

NEWS IN BRIEF

Iranian president to visit Africa next week

TASNIM – Iranian President Ebrahim Raeisi will start a three-nation tour of Africa on Tuesday. Heading a delegation, the Iranian president will embark on a tour of Kenya, Zimbabwe and Uganda.

Heatwave warning



IRNA – Iran's Meteorological Organization on Saturday issued a yellow level warning due to a drastic temperature rise. The southwest region faces temperatures exceeding 49 degrees until Friday. Additionally, the northern provinces including Tehran, Qazvin and Alborz will experience a significant temperature rise. This brings the risk of heatstroke, heightened energy consumption, fire hazards in pastures and fields, and potential damage to agriculture, animal husbandry, and bee breeding.

China to continue work on bringing JCPOA back on track



PRESS TV – China's Foreign Ministry said the country will continue its efforts to restore the US-abandoned 2015 nuclear agreement "at an early date." Speaking at a regular press conference on Friday, Foreign Ministry spokesman Wang Wenbin said the unilateral withdrawal of the US from the nuclear deal, formally known as the JCPOA, and its so-called "maximum pressure" campaign against Iran are the cruxes of the current situation vis-à-vis the agreement. The official said Beijing would safeguard the "authority and efficacy" of the UN Security Council Resolution 2231, which endorses the JCPOA. China will "promote the political and diplomatic resolution of the Iranian nuclear issue," the diplomat said.

Iran, Algeria agree on cancellation of political visas

National Desk

Iran and Algeria have agreed on the cancellation of political visas between the two countries, Iranian Foreign Minister Hossein Amir-Abdollahian said. Amir-Abdollahian met on Saturday with his visiting Algerian counterpart Ahmed Attaf, saying the relations between the two countries proceed on the right track. In a joint press conference after the meeting, the foreign minister said the two sides agreed on the cancellation of political visas as the first step, which will be followed by the cancellation of regular visas as the second step. Amir-Abdollahian met Attaf earlier in the day in Tehran, where the two

discussed the expansion of ties between Tehran and Algiers, among other issues of mutual interest. In the joint press conference, the chief Iranian diplomat said they agreed to enhance bilateral cooperation in the fields of science, technology, knowledge-based companies, agriculture, medicine and medical equipment, industry, and mining. He noted that the two sides agreed on holding a joint follow-up commission between Iran's first vice president and Algeria's prime minister, and the foreign ministries of both countries would be in charge of the follow-up. Iranian President Ebrahim Raeisi also met the Algerian official later in the day, when he emphasized the



will of the Islamic Republic to expand cooperation and improve the level of relations with "the brother country," IRNA reported. Referring to Iran's significant scientific and technological achievements and announcing his coun-

try's readiness to share the achievements with Algeria, Raeisi considered the strengthening of interactions between Muslim states as a basis for forming a strong group of Islamic-aligned countries.

"If other Islamic countries had the position that Iran and Algeria have in supporting Palestine, today we would not have witnessed many atrocities of the ruling system against Muslims in the region and the world," he said.



Iranian President Ebrahim Raeisi (R) meets Algerian Foreign Minister Ahmed Attaf in Tehran on July 8, 2023.

president.ir

ISA: Khayyam satellite starts monitoring, mapping land use changes



A Soyuz-2.1b rocket booster with the Iranian satellite "Khayyam" blasts off from the launch pad at the Baikonur Cosmodrome, Kazakhstan, on August 9, 2022, in this image taken from a video.

ROSCOSMOS

The spokesman for the Iranian Space Agency (ISA) said the country's Khayyam satellite has started remote sensing for monitoring and mapping land use changes. Hossein Daliriyan said on Saturday that the ISA and the Information Technology Organization of Iran (ITO) are exploring legal channels in order to prepare and present the first batch of satellite images to judicial authorities combating land expropriation, Press TV reported. He said a memorandum of understanding has already been signed between ISA and ITO after the latter requested more

accurate data and observation of land surface by means of the satellite to resolve legal disputes between ordinary citizens and state bodies. While data are being collected and analyzed under the agreement, the two organizations are exploring the necessary legal channels so as to arrive at favorable goals and provide the first batch of satellite images to help deal with various cases of land grab and monitor land use changes. "We are ready to offer the necessary data to other Iranian state agencies and help them solve problems in various fields, including environmental monitoring, water resources, soil erosion and land subsidence," Daliriyan added. The Khayyam satellite was launched into orbit from the Moscow-operated Baikonur Cosmodrome in Kazakhstan in August, marking the beginning of a "strategic" aerospace cooperation between Tehran and Moscow.

