

## NEWS IN BRIEF

## MP warns of high UV index in Tehran



**TASNIM** – An Iranian parliamentarian has warned that the ultraviolet (UV) radiation index has reached a critical state in Iran's capital, Tehran, urging people to take the necessary safety measures to protect themselves from the sun's rays.

Referring to the increase in air temperature in the capital, Somayeh Rafiei called on people to seriously avoid exposure to direct sunlight from 8:00 am to 5:00 pm, while using protective equipment such as sunscreen lotion and sunglasses, and not use open-air swimming pools.

## Kuwait FM invited to Iran over gas field dispute



**AFP** – Kuwait's top diplomat has been invited to visit Iran, Kuwait's official KUNA news agency said, amid a dispute over a gas field between Iran, Kuwait and Saudi Arabia.

The dispute over the field – known as Arash in Iran and Dorra in Kuwait and Saudi Arabia – dates back to the 1960s, when Iran and Kuwait were given overlapping offshore concessions. Last year, Kuwait and Saudi Arabia signed an agreement to develop the field despite objections from Iran, which said in July that it was preparing to start drilling there.

## Raeisi invites UAE president to visit Tehran



**TASNIM** – Iranian President Ebrahim Raeisi has officially invited United Arab Emirates President Mohammed bin Zayed Al Nahyan to visit Tehran in the near future.

In April, Iran appointed an ambassador to the UAE for the first time since 2016 amid a realignment of relations between Persian Gulf Arab states and Iran.

## IRGC holds drills in Persian Gulf in defense of triple islands



IRNA

Iran's Islamic Revolution Guards Corps (IRGC) Navy launched drills to show its power and combat defense readiness in protecting the security of the Persian Gulf as well as the country's islands.

The exercises kicked off in Abu Musa Island on Wednesday with the presence of local authorities as well as a group of military commanders and officials, including IRGC Chief Commander Major General Hossein Salami and IRGC Navy

Commander Rear Admiral Ali-Reza Tangsiri.

It involves operational combat, vessel, missile, drone, air-sea, electronic warfare and rapid response units, along with Basij volunteer forces, Press TV reported.

Brigadier General Ali Ozmaei, commander of Imam Muhammad Baqir operational base of the IRGC Navy, said that the vessels of Martyr Hojaji Special Unit, equipped with missiles with a range of 600

kilometers, were present in the drills to defend the island's territory.

In addition to missile- and rocket-launching vessels, helicopters and aircraft took part in the maneuvers, during which 50 paratroopers successfully performed a heliborne operation, he noted.

"One of the important features of the drills was the use of drones and unmanned vessels that were upgraded through artificial intelligence," the com-

mander said.

"Another feature of the exercises was the transfer of troops from the mainland to Abu Musa Island and the Greater Tunb in less than 15 minutes using helicopters and airplanes." He further warned that trans-regional countries have no place in the Persian Gulf and that they should leave the region.

Qadir, Fath missiles unveiled

During the drills, the Qadir cruise missile system and the Fath ballistic missile were unveiled and added to the IRGC naval fleet.

Addressing the event, General Salami said his forces always strive for the security and peace of the country. He also said the Iranian nation gives decisive responses to all threats and seditions against the country. For his part, Rear Admiral Tangsiri said that the Persian Gulf belongs to all regional countries, and his

forces will spare no effort to protect Iran's territorial integrity.

"The Persian Gulf islands are a sparkling jewel that will shine forever on the water and soil of our Islamic homeland," he said of the three islands of Abu Musa, the Greater and Lesser Tunbs, whose ownership has been disputed by the United Arab Emirates.

He said the security of the Persian Gulf region is the common interest of all Persian Gulf countries.

## Albania court places entry ban on MKO ringleader

An Albanian court has reportedly placed an entry ban on the ringleader of the anti-Iran terrorist cult Mujahedin Khalq Organization (MKO), which has murdered tens of thousands of Iranian nationals.

In a ruling issued earlier this week but made public on Thursday, Albania's Special Court on Corruption and Organized Crime ordered state authorities to prevent Maraym Rajavi from entering the country, Tasnim news agency reported.

Informed sources, speaking on condition of anonymity, said the verdict came after Albanian officials examined available pieces of evidence and concluded that the MKO was using the country to organize anti-Iran terrorist attacks.

According to Tasnim,

Rajavi fled the Ashraf-3 camp in the country's western town of Manëz to France after Albanian police forces raided the site on June 20 due to its engagement in "terror and cyberattacks" against foreign institutions. Authorities seized 150 computer devices linked to terrorist activities.

At least one person was killed and dozens of others were injured during the clashes at the camp. More than a week later, the police entered the camp again and security forces were deployed at the entrance to the camp to control all vehicles leaving the site.

