

NEWS IN BRIEF

Iraqi parties demand gov't settle Iran dues



AFP – The Coordination Framework, a coalition of Shia parties in Iraq's parliament, called on the government to pressure the United States to unlock pending payments to Tehran for crucial gas imports. Iraq, ravaged by decades of conflict and international sanctions, relies on gas imported from its eastern neighbor for a third of its energy needs.

But US sanctions on Iranian oil and gas impose restrictions on how Baghdad can pay for the imports. Iraq cannot directly hand over cash to Iran, but payments must be held in a bank account and be used by Tehran to fund imports of food and medicines.

Israeli war machine suffered another defeat in Jenin: Sprox



PRESS TV – Iran's Foreign Ministry spokesman has hailed the steely resistance of Palestinians in the face of the Israeli military's two-day military onslaught on the Jenin refugee camp, saying the occupying regime suffered a humiliating defeat in the battle.

In a tweet on Sunday, Nasser Kanaani wrote that the trail of destruction left behind in the Jenin camp marks a shameful moral failure for the supporters of the regime.

"The war machine of the criminal Israeli regime suffered a new historic defeat in the recent brutal onslaught on Jenin. Nonetheless, a much bigger defeat awaits the supporters of the regime," he said. Kanaani further underlined that the scale of destruction in the Jenin camp marks a flagrant violation of international law and constitutes a war crime. He also called on Palestinians to expose such level of aggression to the world so that the so-called advocates of human rights would become more disgraced.

Minister calls on Pakistan to tighten border security



National Desk

The Iranian Minister of Interior described the Saturday incident at the Zahedan police station as a terrorist act and urged "the neighboring government" – Pakistan – to bolster border security measures and exercise effective control over the borders.

On Saturday, the Pakistan-based Jeish-ul-Adl group claimed responsibility for the attack on the police station, triggering deadly clashes with the officers, during which two policemen and four gunmen were killed.

Without referring to Pakistan, Ahmad Vahidi said, "We expect the neighboring government to safeguard and manage our borders". He underlined that terrorist groups engaging in such activities should understand that they will not escape the scrutiny of the Iranian intelligence and law enforcement agencies, IRNA reported. Vahidi further emphasized that individuals crossing the borders illicitly would face appropriate measures by the authorities.

Raeisi urges closer ties as he receives new envoys' credentials

National Desk

Iranian President Ebrahim Raeisi on Sunday called for efforts to bolster relationships with the Philippines, Libya, Bangladesh, and India as he received credentials of new ambassadors of these countries in Tehran.

Raeisi separately held talks with Roberto G. Manalo, Juma Hassan Fazil, Manjural Karim Khan Chowdhury, and Rudra Gaurav Shresth, the new envoys of the Philippines, Libya, Bangladesh, and India respectively, his website president.ir reported.

He said serious efforts needed to be made to galvanize mutual capacities to cement bilateral relations in all areas, especially trade and economy.

The ambassadors also highlighted their resolve in pursuing assigned missions in encouraging greater cooperation.



Iranian President Ebrahim Raeisi (L) receives credentials of India's new ambassador, Rudra Gaurav Shresth, in Tehran on July 9, 2023. president.ir

SCO, a new gate has opened for Iran



EXCLUSIVE

Since last Tuesday, there has been considerable discussion and analyses surrounding Iran's official and permanent membership in the Shanghai Cooperation Organization (SCO), which was marked by the hoisting of the Islamic Republic of Iran's flag and the playing of its national anthem in front of the SCO's General Secretariat building.

During the online meeting of SCO heads on Tuesday, Iran was formally admitted as the ninth permanent member of the organization. The SCO, which includes influential countries such as China, Russia, and India among its permanent members, is seen as a significant regional platform for Iran. By joining the SCO,

Iran aims to solidify its regional standing and use the political and economic capabilities of member states to mitigate the pressure it faces from the West and the US sanctions.

Iran's inclusion in this organization effectively exposes the futile attempts to isolate it, demonstrating that such efforts were mere illusions. According to Bloomberg, Iran's membership in the SCO marks another step toward ending its global isolation, as it establishes warmer relations with China and Russia. The Israeli newspaper Jerusalem Post has labeled Iran's entry into the SCO as a threat to the West. While the newspaper attempted to highlight Iran's security

and military cooperation with China, Russia, and India within the SCO, aligning with its consistent "Iranophobia" stance, it acknowledges that Iran's membership in the organization also brings about economic and diplomatic benefits for Tehran. Therefore, the SCO's expansion to include Iran poses concerns and challenges for the West. Mohammad-Reza Forqani, a former diplomat and expert on Central Asian affairs, shared his views on Iran's permanent membership in the SCO in an interview with Iran Daily.

Forqani regarded the concerns expressed by Western countries, Israel, and the media as an indication of the West's futile attempts to politically and economically isolate Iran. "The West and Israel are concerned because Iran's collaboration with SCO member countries offers Tehran avenues to weaken sanctions and mitigate their detrimental impact," he stated. According to the former Iranian ambassador to Turkmenistan, the SCO member states are currently engaged in consultations to devise and establish a

new currency as a common currency within the organization. This new currency would replace the US dollar in commercial transactions. This development holds significance not only for Iran but also for other countries under Western sanctions, as it would contribute to the erosion of the dollar's dominance.

The Jerusalem Post also highlighted this aspect as a concern in its report. Referring to Iran's proposal to introduce a common currency for member states of the SCO, the Israeli newspaper stated that, if realized, this plan would facilitate trade between Iran and other SCO countries, reducing the reliance on the US dollar and undermining the United States' control over the global financial system. Forqani underlined the economic significance of being part of this regional body. He emphasized that the member countries of the SCO offer Iran access to a vast market, which becomes crucial considering the difficulty Iran faces in obtaining certain goods due to sanctions.

He specifically pointed out

technologically advanced nations like China and Russia, stating that they can fulfill Iran's needs and contribute to the strategy of neutralizing sanctions.

Moreover, the former envoy underscored the potential of the SCO market as a favorable destination for Iranian goods. Central Asian countries, Russia and China are already customers of certain Iranian products, and exporting goods to these countries serves as a valuable source of currency for Tehran. By engaging in economic and commercial cooperation with SCO member states, Iran can reduce its reliance on trade with the West, thus diversifying its trade partnerships. Forqani, who previously served as Iran's chargé d'affaires in Afghanistan and Tajikistan, stressed that the presence of powerful countries such as China, Russia, and India within the SCO enhances the importance and role of both the organization itself and Iran's membership. This significance extends to various aspects, including security, politics, and economics, ultimately proving beneficial for Tehran.



Mohammad Ali Rajabi
Cartoonist



Iran denounces US ...

Russia vehemently condemned the US decision to provide Ukraine with advanced cluster bombs and insisted that "the current level of American provocations is really off scale, bringing humanity closer to a new world war." Several allies of the US have expressed unease at Washington's decision.

The UK, Canada, New Zealand and Spain all said they were opposed to the use of the weapons. Cluster bombs have been banned by more than 100 countries because of the danger they pose to civil-



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ians. They typically release smaller bomblets that can kill indiscriminately over a wide area. The munitions have also caused controversy over their failure - or dud - rate. Unexploded bomblets can linger on the ground for

years and then indiscriminately detonate. The decision was quickly criticized by human rights groups, with Amnesty International saying cluster munitions pose "a grave threat to civilian lives, even long after the conflict has ended".