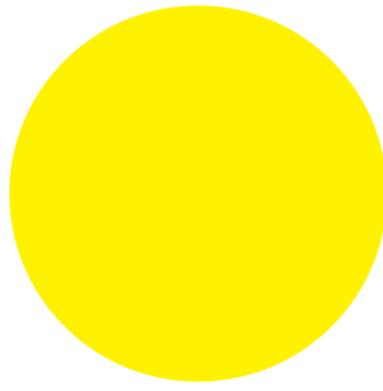


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# Iran Daily

## Raeisi departs for Indonesia on political, economic mission

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Iran's border guard personnel carry the coffins of the soldiers killed in a terrorist attack on Saturday night, during a funeral held in Sistan and Baluchestan's provincial capital, Zahedan, on May 22, 2023.

## Iran's president appoints new security chief, replacing Shamkhani

**National Desk**  
The Iranian president in a decree on Monday appointed Ali Akbar Ahmadian as the new head of the Supreme National Security Council (SNSC), replacing Ali Shamkhani, who leaves the position after 10 years. President Ebrahim Raeisi thanked Shamkhani for his efforts during his tenure. Ahmadian, 62, is a graduate of the University of Tehran in dentistry and has a Ph.D. in strategic management from the Su-

preme National Defense University of Iran. He was the director of the Islamic Revolution Guards Corps' Strategic Center and a member of the Expediency Council. Ahmadian has also previously served as commander of the Islamic Revolution Guards Corps' naval forces and the head of the IRGC joint staff. His predecessor, Shamkhani was appointed as the country's security chief in September 2013 by former president Hassan Rouhani.

He left his post after successfully completing a rapprochement with Saudi Arabia, which saw the two countries agree to restore diplomatic ties after a seven-year rift in a China-brokered deal in March. Shamkhani was the second longest-serving security chief since the country's 1979 Islamic Revolution, behind only Hassan Rouhani who was SNSC secretary for nearly 16 years. Shamkhani was the fourth security chief of the Islam-



ic Republic after Rouhani, Ali Larijani, and Saeed Jalili, who held the post for approximately six years. Born in the southwestern province of Khuzestan in



1955, Shamkhani joined the IRGC in 1979. He also served as defense minister under former president Mohammad Khatami from 1997 to 2005.

### Indonesia, wisely-chosen destination for state visit



**By Nozar Shafiei**  
International relations professor

**EXCLUSIVE**  
Globally speaking, nations fall into different categories such as advanced industrialized, newly industrialized, developing, or industrializing. Despite being classified as an industrializ-

ing country, Indonesia has made significant strides in this aspect. Consequently, it is recognized as one of the emerging nations in the international arena, alongside countries like India, Brazil, and Turkey. Moreover, Indonesia holds the distinction of being the most populous country in the Muslim world and the fourth most populous globally.

### Iran set to boost Caspian Sea trade with new cargo ships

**Economy Desk**

Iran said on Monday it had equipped its cargo shipping lines in the Caspian Sea and plans to add new vessels to expand maritime trade with the littoral states, especially Russia. Mohammad-Reza Modarres, the CEO of Iran's Shipping Line Group (IRISL), said 26 Iranian general cargo ships transport commodities from Iran to destinations in Turkmenistan, Kazakhstan, Russia, and Azerbaijan. According to Modarres, Iran's Caspian vessels had a total capacity of 3,600 20-foot equivalent unit containers (TEU), plus 104,000 deadweight tons (DWT), which the country had plans to increase. "Iran has held negotiations to purchase and order the construction of several ships as part of its efforts to boost freight transportation to Russia," Modarres said. Last week, Iran and Russia inked an agreement to collaborate on building cargo ships in order to create a joint commercial fleet. Under the agreement, the IRISL and a Russian group led by a representative of

the country's president agreed to build and acquire 20 ships. The parties also agreed to form a joint venture to better coordinate cargo movement along the North-South and East-West transit corridors to and from all Russian ports. As a result of the pact, both sides would pool their transportation and shipbuilding resources to guarantee a steady flow of cargo to the ports. "The IRISL Group has in recent months drawn up a strategic cooperation document to foster trade relations with Russia and other countries in the Caspian Sea basin," Modarres said on Monday. Iran and Russia on Wednesday signed a deal to undertake the construction of an Iranian railway line, marking the completion of the embryonic International North-South Transport Corridor. The agreement entails a collaborative effort between Russia and Iran in constructing the 164-kilometer railroad that connects the Astara border crossing, serving as the gateway between Iran and the Republic of Azerbaijan.

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### Armenia will recognize Karabakh as part of Azerbaijan if security guaranteed: PM



Armenia is ready to recognize the Nagorno-Karabakh region as part of Azerbaijan if Baku guarantees the security of its ethnic Armenian population, the Russian state news agency TASS and the Russian news outlet Ostorozhno, Novosti quoted Prime Minister Nikol Pashinyan as saying on Monday.

Nagorno-Karabakh has been a source of conflict between the two Caucasus neighbors since the years leading up to the collapse of the Soviet Union in 1991, and between ethnic Armenians and Turkic Azeris for well over a century, Reuters reported. In 2020, Azerbaijan seized control of areas that had been controlled by ethnic Armenians in and around the mountain enclave, and since then it has periodically closed the only access road linking Nagorno-Karabakh with Armenia, on which the enclave relies for financial and military support.

### Taliban FM: Afghanistan committed to water treaty with Iran

**National Desk**

The Taliban's acting Foreign Minister Amir Khan Muttaqi said on Monday that Afghanistan is committed to a water treaty signed between the two countries in 1973. Muttaqi also asked the Iranian officials not to politicize the dispute that erupted between the two neighboring countries over Iran's water rights from the Hirmand River, according to Tasnim News Agency. He said that it's better to settle the issue through face-to-face negotiations. His comments came after Iranian President Ebrahim Raeisi on Thurs-

day issued a strong warning to Afghanistan's rulers, asking them not to violate the water rights of the Iranian people from the Hirmand River. Under a treaty signed between Iran and Afghanistan in 1973, Iran should receive an annual share of 820 million cubic meters from the river that rises in the Hindu Kush Mountains, west of the Afghan capital and flows in an arc southwest until it empties out into the Hamoun wetlands, located in Iran's Sistan and Baluchestan Province. Afghanistan has largely cut off the river's flow into Iran, endangering the lives of many Iranians.