

## NEWS IN BRIEF

**Holy Qur'an desecrated again in Sweden**

**TASNIM** – A copy of the Qur'an was desecrated again in Sweden's capital on Monday as two men kicked and burned portions of the Muslim holy book. The incident, which took place near the Royal Palace, unfolded with a substantial police presence. Following the desecration, under police escort, the two men left the area.

**Albania imposes exit ban on MKO terrorist ringleader**

**MEHR** – In continuation of the Albanian government's restrictions on the Mujahedeen Khalq Organization (MKO) terrorist cult, it was announced on Tuesday that the group's chieftain has been banned from leaving the country. After the media reported a few days ago that Maryam Rajavi was banned from entering Albania, where the camp of the terrorist MKO is located, the media cited informed security sources on Tuesday that the MKO chieftain is also banned from leaving Albania if she enters the country. Rajavi, who has a record of entering Albania from unofficial borders, has now faced an exit ban.

**London should 'admit role' in 1953 coup**

Iran's ousted Shah Mohammad Reza Pahlavi (R) and David Owen

**THE GUARDIAN** – David Owen, a former British foreign secretary, said the UK should finally acknowledge its leading role in the 1953 coup that toppled the democratically-elected government of Iranian Prime Minister Mohammad Mosaddeq. The US formally admitted its role 10 years ago with the declassification of a large volume of intelligence documents, which made clear that the ousting of Mosaddeq 70 years ago this week was a joint CIA-MI6 endeavour.

Strong global condemnations pour in

**Shiraz terror attack takes another life**

People help the medical staff rush an individual injured during the terrorist attack on Shah Cheragh Shrine in Shiraz, southern Iran, to hospital on August 13, 2023.

**International Desk**

The death toll from Sunday's terrorist attack on Shah Cheragh Shrine in the southern Iranian city of Shiraz has risen to two, as a man who was critically injured during the attack has succumbed to his gunshot wounds.

Chief Justice of Fars Province Kazem Mousavi said on Monday that the man,

who was in critical condition, passed away earlier in the day, according to Press TV.

On Sunday night, a terrorist went on a shooting spree in the holy shrine in Shiraz, killing one and injuring 10 people.

Early on Monday morning, Mousavi said several suspects linked to the incident had been arrested, adding that they are all of foreign

origins.

He added that the main terrorist, who started shooting at people in the shrine and was immediately arrested, has been handed over to investigators for further interrogation.

Iranian President Ebrahim Raeisi on Sunday ordered Interior Minister Ahmad Vahidi and Governor of Fars Province Mohammad Hadi Imaniyeh to swiftly identify

and punish the perpetrators of the terrorist attack.

**World continues to condemn**

Reacting to the terrorist act on Monday, Secretary General of the United Nations António Guterres strongly condemned the Sunday attack on the holy site, which was the second of its kind in the last 10 months, his spokesman told reporters. "Acts targeting religious sites, [and] places of worship are abhorrent," Stéphane Dujarric said.

The UN chief emphasized that the perpetrators of the criminal act against civilians, who were exercising their right to practice their religion freely, should be brought to justice.

According to the spokesman, Guterres conveyed his "deepest" condolences to the bereaved families and the Iranian people, wishing a speedy recovery for those injured.

In another development also on Monday, the lead spokesperson for the external affairs of the European Union, Peter Stano, strongly condemned the terrorist attack at the Shah Cheragh holy Shrine in Shiraz.

"The attack, claimed by #Daesh, is yet another example of terrorists targeting innocent civilians," Stano said in a post on X social media platform, formerly known as Twitter.

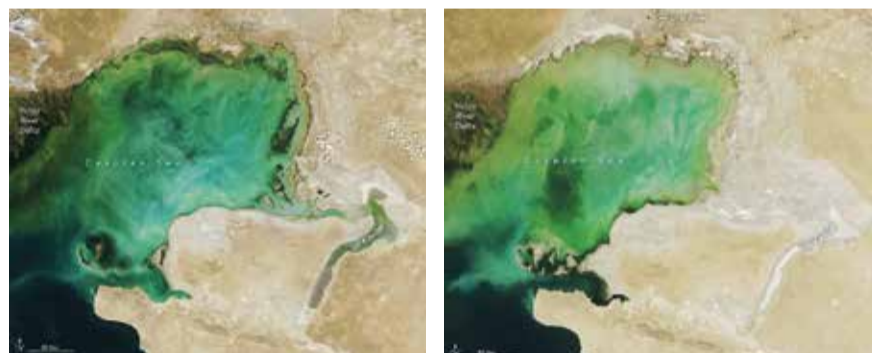
He also expressed the EU's condolences to the families of the victims.

