

NEWS IN BRIEF

Iran halts sending new envoy to Sweden: *FM*

PRESS TV – Iran has halted “administrative phases” to dispatch an ambassador to Sweden over the state-authorized desecration of the holy Qur’an in the European nation, Foreign Minister Hossein Amir-Abdollahian declared Wednesday in a Twitter post. He also noted that he had held detailed discussions with Iran’s new envoy to Sweden, Hojatollah Faghani, on the latest events in the Scandinavian country.

Iranian-made smart munitions best in world: *Minister*

MEHR – Iranian Defense Minister Brigadier General Amir Mohammad-Reza Gharaei said Iran’s homemade smart ammunition is the best in the world. Addressing the scientists and military experts attended in a ceremony held at the defense ministry compound, Gharaei said “the defense ministry is ready to provide its scientific progress to other bodies and organizations”.

Tehran-Cairo détente to change region's balance: *Adviser*

ISNA – Ali Akbar Velayati, the senior adviser to the Leader of the Islamic Revolution, welcomed the re-establishment of relations with Cairo, stressing that it will lead to the creation of a new regional balance that also includes Saudi Arabia. In an interview with Al Jazeera, Velayati emphasized that strategic relations between Iran, Russia, and China are gradually taking shape, and that differences between Tehran and Moscow do not affect these relations.

EU to breach JCPOA with refusal to lift sanctions

European powers are expected to announce plans to breach the 2015 Iran nuclear deal, formally known as the Joint Comprehensive Plan of Action (JCPOA), for the first time when they confirm they are not going to lift sanctions on Tehran’s use of missiles this October as required in the agreement. Donald Trump took the US out of the nuclear deal in 2018, but Germany, France, and the UK remained inside the deal, even though Iran eventually responded to the US walkout by breaching the agreed limits on the quality and quantity of enriched uranium, the Guardian wrote. The decision by European powers to also breach the deal represents a risk since it is not clear how Tehran will react at a time it is already close to being able to manufacture weapons-grade enriched uranium. The justification cited by EU and

British diplomats included Iran’s own breach of the accord, Iran’s alleged sale of drones to Russia for use in the Ukraine war, and the possible future transfers to Russia of Iran’s ballistic missiles. The head of the UN’s nuclear weapons inspectorate, Rafael Grossi, admitted last week that an agreement on monitoring the Iranian nuclear programme had become very limited and fragmented. Iranian MPs, on the other hand, have been objecting to the planned installation of about 10 security cameras in the centrifuge production workshop at a site in Isfahan. The EU sanctions are due to expire on 18 October under a UN resolution that enshrined the 2015 nuclear deal. The sanctions “called upon” Iran not to do anything to develop ballistic missiles that could carry nuclear weapons. They also barred anyone



France's President Emmanuel Macron (r) and Britain's Prime Minister Rishi Sunak take part in a round table in Paris, France, on March 10, 2023. **EMMANUEL DUNAND/REUTERS**

from buying, selling, or transferring drones and their components capable of flying more than 300 kilometers to or from Iran

without prior authorization from the UN Security Council, permission that has not been granted. Both Tehran and the US

state department have said no deal is imminent, but the negotiation has been clouded by the US special envoy Rob Malley

being suspended without pay by the state department over the possible mishandling of confidential information.

Intelligence Ministry hails Albania action on MKO



Albanian police forces clash with members of the MKO during a raid into the terrorist cult's Camp Ashraf-3 in Tirana, Albania, on June 20, 2023. **FOX NEWS**

International Desk

Iran’s Ministry of Intelligence praised the government of Albania for its recent action against the terrorist Mujahedeen Khalq Organization (MKO), noting that the Islamic Republic is seriously hunting hostile terrorists abroad. In a statement released on Sunday, the Iranian Ministry of Intelligence hailed the Albanian government’s recent

