

NEWS IN BRIEF

President hails medalists as 'pride of Iran'



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IRNA - Iranian President Ebrahim Raeisi said Iranians who have won titles and medals are a source of pride for their country and the Islamic Republic. Raeisi made the remarks on Monday in a ceremony that was held to see off Iran's Paralympians for the Asian Para Games in Hangzhou, China, honoring Iranian athletes who have won titles during the last two years.

Erbil complies with Iran-Iraq security deal: Barzani

MEHR - Erbil adheres to the Iran-Iraq security agreement, the President of Kurdistan Region Nechervan Barzani said in a meeting with Iran's ambassador to Baghdad Mohammad Kazem Ale-Sadegh on Monday. Meanwhile, Iran's Foreign Ministry spokesman Nasser Kanaani said on Monday the ultimatum given to Iraq to disarm Kurdish separatist groups will not be extended. "According to the agreement reached with the Iraqi government, the final deadline for the disarmament of the terrorist and separatist forces in Iraq's Kurdistan Region ends on September 19 and that deadline will not be extended in any way." He noted that the Iraqi government has taken measures in this regard, and has stressed that it will honor its commitments.

"The Kurdistan region adheres to the security agreement between Iran and Iraq, and Iran must be sure that we will not allow the security of this country to be threatened from within this region", he added.

Envoy: Iran views KSA as 'strategic partner'

PRESS TV - Iran's ambassador to Riyadh said his country Iran views Saudi Arabia as a "strategic partner of great importance within the framework of its good neighborliness policy." Speaking in an interview with Asharq al-Awsat newspaper, Alireza Enayati said that "a promising future" is looming as the two countries are keen to expand bilateral ties. "What has been achieved during the past six months heralds goodness and a promising future, and we have serious resolve to develop Iranian-Saudi relations," he said, adding, "We have seen the same feeling in our [Saudi] brothers."

Leader: US targets Iran's national unity, security

International Desk

Leader of Iran's Islamic Revolution Ayatollah Seyyed Ali Khamenei said Iran's enemies, mainly the United States, have targeted two points they deemed the weakest; one is Iran's national unity, the other is its national security.

Calling for Iranians to stand against this plan of the enemy, he stressed that to be united means to put aside religious, political, group, and ethnic differences where the interests of the nation are at stake, Press TV reported.

"Those who threaten national security are the enemies of the nation; they work for the enemy, whether they realize it or not," the Leader added in a meeting with thousands of people from the provinces of Sistan and Baluchestan and South Khorasan in Tehran on Monday.

The US, he said, is working on ethnic and sectarian fault lines in Iran with the aim of creating a crisis in the country.

"Our intel tells us that Washington has created a crisis group with the mission to search for points that they think can be used

to provoke a crisis in Iran." "After conducting studies and contemplating, they have concluded that there are several crisis points in Iran: ethnic differences, religious differences, and the issue of gender and women, which should be provoked to create a crisis," the Leader explained.

Big global change coming However, he said, the arrogant US and some European countries have weakened themselves "and will become weaker".

He maintained the world is on the threshold of a transformation, which includes the weakening of the arrogant powers. Iran's Leader advised regional nations not to be indifferent toward the incoming "big change" as they were during the colonial era or after the First World War.

Ayatollah Khamenei partly attributed the unfolding transformation to the emergence of new regional and global powers and partly to Washington's tendency to interfere in other states.

"The United States used to interfere in various governments, but not so much



right now. Today, it has to start a hybrid war in order to hit the governments that it wants to hit, which is very costly for it, and will not work out in the end."

The Leader called the US failure in Syria and its humiliating escape from Afghanistan as two obvious examples of the decline of

American power. "One of other most telling indicators of the decline of the US power is the decline of its strong economy, which they themselves attest."

As for the decline of Europe, the situation is no better, he stated. "You hear how the African

countries that were once under the influence of France are rising against it one after another," the Leader said.

Nevertheless, "when we say the enemy is becoming weak, it doesn't mean that it cannot plot, be hostile, and strike," Ayatollah Khamenei stressed.



