

NEWS IN BRIEF

'Unilateralism taking last breaths'

PRESS TV – Iran's deputy foreign minister for political affairs said more and more countries are joining multilateral international organizations, like the Shanghai Cooperation Organization, as a result of the declining influence of unilateralism. During a meeting with his Russian counterpart Sergey Ryabkov on Monday, Ali Bagheri-Kani highlighted the growing global trend of joining international economic mechanisms belonging to the multilateralism front, including the SCO and the BRICS group. "This is the outcome of the waning of international mechanisms belonging to the unilateralism front," he argued.

Iran-Russia military cooperation to continue: Ryabkov

MEHR – Deputy Russian foreign minister said that the military cooperation between Iran and Russia will continue despite the enemies' opposition, adding that Russia is committed to cooperation with friendly countries like Iran. Speaking to journalists on the sidelines of the high-level conference dubbed "Iran and BRICS" on Tuesday, Sergey Ryabkov said that the "legitimate" and "very substantial" cooperation between Iran and Russia will continue despite all attempts by enemies of Iran and Russia to disrupt and derail that cooperation.

Iran hosts conference ...

Also speaking at the Tehran conference, Anil Sooklal, South Africa's ambassador-at-large for Asia and BRICS, noted that BRICS was formed to promote international cooperation.

"We want to work for the Global South and the good of humanity."

The BRICS group of fast-developing economies — Brazil, Russia, India, China, and South Africa — is often seen as an alternative to Western economic and political hegemony. It accounts for 42% of the global population and about 26% of the world's economy, according to the South Africa-based Institute for Security Studies.

Iran is among dozens of countries that seek membership in BRICS, and has submitted a formal application to join the body.

E Asia key part of Iran's foreign policy

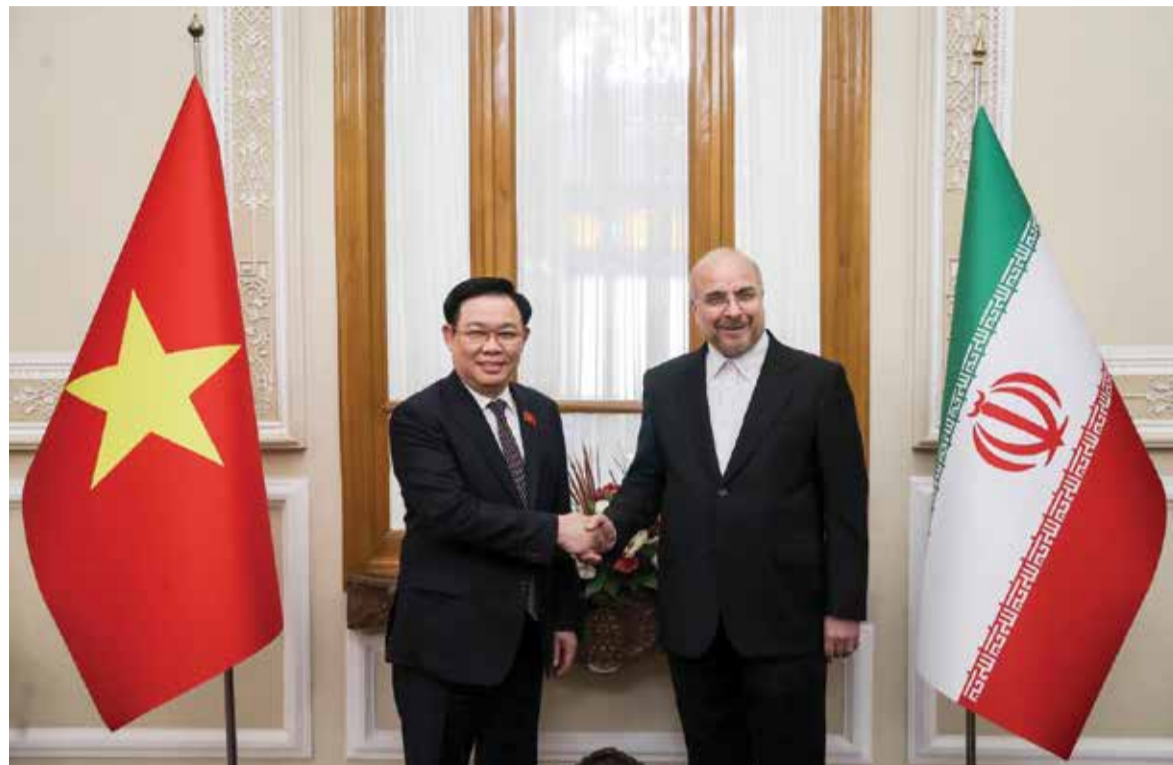
Iran, Vietnam stress parliamentary diplomacy

