

NEWS IN BRIEF

Raeisi to visit
Indonesia

ISNA - Heading a high-ranking delegation, Iranian President Ebrahim Raeisi will pay an official visit to Jakarta on Monday at the official invitation of his Indonesian counterpart Joko Widodo to discuss deepening and expanding bilateral economic, political, and cultural relations. Holding bilateral meetings with the Indonesian president as well as with speakers of the House of Representatives and the People's Consultative Assembly of Indonesia and signing cooperation documents in different fields are among President Raeisi's agenda during this visit.

'Humanitarian facade' of West won't fool Iran



IRNA

International Desk

The spokesman for the Iranian Foreign Ministry said that instead of interfering in the internal affairs of other states and displaying a "humanitarian facade," Western politicians had better respect the human rights and civil demands of their own citizens.

In a statement released on Saturday, Nasser Kanaani condemned the interfering comments made by a number of American and European officials following Iran's recent execution of three convicts charged with launching terrorist attacks.

Nouri's solitary confinement 'world record':
Lawyers

PRESS TV - Lawyers of Iranian national Hamid Nouri, who has been illegally detained in Sweden for more than three years, have criticized his trial process and the way he is being treated in jail, saying the 62-year-old's solitary confinement is a "world record".

Hanna Larsson, Nouri's lawyer, said that her client has now spent 3.5 years in solitary confinement in Swedish detention centers and that the way he is treated by jailers is "very heinous."

Iranian Navy to deploy
first flotilla to Antarctic

Crew members of Iran's 86th naval flotilla reunite with their families upon return to Iran from a voyage around the globe in Bandar Abbas, Iran, on May 20, 2023.
● ALI SHARIFZADEH/IRNA

The Iranian Navy announced plans to deploy its 86th flotilla of warships to the Antarctic for the first time ever "in the near future".

The deployment of Iranian warships to the Antarctic was apparently one of the main goals of the recent mission by the 86th flotilla, which returned to the country a few days ago after a round-the-world voyage, according to Press TV. The naval fleet, comprised

of domestically-manufactured Dena destroyer and Makran forward base ship, entered the territorial waters of the Islamic Republic of Iran on Wednesday, after sailing 63,000 kilometers around the globe over eight months.

The 86th flotilla broke the record for the distance an Iranian flotilla has ever sailed in international waters and crossed the Strait of Magellan — the nearest region to the South

Pole — during its mission, one of the main purposes of which was to test the strength of the steel hull of the Dena destroyer in cold waters.

Antarctica is one of the most important strategic regions in the world, with 30 countries having 70 active research centers there.

"Presence in Antarctica is important from various scientific, legal, political, geostrategic, and economic aspects, and this region in the future will be a major center on the international arena," Tasnim news agency quoted Abolfazl Saleh, head of the Marine Science Research Institute of Iran's National Institute for Oceanography, as saying.

The news agency added that the establishment of a permanent base by the Islamic Republic of Iran at the South Pole with the purpose of increasing the strategic depth of the country has received a lot

of attention over the past years.

The 86th naval fleet set sail from Iran's southern port city of Bandar Abbas on September 20, 2022, on a mission around the world.

During the mission, the naval fleet passed the coasts of Chile, Argentina, Uruguay, and Brazil, finally anchoring in the port of Rio de Janeiro in Brazil.

Dena is a Mowj-class destroyer that joined the Iranian Navy in June 2021. The military vessel is equipped with anti-ship cruise missiles, torpedoes, and naval cannons.

Makran is a forward base ship weighing 121,000 tons. The warship can carry five helicopters and is employed for providing logistical support for combat warships.

The Iranian Navy has set up three ocean commands supervising naval missions to the Indian Ocean, the Pacific Ocean, and the Atlantic Ocean.

"Establishing a permanent base by Iran at the Antarctic would increase the country's strategic depth."

JCPOA revival ...

