

NEWS IN BRIEF

Russia reaffirms Iran's sovereignty over isles

IRNA - Russia reaffirmed its respect for Iran's sovereignty over three Persian Gulf islands of the Greater Tunb, the Lesser Tunb, and Abu Musa following Tehran's protest over its stance on the issue during a joint conference with some Arab countries.

During a meeting with the Iranian Ambassador to Moscow Kazem Jalali, Mikhail Bogdanov, the Russian president's special representative for the Middle East, underscored his country's firm stance toward Iran as a friendly country.

Iraqi officials: Iran barter deal doesn't violate sanctions

AP - Iraqi officials defended a deal inked to barter oil for gas with Iran, saying that the deal does not violate US sanctions on Tehran and that it will help alleviate a worsening electricity crisis in Iraq.

A previous arrangement, in which Iraq was buying gas from Iran and paying dollars for it, was held up because Washington declined to approve sanctions waivers. That, in turn, led Iran to cut the gas supply, triggering severe power shortages in Iraq.

Iranian border guards injured in blast

IRNA - At least four Iranian border guards were injured after their car was hit by an explosive device in the southeastern city of Mirjaveh in Sistan and Baluchestan Province near the Pakistan border.

One of the victims is in critical condition. No group has yet claimed responsibility for the explosion.

Chinese envoy: Tehran-Riyadh thaw sets example for settling disputes

Beijing supports Iran's BRICS membership

International Desk

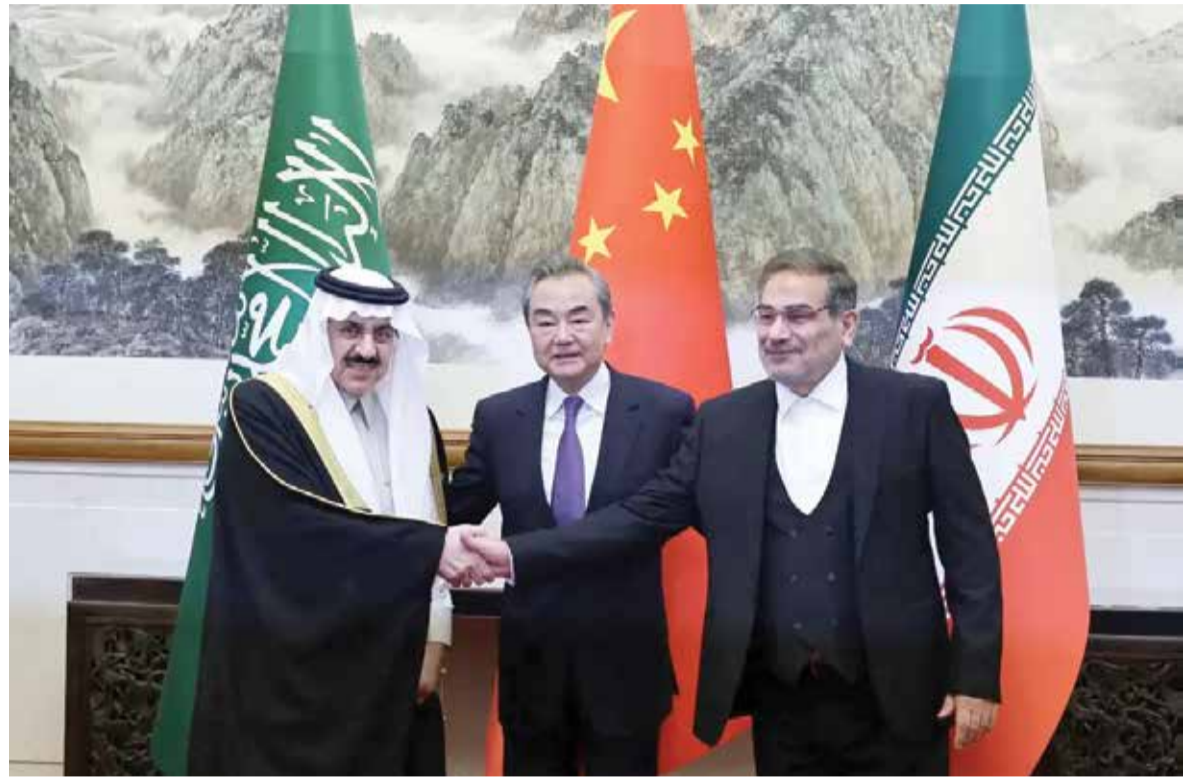
Chinese ambassador to Tehran described a recent Beijing-brokered rapprochement between Iran and Saudi Arabia as a successful effort at holding dialogue for resolving disputes.