National Desk

Iranian Parliament Speaker Mohammad Baqer Qalibaf has emphasized on paying special attention to East Asia as his country's foreign policy priority, highlighting the efficacy of parliamentary diplomacy as a basis for enhancing ties with Vietnam in the regional and international arena.

During a Tuesday meeting with his Vietnamese counterpart Vuong Dinh Hue in Tehran, Qalibaf expressed satisfaction with hosting the Vietnamese delegation on the occasion of the 50th anniversary of the establishment of diplomatic relations between Iran and Vietnam, IRNA reported.

He noted that parliamentary diplomacy has played a crucial role in advancing these relations in recent years. Upon an invitation extended by his Iranian counterpart, Vietnam's National Assembly chairman began his three-day visit to Iran on Tuesday. Addressing a joint press conference, Qalibaf hailed the visit by Vietnamese delegates as a groundbreaking moment, marking the first-ever visit by the Vietnamese National



Iranian Parliament Speaker Mohammad Baqer Qalibaf (r) shakes hands with his Vietnamese counterpart, Vuong Dinh Hue, in Tehran, Iran, on August 8, 2023.
● HAMED MALEKPOUR/ICANA

Assembly chairman to Iran. He also highlighted the shared history of both nations in opposing oppression and tyranny. In line with his vision of strengthening ties, the Iranian Parliament speaker suggested streamlining visa issuance procedures between Iran and Vietnam to facilitate easy travel, particularly for ac-

ademic and trade-related purposes. The speaker also advocated for the establishment of direct air connectivity between Tehran and Hanoi, which could further catalyze the bilateral relationship. In the press conference, the Vietnamese chairman reciprocated the sentiments, saying his country recognizes Iran's import-

ant role in the region. He also emphasized the increase in the volume of trade between Iran and Vietnam to two billion dollars, stating that with the signing of agreements and documents of cooperation between the two sides, the level of relations will be improved, ISNA reported. Hue expressed hope that the visit could expand eco-

nomics and trade cooperation. He also emphasized the potential for economic collaboration and investment between Iran and Vietnam. Referring to the sister city agreement between Tehran and Hanoi, he emphasized the need to explore various strategies to enhance cooperation between Iran and Vietnam.

Raeisi lauds journalists for countering enemy's propaganda

● president.ir

Iran's President Ebrahim Raeisi has thanked the country's journalists for countering the enemy's propaganda and misinformation campaigns. "I sincerely thank you for the many efforts that you

made in different conditions... to be able to confront the enemy's media campaigns that aim to distort the truth," Raeisi said in the closing ceremony of the 21st Iran's National Media Festival on Tuesday,

which marks the National Reporter's Day, Press TV reported. He stressed that confidence building is one of the most important characteristics of a journalist. "The enemy's goal is to weaken hope and faith in the hearts of the people. These are the two basic principles that the Leader of the [Islamic] Revolution [Ayatollah Seyyed Ali Khamenei] emphasizes." Raeisi stated that the enemy's propaganda aims to disappoint people, adding that media workers play an important role in "creating hope." Iran marks the National Reporter's Day, which

commemorates the death anniversary of a journalist and eight Iranian diplomats who lost their lives in a terrorist attack in Afghanistan, on the 17th day of the Persian calendar month of Mordad, which falls on Tuesday this year. The nine Iranian citizens were killed after Taliban militants entered the Afghan city of Mazar-i-Sharif in 1998 in an incident that sparked worldwide condemnations.