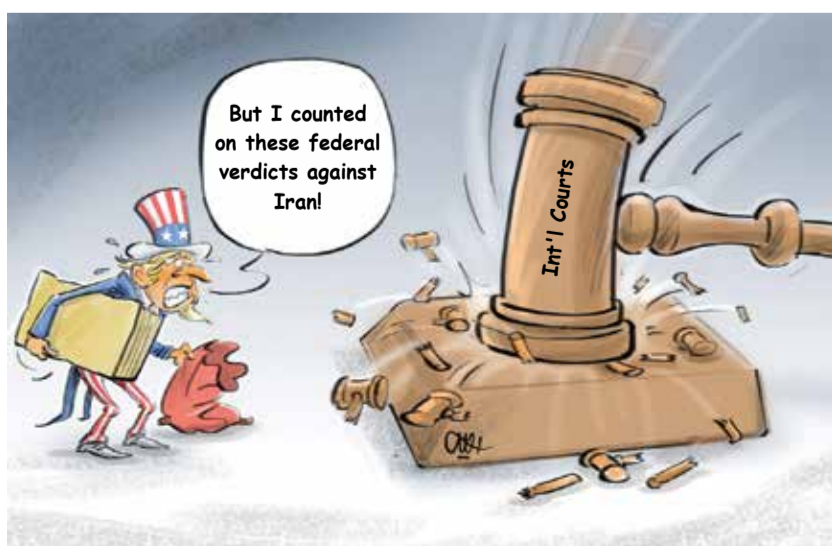
crackdown against MKO terrorists at their camp northwest of Tirana as a “step forward,” Tasnim news agency reported. In late June, Albanian police raided a camp hosting the MKO due to its engagement in “terror and cyberattacks” against foreign institutions. At least one MKO terrorist was killed and dozens of others were injured during the clashes at the camp, known as Ashraf-3, in the northwest of the capital Tirana. The statement cited authentic information as indicating that “under the direction and

pressures of the Zionist murderers, a series of notorious sponsors of terrorism in Europe and the US are seeking to give artificial respiration to and revive the terrorist MKO cult.” However, the ministry pointed out that just recently its forces have also carried out operations against MKO elements in different parts of Iran. The ministry gave assurance that it will proceed with tireless efforts to fully eradicate the terrorists that commit acts of sabotage against Iran as proxies for the Zionist regime, with the support of the enemies of Iran. The statement added that in its intelligence and security interactions with European intelligence services, Iran has given several warnings about the terrorist activities of the MKO from within

Western countries, particularly from their central camp in Albania. The anti-Iran group’s attempt at staging a rally in France in late June was foiled as the Paris police banned the event over security concerns. The decision later proved to be doubly wise as the French police were stretched thin by the nationwide rioting in the wake of the killing of a 17-year-old boy by an officer that saw hundreds arrested overnight, from Thursday to Friday. However, a week later, the Paris administrative court overruled the police ban, saying that it was “a serious and manifestly illegal attack” on the freedom of the terrorist cult to demonstrate. Mike Pence, former US vice president, who is now challenging his former boss Donald Trump

for the Republican nomination, attended the subsequent MKO demonstration. Trump’s former secretary of state, Mike Pompeo, another prominent supporter of the group, warned by video link against making any new deal with Tehran on its nuclear drive. MKO members spent many years in Iraq, where they were hosted and armed by the former Iraqi dictator Saddam Hussein. They sided with Saddam during the 1980–88 Iran-Iraq war, and then helped him quell domestic uprisings in various parts of the Arab country. More than 17,000 Iranians, many of them civilians, have been killed at the hands of the MKO in different acts of terrorism including bombings in public places and targeted killings.

Mohammad Ali Rajabi
Cartoonist



Iran issues advisory against France travel

Iran’s Foreign Ministry has issued a travel advisory for Iranian nationals to avoid making “unnecessary trips” to France amid persisting protests against police brutality across the European country over the police killing of a teenager. Nasser Kanaani, the Foreign Ministry spokesman, made the remark in the early hours of Sunday as he called on the French police to exercise restraint in handling the nationwide protests sparked by the murder of 17-year-old Nahel M. on June 27 in the

western Parisian suburb of Nanterre, Press TV wrote. “Just like in the past, we advise the French government and police to heed the demands of the protesters while exercising restraint and avoiding violence,” Kanaani said. Rioting across France was less intense overnight, the French Interior Ministry said on Sunday, as tens of thousands of police were deployed, Reuters reported. The government poured 45,000 police onto the streets to try to keep a lid on

a fifth night of unrest after Saturday’s funeral of Nahel, who was shot during a traffic stop on Tuesday in the Paris. Since then, rioters have torched cars and looted stores, but also targeted town halls, police stations, and schools — buildings that represent the French state. President Emmanuel Macron postponed a state visit to Germany that was due to have begun on Sunday to handle the worst crisis for his leadership since the “Yellow Vest” protests paralyzed much of France in late 2018.