

NEWS IN BRIEF

Embassy in Paris operating normally after attack

IRNA – A spokesperson for the Iranian Embassy in France confirmed an attack on the diplomatic mission on Saturday, saying that the embassy was operating normally.

The spokesperson added that the attack was carried out by elements opposing the Iranian establishment, announcing that a search operation has been launched to find them.

According to the embassy official, the attackers set fire to some tires in front of the entrance of the consular section of the diplomatic mission on Saturday morning, causing minor damage. The fire was later extinguished.

Tehran welcomes any EU initiative for cooperation

International Desk

Ali Bagheri Kani, the deputy foreign minister for political affairs, said that Tehran welcomes any initiative that the European Union (EU) would put forward to open new windows for cooperation and interaction.

Making the remarks in a meeting with EU Special Representative for the Persian Gulf region Luigi Di Maio, Bagheri Kani highlighted that Iran has already shown willingness and capability for bilateral cooperation.

Di Maio, for his part, stressed that he has the support of all EU member states for keeping channels of communication with Iran open.

Earlier, Di Maio met and held talks with Iranian Foreign Minister Hossein Amir-Abdollahian.

Shah Cheragh terrorists reveal failed plans in trial

PRESS TV – Iran has held the first trial session for the three perpetrators of last month's deadly terrorist attack on the Shah Cheragh shrine in the southern Iranian city of Shiraz.

The prime suspect, Rahmatollah Nowruzof from Tajikistan, said he did not count the number of the people targeted but "intended to continue the operation until the last bullet".

He further revealed that he had entered the holy shrine with one gasoline container in his backpack and was arrested before he could torch the carpets where the worshippers were.

Raeisi: Terrorist, separatist provocations weaken regional security

International Desk

Iranian President Ebrahim Raeisi said any act of provocation by terrorist and separatist groups undermines regional security and will not be tolerated. In a telephone conversation with Prime Minister Mohammed Shia al-Sudani of Iraq on Saturday, Raeisi said Tehran and Baghdad have been strengthening their security cooperation to establish sustainable peace.

Sudani, for his part, reiterated the commitment of the Iraqi government and nation to fight against all the elements that pose a threat to sustainable security in the region.

Iran has set the deadline for Iraq to disarm terror groups in the Kurdistan Region by September 19, and has reiterated in recent days that the deadline would not be extended.

PUK president in Tehran

President of the Patriotic Union of Kurdistan (PUK), Bafel Jalal Talabani, arrived in the Iranian capital, Tehran, on Sunday morning, leading a high-level

delegation from his party. Media outlets affiliated with the PUK reported that Talabani is scheduled to hold several "important" meetings with officials of the Islamic Republic of Iran during his visit, Shafaq News reported.

Recently, Qasim al-Araji, the national security adviser of Iraq, said in a speech that Baghdad is making great efforts to implement the provisions of the security agreement with Iran.

"We emphasize our desire to strengthen relations between the two neighboring countries in a way that benefits the nation and the country and strengthens stability and security in the region," Al-Araji added, according to Mehr news agency.

The Almutalee website recently reported that Tehran, Baghdad, and Erbil signed a tripartite agreement to expel terrorist Kurdish elements from the Kurdistan Region of Iraq to the western regions of the country.

Justice for Gen. Soleimani

Prime Minister Moham-



med Shia al-Sudani of Iraq said on Friday that Baghdad seriously pursues justice with respect to the assassination of top Iranian anti-terror commander General Qassem Soleimani and his Iraqi trenchmate Abu Mahdi al-Muhandis in a US drone strike in Janu-

ary, 2020.

Sudani made the remarks in a meeting with a delegation of Iranian media representatives in Baghdad, Press TV reported.

The prime minister said the Judicial Council of Iraq and the government pursue the issue seriously. He

denounced the targeted killings as a blatant violation of Iraq's sovereignty. Sudani said a committee comprising security inspectors has already been formed to compile the necessary information and present evidence in legal forums.



Iraqi Prime Minister Mohammed Shia al-Sudani (r) shakes hands with Iranian President Ebrahim Raeisi in Tehran, Iran, on November 29, 2022.

● AFP

Iran, Russia can help resolve Caucasus conflict: Ex-envoy

International Desk

Iran's former ambassador to Azerbaijan and expert on the Caucasus affairs said that Iran and Russia can cooperate to help relieve the escalating tensions between Azerbaijan and Armenia.

Mohsen Pakaein told ILNA that if Russians do not follow the path drawn for them by the US and Europe, they can, in cooperation with Iran, "help resolve this conflict in the interest of establishing peace in the region, which is in the interest of all".

The ex-envoy said that the main goal of the US and Europe in interfering in the Caucasus issues is to put pressure on Russia, not to work in favor of Armenia or Azerbaijan.

Evaluating the recent developments in the Caucasus region, Pakaein added that if Russia takes a more active approach, fulfills its monitoring duty, and supports the territorial integrity of Armenia and Azerbaijan, the United States and Europe would have no excuse to be active in the region.

This comes as Azerbaijan said on Saturday that Armenian forces had fired on its troops overnight, and that Azerbaijan Army units took "retaliatory measures". Armenia denied the incident.

The Armenian government said Prime Minister Nikol Pashinyan held telephone conversations on Saturday with Iranian President Ebrahim Raeisi as well as with the leaders of France, Germany, Georgia, and US Secretary of State Antony Blinken, Reuters reported. Azerbaijan said its foreign minister discussed the situation with a senior US State Department official.

Azerbaijan, Iran hold meeting

Meanwhile, the representatives from the Ministry of Defense of the Republic of Azerbaijan and the General Staff of the Armed Forces of the Islamic Republic of Iran held the third meeting of the Joint Commission on

Military Cooperation on Saturday.

The head of the Iranian delegation Major General Mohammad Ahadi noted that some elements are attempting to undermine the current friendly and neighborly relations between the countries by spreading unfounded and false information in recent days. As such, he stressed the importance of mutual visits and working meetings.

The two sides also exchanged views on expanding relations in several areas of cooperation in the military sphere, the Azerbaijani Ministry of Defense said in an announcement. The previously implemented measures were highly appreciated by both sides.



Major General Mohammad Ahadi (r), the head of an Iranian military delegation, meets with Colonel General Zakir Hasanov, the Minister of Defence of Azerbaijan, in Baku, Azerbaijan, on September 9, 2023.

● mod.gov.az

Mohammad Ali Rajabi
Cartoonist



China tops Iran's export destination in March–August

Economy Desk

Iran exported non-oil commodities valued at \$5.6 billion to China during the first five months of the current Iranian year (March 21–August 22), more than any other business partner, the Islamic Republic of Iran Customs Administration (IRICA) announced. IRICA also announced that exporting non-oil goods worth \$7.1 billion to Iran, China was Iran's second source of imports in the five month period. Figures published by the

Tehran Chamber of Commerce indicate that during the said period, \$19.3 billion worth of non-oil commodities were exported from the country.

Iraq and the United Arab Emirates (UAE) were reportedly the second and third largest consumers of Iranian goods by importing \$3.5 billion and \$2.3 billion worth of products, respectively, according to ISNA.

Trade between Iran and the United Arab Emirates has surged as the Gulf's commercial capital eased

restrictions on business activity between the two neighbors, officials and traders told the Financial Times.

Executives said the UAE has in recent months rolled back limits on corporate registrations and the issuance of visas to companies from Iran, which remains subject to tough US sanctions. Iranian financiers are also exploring how to enhance bilateral trade by creating financial mechanisms to fund legitimate transactions, they added.