

NEWS IN BRIEF

Leader
urges gov't,
parl. to fight
corruption

IRNA – Leader of the Islamic Revolution Ayatollah Seyyed Ali Khamenei has called on authorities to seriously pursue the fight against the “seven-headed dragon of corruption.”

“If an official does not have the courage to confront the corrupt inside the country, s/he will not have the courage to fight the oppressors outside the country,” Ayatollah Khamenei said on Saturday morning. He made the remarks in Imam Khomeini mausoleum, Tehran, where Iranian workers gathered from around the country to meet the Leader on the occasion of the Labor Week.

“It is hoped that the government and the parliament will pursue the fight against the seven-headed dragon of corruption,” he noted.

He highlighted the need to create a direct relationship between “income” and “work”, saying long-term plans are needed to achieve this ambitious goal.

“This is a very difficult task. This means that much of windfalls is wrongly earned. We must stop the culture of accumulating wrongly earned wealth in the country. This is a long-term and difficult task, but it must be done,” he said.

Defense
Minister:
SCO plays
vital role in
maintaining
security

FARS

International Desk

Iran's Defense Minister Brigadier General Mohammad Reza Ashtiani met his Kyrgyz counterpart in India on the sidelines of the meeting of the Shanghai Cooperation Organization's (SCO) defense ministers.

During his meeting with his Kyrgyz counterpart, Baktybek Bekbolotov, Ashtiani said that SCO plays an important role in maintain Central Asian region's security.

“The development of bilateral relations between these two countries will definitely strengthen the bond and commonalities between Iran and Kyrgyzstan and will ultimately lead to all-round progress, especially in the field of defense of the two countries,” Ashtiani told his Kyrgyz counterpart.

Kyrgyzstan's defense minister, for his part, stated that Iran's presence in the region is “active and effective,” calling for further strengthening of ties between the two countries.

Dozens of Iranians evacuated from Sudan



A ferry transports some 1900 evacuees across the Red Sea from Port Sudan to the Saudi King Faisal navy base in Jeddah, on April 29, 2023, during evacuation efforts of people fleeing Sudan.

FAYEZ NURELDINE/AFP

International Desk

Iranian Foreign Ministry Spokesperson Nasser Kanaani thanked Saudi Arabia and the Sudanese government for their assistance in evacuating Iranian nationals from Khartoum during the recent conflicts in the African country.

“From the beginning of the unrest in Sudan, the Ministry of Foreign Affairs (of Iran) seriously put the issue of removing 65 Iranian nationals living in this country on the agenda, and after making the necessary arrangements, the safe transfer of Iranian nationals from Khartoum to Port Sudan and then

their departure and dispatch to the Jeddah port took place,” Kanaani said on Saturday.

Stating that necessary arrangements have been made to transfer the 65 Iranians from Saudi Arabia to Iran, the senior Iranian diplomat added that in this regard, the effective cooperation of Saudi Arabia and the assistance of the Sudanese government were helpful, which deserves appreciation.

Videos circulated on social media showed Iranian nationals thanking the Saudi government for its assistance in evacuating them from the crisis-hit country. The conflict between the army and the Rapid



Support Forces in Sudan, which jointly led the October 2021 coup in the country, has intensified in

recent months. Earlier this month, Kanaani expressed his concern about the recent un-

rest in Sudan and urged the Sudanese to exercise restraint and engage in dialogue.

Call for direct talks ...



Iran's envoy Tavakol Habibzadeh (c), and delegation members wait for judges to enter the International Court of Justice, which issued its judgment in a dispute between Iran and the United States over frozen Iranian state bank accounts worth some \$2 billion, in The Hague, Netherlands, March 30, 2023.

AP

According to Clause 2, Article 21 of the Treaty, any dispute between the two countries regarding the implementation of the Treaty that cannot be resolved through diplomatic means, must be referred to the ICJ in The Hague.

In April 1980, the U.S. filed a complaint against Iran regarding the 1979 takeover of its embassy by the Iranian students who also took 52 American diplomats hostage for 444 days. Iran's first complaint against the U.S. based on the Treaty dates back to a decade later, when the U.S. aircraft carrier, Vincennes, targeted an Iranian passenger plane with 176 people on board.

In 1992, Iran once again filed a complaint against the U.S. attack on its oil facilities at the court, and naturally, the U.S. filed a counter-complaint.

All these cases indicate that, despite the lack of diplomatic relations between Tehran and Washington, the 1955 Treaty of Amity has been recognized by the international court.

In May 2016, the U.S. government questioned the court's jurisdiction over Iran's complaint.

However, the ICJ rejected the U.S. claims and started the hearings. Finally, in March, the court condemned the U.S. government for not honoring its obligations under the Treaty. The ICJ ordered the U.S. to pay compensation to Iranian companies after ruling that Washington had illegally allowed courts to freeze their assets.

The Hague Court in its decision rejected the U.S. defense. However, the tribunal said it did not have jurisdiction over \$1.75 billion in frozen assets from Central Bank of Iran held in a Citibank account in New York.