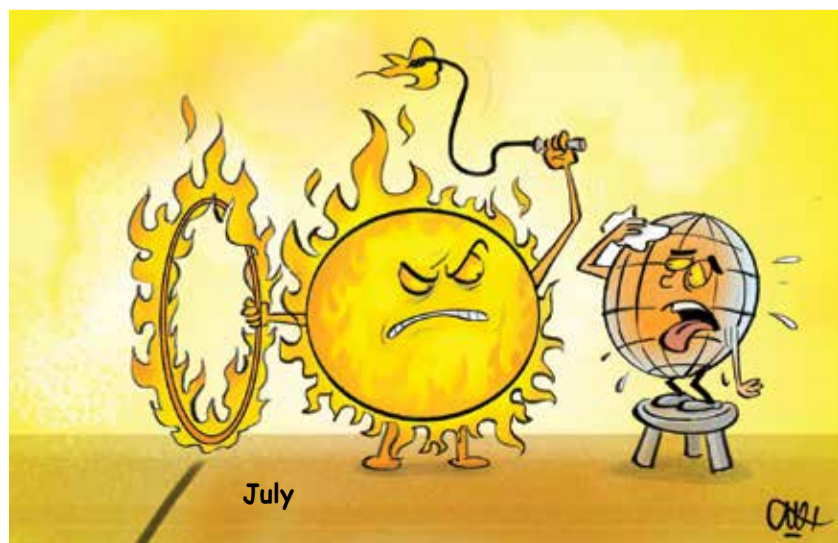
Iran making headway Elsewhere in his remarks, President Raeisi said Iran is experiencing growth in various sectors, especially science, and technology,

in spite of all the threats, sanctions, and hardships the enemy has inflicted on the nation. He also reiterated Iran's position on multilateral negotiations to revive the Iran nuclear deal, saying Iran has the upper hand as a country that never left the deal or the talks to revive it after the United States unilaterally withdrew. However, he continued, "We have not trusted them (the US) whatsoever and will never trust them." Iran and six major world powers signed the nuclear deal, officially called the Joint Comprehensive Plan of Action (JCPOA), in 2015 to put an end to the commo-

tion created over the country's nuclear activities. The US, however, abandoned the JCPOA in 2018 despite Tehran's full compliance with its nuclear obligations, reinstating the sanctions the deal had lifted. Multilateral diplomatic endeavors, which began in April 2021, have so far failed to revive the deal. Raeisi, meanwhile, made clear that his administration is pursuing a policy of "neutralizing" the sanctions while attending the talks aimed at lifting them. "We're reaching for that end with all our might because we've seen their breaches of promises," he added.



Mohammad Ali Rajabi
Cartoonist

**IRGC: Iran will respond in kind to any US action, mischief in region**

Iran's Islamic Revolution Guards Corps (IRGC) has warned the United States against any act of mischief in the region, including the seizure of ships. "Iran has reached such a high degree of power and capability that it can respond in kind to any US action and mischief [in the region], including the seizure of ships," the IRGC's spokesman Brigadier General Ramezan Sharif said on Monday, according to Press TV. He added that regional countries have "correctly under-

stood that Iran is turning into a big power in the region." The IRGC's spokesman added, "In any direct battle between Iran and the United States during recent years, regional countries have seen the weakness of America and the power of the Islamic Republic, and have understood that the security of the Persian Gulf must be established by its own littoral states." Sharif's remarks came after the US Naval Forces Central Command (CENTCOM) announced on Monday that the US Navy has deployed more

than 3,000 sailors and Marine forces to West Asia under the pretext of protecting ships and vessels crossing the main waterways in the strategic region. It added that the forces from the Bataon Amphibious Ready Group (ARG) and 26th Marine Expeditionary Unit (MEU) have arrived in West Asia. The move was made after US Navy accused Iran of "attacking, seizing or attempting to seize" nearly 20 internationally flagged merchant vessels in the region over the past two years.