E3 on a lose-lose path with Iran

It appears that the Europeans have seized upon the allegation of military cooperation between Iran and Russia in the Ukraine war as a pretext to impede Iran's rights under the JCPOA and Resolution 2231. Simultaneously, they accuse Iran of violating Resolution 2231 and failing to fulfill its commitments under the JCPOA, while the primary factor contributing to the current state is the US unilateral withdrawal from the accord in 2018. Contrary to expectations, the Europeans either could not or chose not to honor their obligations under the JCPOA, leaving Iran without any substantial benefits from the nuclear agreement. Consequently, after one year, Tehran began reducing its commitments and announced that it would resume its JCPOA obligations once the US rejoins the agreement, or when the other parties uphold their commitments. Hence, the claim that Iran has completely withdrawn

from the JCPOA is inconsistent with the actual circumstances. It appears that the Europeans are primarily using concerns over military cooperation between Tehran and Moscow in relation to Ukraine as their main justification. However, it should be noted that Iran and Russia have been engaging in normal arms exchanges for some time now. Tehran has denied allegations of selling drones to Russia for use in Ukraine and has repeatedly stated that if Ukraine or the European nations possess evidence, Iran is willing to study it. Tehran consistently emphasizes its neutral stance in the Ukraine conflict and advocates for a resolution through dialogue. Based on these circumstances, the Europeans aim to deprive Iran of the removal of arms and missile restrictions outlined in Resolution 2231, using the pretext of military cooperation between Tehran and Russia. Such unproductive efforts will undoubtedly strain relations between

Iran and Europe, which is not in the best interest of any party involved. Europe's haste to implement this demand, which falls outside the scope of the JCPOA, will lead to a lose-lose situation for both Iran and Europe, despite the potential for mutually beneficial collaboration. Iran's diplomatic apparatus should take note that until October, when the Europeans plan to take steps to extend Iran's missile sanctions, more substantial discussions should be pursued with the European parties, directly within the European countries themselves. During the Security Council meeting, the United Nations Secretary-General Antonio Guterres and Amir-Saeid Iravani, Iran's ambassador to the UN, emphasized that the JCPOA remains the most effective means to address the differences between Iran and the West. This is the correct approach, and the parties involved should not miss this opportunity. As time goes by, the risk of interference from opponents of the JCPOA and the further widening of the gap between Iran and the JCPOA parties becomes increasingly likely.



Mohammad Ali Rajabi
Cartoonist



Assault on Zahedan police station leaves two policemen, four gunmen dead

National Desk

Four gunmen were killed in an attack on a police station in Zahedan, Sistan and Baluchestan Province, in southeastern Iran on Saturday. Four unidentified armed men attacked a police station in Zahedan, triggering deadly clashes with the officers, during which two policemen were killed. In a statement, the Quds Force of Iran's Islamic Revolution Guards Corps (IRGC) said "four terror-

ists" were involved in the attack, all of whom were killed in the operation. According to Tasnim news agency, the Jeish-ul-Adl terrorist group claimed responsibility for the attack. The terrorist group allegedly operates from across the border in Pakistan. The attack began after armed men used grenades to open their way into the police station. Ali Reza Marhamati, the province's deputy gover-

nor for security affairs, said that the attack began at 07:15 local time (03:45 GMT). Security forces managed to take control of the situation by their timely presence at the scene of the attack, IRIB quoted him as saying. A security official refused reports suggesting that the incident was a suicide attack. Earlier reports suggested that the attackers were wearing suicide vests and two of them have blown themselves up.