The International Court of Justice gave Tehran and Washington two years to negotiate and reach a conclusion to determine and assess the amount of damage. If no agreement is reached during the period, upon the request of one of the parties to the dispute, the ICJ will interfere in the case.

Now, the Iranian vice president has proposed direct negotiations between representatives from Iran and the U.S. in a bid to resolve the dispute.

Mohammad Dehqan told ISNA that he does not think that his proposal would face any objection. Dehqan said that his proposal is that the negotiations should be pursued in a court of arbitration established in the ICJ about 40

years ago to settle disputes between Iran and the U.S. There are three arbitrators from Iran, three arbitrators from the U.S. and three arbitrators, who are appointed by the Supreme Court of the Netherlands. Iran and the U.S. each have one representative in that court.

Dehqan believes that the best way for the settlement of such arguments is direct negotiations between the two sides' representatives in the same court because its location is predetermined and it does not require new arrangements. During these years, he added, several rounds of talks have been held between Iran and the U.S. on several issues, including legal issues and the compensation fee.

Officials slam EU's statement on terrorist execution verdict

International Desk

Secretary of Iran's High Council for Human Rights has criticized the European Union (EU) for its interventionist statement regarding the death sentence given to Iranian-German terrorist ringleader Jamshid Sharmahd.

“A terrorist Iranian national was supported in Europe and in the United

States,” Gharibabadi wrote on his Twitter account on Saturday, adding that Sharmahd has been sentenced to death based on Iranian laws.

Gharibabadi said that those who oppose the execution of Sharmahd have no regards for rights of the victims of terrorism, adding that instead of condemning the terrorist acts committed by Sharmahd,

the EU and the US have decided to defend the terrorist.

“This is the face of the Europe which apparently defends human rights,” he added. Similarly, Iran's envoy to Vienna, Abbas Bagherpour criticized the statement, referring to its four “clumsy mistakes.”

According to the diplomat's tweet, the EU failed

to understand that the 1963 Consular Convention doesn't apply to nationals of receiving state.

Noting the statement's other mistakes, Bagherpour tweeted that “death penalty isn't banned in international human rights law and its basic instruments, abolition of death penalty isn't an international obligation, and terrorism has another legal

regime!”

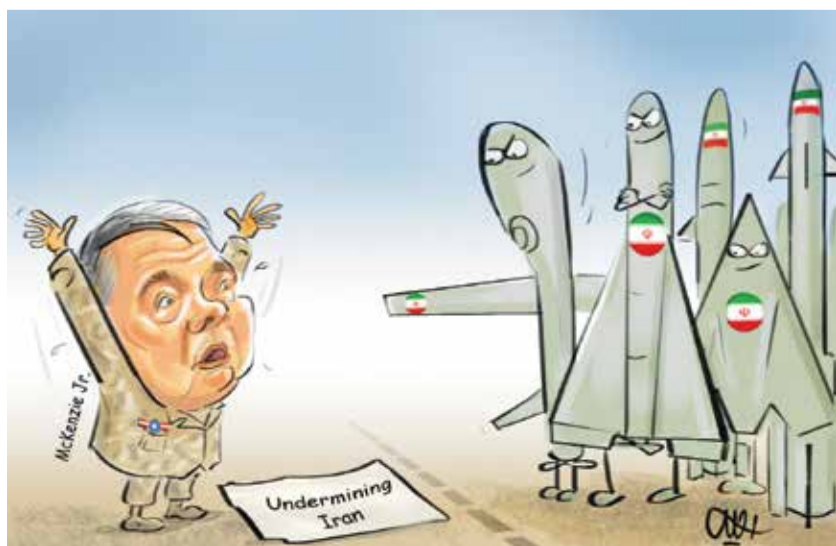
In an interventionist statement issued on Friday, the European Union announced that it “strongly condemns” the death sentence imposed on Sharmahd.

In the statement, EU's foreign policy chief Josep Borrell called on Tehran to refrain from executing the death penalty on Sharmahd.



ISNA

Mohammad Ali Rajabi
Cartoonist

Diplomat: Doha meeting must help
Afghanistan's security

International Desk

A senior Iranian diplomat has said that the upcoming UN-sponsored Doha meeting needs to focus on securing the interests of the Afghan people and government.

Hassan Kazemi Qomi, the special envoy of the Iranian president for Afghanistan affairs made the comments in an interview with the Afghan Voice Agency (AVA) where he said that Iran will participate in the UN-sponsored

Doha meeting.

“Iran's stance in this meeting is independent and based on a deep understanding of the realities and requirements in which the interests of the people and the government of Afghanistan are secured,” Kazemi Qomi said.

He said, “We strongly and openly criticize the unilateral approaches adopted by big powers and international organizations.” Referring to the massive similarities between Iran



ISNA

and Afghanistan's peoples, the Iranian diplomat said that Iran opposes sanctions on the country and urged the UN to take into account the humanitarian situation in the country.