Following the cessation of talks, the United States

Page 1 > w a g e d two hybrid wars against Iran, employing pressure on the International Atomic Energy Agency and reinforcing sanctions. However, both measures proved fruitless due to Tehran's steadfast resistance. Presently, the Americans find themselves at a crossroads, necessitating a rational decision to return to the negotiating table and agree to Tehran's legitimate demands enshrined in the JCPOA, or embark on a third hybrid war, for which Iran has made preparations. Therefore, if the United States adopts a rational approach, the resumption of stalled talks and the revival of the JCPOA remain plausible.

In recent weeks, a number of experts and media

outlets have voiced concern over the potential activation of the so-called snapback mechanism by the Western parties to the JCPOA in order to reinstate UN Security Council sanctions on Iran. Should they opt for this, does that imply the death of the nuclear deal?

Given the present circumstances, the application of the snapback mechanism against Iran appears unfeasible. Assessments derived from White House and congressional discussions indicate a sense of bewilderment within the United States regarding their forthcoming course of action. While it is anticipated that the Americans may embark on a gradual campaign to discredit the snapback mechanism as a means to exert psychological pressure on Iran, it is crucial to recognize that the ultimate loser in this scenario will not be Iran,

but rather the opposing side. Triggering the mechanism and reinstating UN sanctions would grant Iran the freedom to escalate its nuclear program unrestricted.

The ongoing discussions between Iran and the IAEA seem to be progressing, with both parties expressing contentment over their collaborative efforts. Do these positive developments serve as an indication of the potential revival of the JCPOA?

Over the past months, the talks between Iran and the agency have adopted a positive and cooperative approach, primarily due to the IAEA director general taking a more pragmatic stance. While the JCPOA parties did not undertake any specific commitments, IAEA chief Rafael Grossi expressed his expectations that Iran would continue fulfilling

its JCPOA obligations and implementing the Additional Protocol. Consequently, limited progress was achieved in the negotiations.

However, during the winter months, there was a notable shift when Grossi acknowledged that until the JCPOA is revived, Iran should strictly adhere to the provisions of the nuclear Non-Proliferation Treaty (NPT) and comply with safeguards. This adjustment can be seen as a form of retreat or a more realistic stance on his part. Simultaneously, Iran adopted a positive approach to offset US pressure on the IAEA and its Board of Governors, leading to the resolution of numerous outstanding issues between Iran and the agency. As long as the IAEA's demands fall within the requirements of the NPT and safeguards, Iran is willing to cooperate.



However, if the demands

pertain to the Additional Protocol and JCPOA commitments, Iran will resist (to abide by the JCPOA as long as the US does not). Iran's resistance bore fruit and the IAEA chief backed off, creating an environment conducive to productive talks. Therefore, the agreements reached between Iran and the IAEA hold the potential to enhance the prospects of revitalizing the JCPOA in the coming months.

Political analyst Mostafa Khoshcheshm
● FARS

Mohammad Ali Rajabi
Cartoonist

Flexibility in foreign policy
doesn't conflict with principles: Leader

The Leader touched on Iran's long borders with many and sometimes important and influential countries, saying the policy of the government to communicate with its neighbors is important and right.

"Foreign hands are at work to create problems between Iran and its neighbors. You should not allow this policy to be realized," he told the Foreign Ministry officials and Iranian envoys.

"The policy of communi-

cation with Islamic countries, even those far away, as well as with like-minded and supporting countries is important," Ayatollah Khamenei added.

The Leader touched on the ongoing transformation in the world order and its frequent use in diplomatic literature.

"The transformation in the world order is a long-term process full of uncertainties and possible unforeseen events, where different countries have different and conflicting opinions and approaches

toward it." Ayatollah Khamenei said a proper placement of Iran in the new order by monitoring and evaluating global developments and knowing the exact direction of events is important. "Based on this observation and evaluation, practical suggestions should be drawn out," the Leader said, adding Iran's ambassadors and representatives should play an important role in this regard, especially in the countries which have a say in international developments.