Meanwhile, France's Foreign Ministry posted an online message in English on X social media platform in condemnation of the terrorist attack "on a religious shrine" in the Iranian city of Shiraz, which had experienced a similar attack on October 26, 2022.

Secretary General of the Lebanese Hezbollah resistance movement condemned the terrorist attack on Shah Cheragh Holy Shrine in Shiraz, blaming the US.

"It seems that there is an American decision to unleash the terrorists again in many regions," the secretary general said in a televised speech on Monday, IRNA wrote.

Countries of the region including the UAE, Oman, Qatar, Bahrain, Iraq, Kuwait, Syria, and Azerbaijan have also condemned the deadly Sunday terrorist attack in separate statements.

**Iran warns about dropping of Caspian Sea's water level**

Satellite images of the Caspian Sea in 2006 (L) and 2022, showing the dropping of its water level

Iran's mission to the UN office in Geneva has warned about the dropping of the

Caspian Sea's water level. In a post on X, the Permanent Mission of Iran to the

United Nations Office in Geneva cautioned against the shrinking coastline of the

Caspian Sea.

"August 12 is celebrated in Azerbaijan Republic, Iran, Kazakhstan, Russia and Turkmenistan as Caspian Sea Day," the mission said. "On this day the Framework Convention for the Protection of the Marine Environment of the Caspian Sea 'Tehran Convention' entered into force," it added.

Iran's ambassador to Azerbaijan has also warned that the Caspian Sea's ever-decreasing water level has put it at risk of an environmental disaster.

In an online post on X on Saturday on the occasion of

the International Day of the Caspian Sea, Abbas Mousavi urged the littoral states to figure out a solution before it is too late.

August 12 is the day of the Caspian Sea, which, unfortunately, faces the serious risk of water loss and an environmental catastrophe in the future, the Iranian ambassador said.

On Saturday, the Iranian Space Agency (ISA) confirmed a significant decline in the water level of the Caspian Sea over the past years.

ISA studies based on satellite images over a period

of about 10 years demonstrate that during the said period, not least the past 24 months, the northern part of the Caspian Sea has seen an advancement of the coastline due to diminishing water levels.

According to the agency, the southern part of the Caspian Sea, bordering the Iranian territories, remains little changed probably due to the slope or depth of the sea in that section.

Measured by surface area, the Caspian Sea is the world's largest inland water body, spanning about 371,000 square kilometers.



Mohammad Ali Rajabi  
Cartoonist

**China strengthens military ...**

The announcement came during Li's address at the 11th International Security Conference in Moscow, The Rio Times reported.

Li emphasized China's commitment to diplomatic conflict resolutions: "We are devoted to fostering peace talks and facilitating a broader international consensus to address issues, whether in Afghanistan, Syria, the Korean Peninsula, Ukraine, or regarding Iran's nuclear situation." Founded in 2001, the SCO

comprises nations such as Russia, China, Iran, Kazakhstan, Tajikistan, Kyrgyzstan, Uzbekistan, India, and Pakistan.

It was announced at the summit of the SCO Council of Heads of State that was held virtually in India in July that Iran joined the group. Also, Belarus signed a memorandum of commitment, which set off the procedure for acquiring full membership in the organization.

After the Moscow conference, Li will visit Russia and Belarus. During

his Belarus visit, he will engage in discussions with Belarusian national and military leaders and inspect some of the nation's military units, as conveyed by Wu Qian, the spokesperson for China's Defense Ministry.

In a recent joint statement following a Kremlin meeting between Russian President Vladimir Putin and Chinese President Xi Jinping, both nations affirmed their intent to bolster military cooperation, highlighting mutual trust enhancement amongst their armed forces.