Albania's Prime Minister Edi Rama later said the MKO must leave the country if it wants to use Albanian soil to fight against Iran, adding that

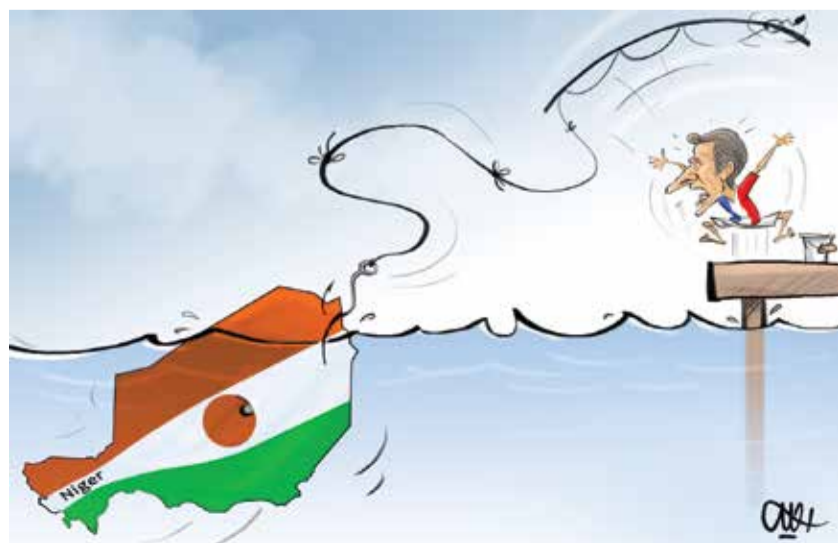
his country has no intention of being at war with Iran and "does not accept anyone who has abused our hospitality."

The MKO has carried out numerous terrorist attacks against Iranian civilians and government officials since the victory of the Islamic Revolution in 1979. Out of the nearly 17,000 Iranians killed in terrorist attacks over the past four decades, about 12,000 have fallen victim to the MKO's acts of terror.

The European Union, Canada, the United States and Japan had previously listed the MKO as a "terrorist organization." In 2012, the group was taken off the US list of terrorist organizations. The EU followed suit, removing the group from its list of terrorist organizations.



Mohammad Ali Rajabi  
Cartoonist



## Iranian FM in Pakistan ...



The Iranian FM noted that his meeting is aimed at facilitating

**Page 1** > the implementation of 190 documents already signed between Iran and Pakistan and reaching a sustainable and long-term cooperation deal. His Pakistani counterpart, Bilawal Bhutto Zardari, for his part, called for the formation of a strategic committee to follow up on agreements on the expansion of cooperation, including those in the commercial and defense fields.

The emphasis of the foreign ministers on defense and security is not without cause. The border between Pakistan and Iran is 909 kilometers long. Pakistan's border province of Baluchistan has been in turmoil for a long time, and the enemies of both countries use Pakistan's land, especially in that province, for their terrorist activities. Similarly, Pakistan has claimed that evil elements have been present in Iran's border province of Sistan and Baluchistan for a few years. However, it

is surprisingly not clear who is preventing the conclusion of a border security agreement between Pakistan and Iran. Since the growing trade between the two countries will suffer greatly from a compromise in border security, the Iranian top diplomat will pay special attention to border security during his visit to Pakistan.

It should be noted that Amir-Abdollahian is the foreign minister of a country that has helped Islamabad in its most difficult economic times by allowing Pakistan to reap the benefits of trading in its local currency. Now, Pakistan is suffering from a severe energy crisis, which can be alleviated with the aid of Iran. This shines a new light on the meeting of the Iranian FM held with Pakistani businessmen and investors in Karachi on Friday. Karachi is the center of economic activity in Pakistan, and this fact has surely not escaped the eyes of Iranian top officials.

A quick examination of the political situation in the region reveals that Pakistan's leader has

gone to great lengths to maintain its friendship with the United States even though it has put the country's security at stake. The US has been sidelining Pakistan and trying to cement its friendship with India and the Taliban in Afghanistan for some time now.

Islamabad can take advantage of this opportunity and get more trade concessions from its neighboring country so that the Pakistanis who got hit by the inflation can get some relief. Hopefully, Tehran and Islamabad will be able to take their relations in a positive direction.

Iranian officials should cultivate a stronger relationship with Pakistan's private sector as it can help boost Iran's development. It is usually enough for traders and investors to keep their pockets stuffed with money, and this is no different for Pakistanis, but they should help Tehran recognize that Iran is in fierce competition with developed countries in various fields and every little edge counts.