In an interview with ISNA, Chang Hua referred to an initiative on global security proposed by the Chinese president, saying that the restoration of relations between Tehran and Riyadh is a successful example of this global security initiative.

He said that China is committed to enhancing regional peace and stability through the initiative.

"China maintains positive relationships with all countries in the region. Last year, Chinese President Xi Jinping visited Saudi Arabia, and earlier this year, Iran's president also visited China," Chang Hua said.

"The presidents of Iran, China, and Saudi Arabia engaged in discussions on regional peace and security. Both Iran and Saudi



Arabia expressed their commitment to restoring bilateral relations and ensuring peace and stability in the region, a stance that China welcomes," he said. Back in March, Beijing successfully mediated

talks between Tehran and Riyadh that led to the Persian Gulf littoral states' signing of a deal enabling the restoration of their diplomatic ties.

The Chinese diplomat also said Beijing sup-

ports Iran's membership in the BRICS nations group.

When asked if China will continue to support Iran's membership in organizations such as the Shanghai Cooperation Organization,

the Chinese diplomat specifically said that China certainly supports Iran's membership in the BRICS organization. Although, the consent of other member states is necessary for the membership.

Baqeri urges enhanced security cooperation with Pakistan



● IRNA

Chief of Staff of the Iranian Armed Forces Major General Mohammad Baqeri said Iran and Pakistan should enhance military relations and boost joint defense-security cooperation in the region.

Baqeri was meeting on Saturday with Pakistan's Chief of

the Army General Asim Munir, who is in Tehran at the head of a high-ranking delegation, Press TV reported.

The top Iranian general said the records show the two neighboring countries can count on the improvement of cooperation in various fields.

Over the recent years, Tehran and Islamabad have been working towards enhancing relations, bilateral economic ties, and mutual efforts aimed at combating terrorism in the areas that straddle the border.

On July 9, four armed terrorists and two Iranian police officers were killed in an attack on a police station in the city of Zahedan, the capital of Iran's southeastern province of Sistan and Baluchestan. Sistan and Baluchestan borders Pakistan and Afghanistan. It has been the scene of several terrorist attacks against civilians and security forces in recent years.



Mohammad Ali Rajabi
Cartoonist



The significance of ...



● AFP

Vietnam has been successfully integrated with legal

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works. The country is a member of the World Trade Organization (WTO) and a signatory of most major worldwide intellectual property protection conventions, protocols, and agreements.

However, Vietnam's rapid economic growth is putting pressure on its energy sources, especially since there have been power outage problems for businesses nationwide.

The Ukraine conflict and subsequent sanctions on Russia have made many countries — especially in Europe — seek alternative energy sources, leading to an increase in the price of coal and other energy sources. This particularly makes things harder for Vietnam as almost 53% of its electricity is supplied by burning coal. Its other major sources of electricity-generating power are hydro (consisting of

26%), natural gas (26%), and non-hydro renewable (around 5%). This hunger for energy sources can be satisfied by importing natural gas, particularly in the form of Liquefied Natural Gas (LNG).

Vietnamese government plans to import LNG in the southern part of the country to help fulfill the rising demand for gas, particularly in the power sector. PetroVietnam (PV) Gas, a subsidiary of PetroVietnam, is developing the 67 Bcf/y-Thi Vai LNG terminal in the Vung Tau province in southern Vietnam. This terminal is scheduled to serve industrial and power consumers in the nearby area. A second terminal, Son My LNG, is planned to be built in several phases, with the first phase having a capacity of 86 Bcf/y. Son My LNG is intended to serve a new gas-fired power project in southern Vietnam. The Vietnamese government expects both terminals to come online in 2023.

This provides a great opportunity for countries that like to expand energy cooperation with Vietnam, especially by offering better delivery and competitive prices in the market. Although Vietnam still satisfies almost half of the country's energy need with coal, the current rising cost of coal and the global concerns over carbon emissions, greenhouse gasses accumulation, acid rains, and several other serious negative environmental impacts of burning coals seem to encourage the country to import more natural gas to replace coal. The latter may seem cheaper, but the long-term health impacts on Vietnam and the neighboring countries, combined with attractive terms, will eventually lead coal-burning countries to balance growth rate with burning high-emission fuels like coal and go toward increasing importation of natural gas.