

NEWS IN BRIEF

'Iran-Holland
disputes can
be settled'

IRNA – Iran's Deputy Foreign Minister for Political Affairs Ali Bagheri Kani, in a telephone conversation with his Dutch counterpart, Marcel de Vink, said Tehran believes dialogue can help the settlement of differences and contribute to further interaction between the two countries. The Iranian official said both countries are in a new phase of cooperation, which is expected to expand in light of mutual will. The Dutch deputy foreign minister, for his part, underscored the importance of dialogue between the two nations. He said diplomacy will help clear up misunderstandings.

Upgraded
indigenous
submarines
to join
IRGC Navy

TASNIM – Iran's Islamic Revolution Guards Corps (IRGC) Navy will receive the new generation of the Ghadir-class and Fateh-class submarines. The two homegrown submarines are capable of launching subsurface-to-surface missiles, torpedoes, and mines.

Iran: Disputed
gas field with
Kuwait 'not a
big problem'

PRESS TV – Iran believes a dispute with neighboring Kuwait surrounding a gas field in the Persian Gulf is not a big problem, as a senior diplomat said the issue can be resolved given the good relations that exist between the two countries. Ali Asghar Khaji, a senior aide to the Iranian foreign minister, said on Sunday that Iran is not worried that the issue of Arash gas field, known in Kuwait as Al-Durra, would become problematic in bilateral relations with Kuwait. He said Iran and Kuwait could settle the dispute over the strategically important gas field through cooperation on the basis of the historical relations of the two countries.

Iran inaugurates
last phase of
SP gas field

The Iranian President Ebrahim Raeisi on Monday inaugurated Phase 11 of South Pars gas field, the world's largest, located in the Persian Gulf. Iranian experts developed Phase 11, the last phase of the gas field, which French TOTAL ceased working on, due to sanctions imposed by the US on Iran. Phase 11 is the farthest border section of South Pars, which Iran shares with Qatar. Iran's Oil Minister Ja-

vad Owji said the inauguration of Phase 11 of South Pars put an end to 20 years of waiting, and saved the country \$800 million in development costs. President Raeisi described the implementation of the project "a technically complex and unique operation," saying its opening will secure a significant portion of the rights of the nation from common fields. The phase will start production at 15 million cu-

bic meters per day and reach an ultimate capacity of 56 million cubic meters per day, plus one million tons of ethane, on top of one million tons of LPG per year, which will generate an annual income of \$5 billion, said Managing Director of the National Iranian Oil Company (NIOC) Mohsen Khojasteh-Mehr. To reach this capacity, 24 wells will be spudded in total. "So far, four wells have been put into operation, and the rest

will gradually come on stream," Khojasteh-Mehr said. The French company, TOTAL, signed a contract, with a 20-year duration, in 2017, after Iran had concluded a nuclear agreement with the West. It was the operator of the \$5.9 billion project with a 50.1% interest alongside the Chinese state-owned oil and gas company, CNPC (30%), and Petropars (19.9%), a wholly owned subsidiary of NIOC.

Both foreign companies pulled out of the project in 2018, shortly after then-US president Donald Trump unilaterally withdrew from Iran's 2015 nuclear deal with world powers and re-imposed sanctions. The project was then awarded to local counterparts, which operated under the auspices of the National Iranian Oil Company (NIOC). Raeisi said the implementation of the project was carried out by capable

domestic experts, while the foreign companies that were parties to the contract abandoned their obligations due to sanctions. According to official figures, Iran currently produces about one billion cubic meters per day of natural gas and plans to raise production capacity by another 500 million cubic meters per day by 2029. Presently, Iran exports gas to Turkey and Iraq, and has swap deals with Turkmenistan and Armenia.

Dissident groups to be disarmed,
relocated in Iraq's Kurdistan

International Desk

Iran and Iraq have reached an agreement to disarm members of Iranian Kurdish dissident groups based in northern Iraq and relocate their members from their current bases, officials from the two countries said Monday. Nasser Kanaani, the spokesman for Iran's Foreign Ministry, said in a news briefing Monday that the Iraqi government had agreed "to disarm the armed terrorist groups stationed in Iraq's territory by September 19 and then, evacuate and transfer them from their military bases to camps designated by the Iraqi gov-

ernment", according to AP. An Iraqi government official, who spoke on condition of anonymity because he was not authorized to speak to the media, confirmed the agreement was signed between the two countries and said the central government in Baghdad is "working as quickly as possible" to relocate the groups with the approval of authorities from the Kurdish regional government in Irbil and Sulaimaniyah. He declined to give the exact location to which the disarmed militants would be moved but said it would be within the Iraqi Kurdish region. He said they "will have a camp to live in and

will be without arms".

Iran-US tensions
escalating

The spokesman for the Iranian Foreign Ministry also said that Iran has summoned the chargé d'affaires of the Swiss Embassy over the apparent US seizure of Iranian crude oil from a ship that sat for months off Texas, as the oil now appeared to be moored in Houston. Switzerland has looked out for America's interests in Iran since the 1979 US Embassy hostage crisis. Kanaani's statement marks the latest twist in the saga of the oil once aboard the tanker Suez Rajan, which

had become mired in the wider tensions between the US and Iran. That's even as Tehran and Washington work toward a trade of billions of dollars in frozen Iranian assets in South Korea for the release of five American prisoners held in Tehran. What can be arguably construed as a step back in Tehran-Washington relations — after two steps forward were taken by signing the deal less than a month ago — is the Friday meeting between the US envoy for Iran Abram Paley with the family of Jamshid Sharmahd, who was convicted of heading a pro-monarchist group accused of a



deadly bombing in 2008. The United States should explain its links to the Iranian-German national Sharmahd sentenced to death in Iran, Tehran's foreign ministry spokesperson said on Monday, adding that progress had been made in

Smoke rises in the Koy Sanjaq district of Erbil, Iraq, on September 28, 2022, after Iran's Islamic Revolutionary Guard Corps launched attacks on dissident groups. **FARIQ FARAJ/AA**

a prisoner swap deal with Washington, Reuters reported.



Mohammad Ali Rajabi
Cartoonist

Iran awards \$2.7b airport project
to Chinese contractor

Iran has awarded a contract to a Chinese company to develop its largest international airport, according to a senior transportation ministry official. Saeid Chalandari, who serves as CEO of Imam Khomeini International Airport (IKA), said on Sunday that Iran will spend at least 2.5 billion euros (\$2.7 billion) to build a second phase at the airport under the contract signed with the unidentified Chinese company. Chalandari said the company had been selected to carry

out the project after intensive negotiations with several domestic and international contractors, Press TV. He said, however, that Iran will pay for the project using a barter mechanism that allows swapping crude oil for financial resources, equipment and technical services. "The executive operation for the new terminal under the second phase development operation of the airport will probably begin until late September," said the official while speaking

to reporters in a news conference. IKA is Iran's largest airport and is located some 25 kilometers to the southwest of the capital Tehran. The airport offers services to 29 major international airlines with flights to 64 destinations around the world. Iran has planned major expansion projects for IKA to turn it to a regional aviation hub although some of those projects have stalled in recent years mainly because of US sanctions on the country.