

NEWS IN BRIEF

Iran FM to attend BRICS meeting of foreign ministers



International Desk

Iranian Foreign Minister Hossein Amir-Abdollahian will participate in the meeting of BRICS Ministers of Foreign Affairs in Cape Town, at the official invitation of South Africa. The host country has planned some 200 events as part of its presidency of the alliance.

BRICS consists of Brazil, Russia, India, China, and South Africa.

Iran, Saudi Arabia, Argentina, the UAE, Algeria, Egypt, Bahrain, Indonesia, and others have expressed their desire to join BRICS.

Iran's hypersonic missile passes tests: IRGC general



TASNIM - An advanced hypersonic ballistic missile developed by the Islamic Revolution Guards Corps (IRGC) Aerospace Force has undergone tests and will be unveiled soon, General Amir-Ali Hajizadeh said on Monday.

The new missile can penetrate all air defense missile systems and detonate the enemy's anti-missile systems, he added.

Describing the production of the projectile as a "huge leap" in Iran's missile industry, the commander said the missile can maneuver below and above the earth's atmosphere at a speed of Mach 13.

Terrorist team dismantled in NW Iran

MEHR - A terrorist team affiliated with Zionist groups was dismantled in West Azarbaijan Province of Iran. Fourteen terrorists were detained by the intelligence forces in coordination with the judicial system, a Judiciary official said on Monday. The terrorists were after identifying and assassinating several people, according to the source.

Last week, the Ministry of Intelligence announced that it has dismantled a network linked to a foreign intelligence service.

Iran-Afghanistan border secure after Taliban attack: **Minister**

Iran's interior minister said on Monday that tensions have eased on the eastern border with Afghanistan, and the area is now secure, days after a deadly unprovoked attack by Taliban forces.

Ahmad Vahidi's remarks came two days after two Iranian border guards were killed as heavily-armed Taliban forces opened fire at a border post in Iran's Sistan and Baluchestan Province, in violation of international law, Press TV reported.

"We do not have any problem at the moment. The border point is in peace and open to traffic," he said.

"There was a shooting by Afghan border guards and, naturally, we delivered a due response," he added.

The interior minister also noted that the brief clashes ended and negotiations were held with the Taliban in this regard.

During a visit to Sistan and Baluchestan on Sunday, Commander of the Iranian Army's Ground Force Brigadier General Kioumars Heydari warned that the Islamic Republic will change its approach if Afghanistan fails to respect international regulations



An Iranian border guard looks through a pair of binoculars to monitor a border area in Milak, southeastern Iran, bordering Afghanistan and Pakistan. AFP

and the principles of good neighborliness.

He further said that the border areas with Afghanistan are under complete control of the Iranian Army's Ground Forces.

In August 2021, the Taliban managed to seize power after making sweeping advances across Afghanistan in the midst of a

messy withdrawal of U.S.-led foreign forces, as well as the rapid collapse of the country's security forces.

Iran says it does not recognize the ruling administration in Kabul, underlining the need for the formation of an inclusive Afghan government.

Recently, a long-lasting water dispute has resur-

red between Iran and Afghanistan. Afghanistan's non-compliance with the 1973 water-sharing treaty and denying Iran its water rights under the pact have

heightened tensions between Tehran and Kabul. Over the past few weeks, high-ranking Iranian officials have urged the de-facto Taliban govern-

ment in Kabul to adopt an effective measure to address the long-lasting issue by providing Iran its due share of water from the Helmand River Basin.

Water scarcity is taking a heavy toll on Iran's southwestern Sistan-Baluchestan region by harming its agriculture and water bodies.

Oman and foreign ...



It is important to note that the image that countries create of themselves is not necessarily a positive image, albeit they all try to be so. Because basically, identity is not a

one-sided issue. While actors can create their own identity, the representation of this identity by other actors must also be understood or approved. An example of this is the United States, which, despite trying to build a certain identity for itself, based on the values of liberal democracy, is often known in the international arena as a domineering and bellicose political system.

It seems necessary that the political system of the Islamic Republic of Iran would pay more attention to redefining its foreign policy identity. A system that has certain value foundations and promotes its activities in

the international arena, based on a series of specific principles. Especially since the different governments that have come to power in Iran have acted based on different discourses and had different approaches to foreign policy issues.

Differences in approaches and discourses of governments have caused the methods of action to be different in each period of time, based on the social and political atmosphere in the country, in the general framework of preserving national interests. Although researchers have written many books and articles about Iran's foreign policy and

listed many features for it, it seems that theorizing about the identity of the foreign policy of the Islamic Republic of Iran is still an important and significant issue.

In this regard, it is important to pose some questions to Iran's foreign policy officials and academic researchers.

First, what are the components of Iran's foreign policy identity at the moment?

Second, what components of this identity have been consciously determined?

Third, what are the coordinates of the representation of Iran's foreign policy identity in the international arena?

Fourth, to what extent does this representation correspond to reality?

Fifth, what perception does the representation of the foreign policy of the Islamic Republic of Iran create for the actors of the international arena?

And finally, which components can be extracted from the national, religious and social identity resources of the Iranian society for the foreign policy identity of Iran?

The answers to these questions can provide a more accurate understanding of the nature of the foreign policy of the Islamic Republic of Iran and the analysis of related issues.



Mohammad Ali Rajabi
Cartoonist



Swedes come up with new ways for torturing Nouri

Hamid Nouri, an Iranian national who has been illegally incarcerated by the Swedish government for over three years, has been targeted with tough, inhumane restrictions including ongoing solitary confinement.

Based on information acquired by IRNA, the Swedish prison authorities have recently come up with a new way to psychologically torture Nouri.

In recent weeks, they have transferred a citizen of Eritrea, who is suffering from

severe mental disorder, to Nouri's solitary cell, without the slightest change in the cell's conditions.

Nouri has told his lawyers that the prison authorities usually transfer a person to his cell just before his trial sessions as a pretext to confiscate his belongings including his notes that are needed for the court.

Another problem the former Iranian diplomat has faced in prison is that the interpreters use vulgar language, curse at him, and

insult his beliefs instead of conveying messages from his family to him — an inhumane act that apparently aims at putting psychological pressure on him.

Nouri, a former Iranian Judiciary official, was detained upon arrival at Stockholm airport in November 2019.

He was put on trial on trumped-up charges made by the Mujahedeen Khalq Organization (MKO), which has been designated by Iran and many other countries as a terrorist group.