Leader of Iran's Islamic Revolution Ayatollah Seyyed Ali Khamenei waves for the people of the provinces of Sistan and Baluchestan and South Khorasan in Tehran, Iran, on September 11, 2023. ● leader.ir

IAEA Chief worried about loss of interest in Iran nuclear case



IAEA Director General Rafael Grossi (l.) waits for the start of the Board of Governors meeting in Vienna, Austria, on September 11, 2023. ● REUTERS

The head of the United Nations nuclear watchdog said on Monday he was concerned the international community was losing interest in holding Iran to account over its advancing nuclear programme.

The comments follow an easing of tensions between Iran and the United States, who announced a prisoner swap last month, according to AFP.

Last week, the International Atomic Energy

Agency (IAEA) said in confidential reports seen by AFP that Iran had made "no progress" on several outstanding nuclear issues.

These include reinstalling IAEA monitoring cameras Tehran had removed from its known nuclear sites, or explaining the presence in Iran of uranium particles enriched to near weapons-grade level.

IAEA Director General Raphael Grossi said on Monday he had noticed a "de-

crease in interest" from IAEA member states, without naming them.

"There is a certain routinisation of what is going on there (in Iran) and I am concerned about this because the issues are as valid today as they were before," he told reporters on the first day of the IAEA Board of Governors' meeting in Vienna.

Diplomatic sources say the United States and the so-called E3 group — France, Germany, and the

United Kingdom — have no plan this week to censure Iran for its lack of cooperation with the IAEA. Instead, at the behest of Washington, they will submit a joint declaration to the IAEA board meeting, which is expected to gain broad support, a source told AFP.

"There are many pressing issues on the international agenda but I think it is important to continue to support the agency in its work," he continued.

Tehran in contact with Yerevan, Baku to ease tensions

International Desk

The spokesperson for the Foreign Ministry of Iran said Tehran is closely monitoring the situation in the Caucasus and stays in contact with Baku and Yerevan to ensure peace and security. Nasser Kanaani made the remarks at a press conference on Monday in response to a question about the possibil-

ity of a flare-up of tensions between Armenia and the Republic of Azerbaijan, Tasnim news agency reported. "The Armenian officials have voiced their concern about the possibility of (military) clashes, but the Azerbaijani officials sent word that they have no intention of clashing (with Armenia)," he added, describing the Republic of Azerbaijan's recent deployment of troops as a "conventional military action" ahead of winter.

"Iran is intently monitoring the developments. We have been given an assurance that Iran's borders are safe, and we support the security of boundaries," Kanaani underlined. He noted that Iran has firm, transparent stances on the situation in Nagorno-Karabakh.

"Iran's stance on the Nagorno-Karabakh region — which has been announced explicitly several times — is not secret. Nagorno-Karabakh is part of the Republic of Azerbaijan, and the rights and security of its residents must be defined within a definite framework," he added.

Reiterating Iran's call for respecting the territorial integrity of states and alleviating tensions, Kanaani said a major step in resolving disputes between Armenia and the Republic of Azerbaijan and achieving peace and security is for the two countries to mutually recognize each other's territorial integrities. On Sunday, a military official dismissed as "baseless" the reports about the deploy-

ment of Iranian troops on the northern border with the Republic of Azerbaijan under the current tense circumstances in the South Caucasus.

Deputy Chief of Staff of the Iranian Armed Forces for International Cooperation Mohammad Ahadi, who was leading an Iranian military delegation in Baku for the Azerbaijan-Iran Joint Commission meeting, said such reports are "completely groundless".

Armenia-US joint drill underway Meanwhile, the controversial joint military drills between Armenian and US forces kicked off Monday, the latest sign the Caucasus country is drifting from Moscow's orbit, as Russia's inva-

sion of Ukraine reshapes the post-Soviet space.

The exercises come with frustration growing in Armenia that Russia has failed to act as a security guarantor as tensions build with historic rival Azerbaijan backed by Turkey, VOA wrote. Armenia's defense ministry said the exercises aim to "increase the level of interoperability" with US forces in international peacekeeping missions.

Moscow, which leads a military alliance that includes Armenia, summoned Armenia's ambassador this week to complain about "unfriendly steps" the country was taking. The ministry said Armenia's envoy was given a "tough" rebuke but stressed the countries "remain allies".



This file photo shows Armenian military medics participating in international exercises in Germany in August. ● TWITTER