repeatedly expressed his desire to travel to Tehran either implicitly or explicitly or through his media sources, but every time he was met with Iran's negative response.

Iran's logic in this regard was clear. It said that the visit of the Director General should pave the way for solving the existing deadlock and it should not be a useless propaganda. However, in line with the political work and the deviation of IAEA from its professional performance, in recent weeks, concurrent with the requests to make the trip, the other side used some technical issues as an excuse to pressure Iran, including changing the arrangement of centrifuges in Fordow nuclear site or 84% enrichment and so on, so that under these pressures, Iran would surrender and submit to the agency's request and the West.

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Authorities urge swift probe after schoolgirls' poisonings in Iran

National Desk

Iranian authorities stepped up efforts to clear up mystery after hundreds of schoolgirls and female university students were poisoned in several cities. President Ebrahim Raeisi said Friday he had ordered interior and intelligence ministers to launch an immediate investigation into serial poisonings at schools and dormitories and quickly publicize the result. Raeisi warned that the enemy was using the issue to "create terror, insecurity and despair" among students. Since late November, hundreds of cases of respiratory poisoning have been reported among schoolgirls

in Qom. The poisonings spread to at least seven other cities including the capital Tehran, with some pupils needing hospital treatment. Parliament Speaker Mohammad Baqer Qalibaf ordered a fact-finding committee to be set up "urgently" by four legislative committees to probe poisonings. Iran's human rights chief calls on security and judicial authorities to swiftly identify those behind the mysterious poisonings. "The High Council for Human Rights has been seriously pursuing the clarification of the poisoning of students," Kazem Gharibabadi, who chairs the top rights body, tweeted Friday.

Massive farmers protest disrupts Brussels traffic

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Persian Gulf water: Lifeline for Iran's central deserts

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Iran, India ink MoU to expand cultural cooperation

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Iran, Venezuela launch direct shipping line

A direct shipping line connecting Iran to Venezuela has been launched to boost bilateral trade ties, the Iranian Embassy in Caracas said Friday. In a statement, the diplomatic mission said the shipping line aimed to support Iranian and Venezuelan businesspeople. The first ship has already left an Iranian port for Venezuela and that one vessel will set sail for the Latin American nation every three months, the statement added. The maritime transport line is part of joint efforts by Iran and Venezuela, both targeted by US sanctions, to offset restrictions.



Last week, Venezuelan satellite news television network Telesur reported that the two largest Iranian carmakers, Iran Khodro and Saipa, used the direct shipping line to deliver thousands of cars to the South American country.

Envoy: Iran will respond decisively to any Israeli wrongful action

A senior Iranian diplomat strongly condemned Israel's threat to use military force against the country's nonmilitary and vital infrastructure as a blatant violation of international principles, emphasizing that Tehran will not hesitate to respond decisively to any threat or wrongful action by the Tel Aviv regime. Iran's Ambassador and Permanent Representative to the United Nations Amir Saeid Iravani made the remarks in a letter addressed to the rotating president of the UN Security Council, Pedro Comissário

Afonso, and UN Secretary-General Antonio Guterres, Press TV reported. Iravani wrote that Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu on February 21 had resorted to the regime's repeated lies and false claims in order to openly make threats of using military force against Iran's critical infrastructure, including peaceful nuclear facilities.



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