

NEWS IN BRIEF

Raeisi to
attend UNGA

IRNA - Iranian President Ebrahim Raeisi left Tehran for New York early Monday to attend the 78th session of the UN General Assembly. The Iranian president will deliver a speech at the General Assembly tomorrow. Apart from meetings with the heads of state and top officials of other countries on the sidelines of the event, Raeisi will attend a gathering with Iranian expatriates and businessmen residing in the United States. The General Debate will be held on September 19-23, and conclude on September 26, 2023. More than 100 world leaders, thousands of diplomats, and advocates come together to deliver statements and tackle global challenges.

US stun guns
seized in
Hormuzgan

TASNIM - Iranian intelligence forces seized a cargo of contraband American stun guns that had been planned to be used in riots across the country. The head of the Justice Ministry's office in Iran's southern coastal province of Hormuzgan said the big haul includes over 6,000 stun guns made in the US. Mojtaba Qahremani said that the intelligence forces captured the weapons on board a ship near the port city of Khamir. The preliminary inquiry indicates that the stun guns have been shipped to Iran for the purpose of fomenting riots and chaos, he added, noting that two people have been arrested in the operation.

Israel seeking to stir tension in South Caucasus: *Lawmaker*



By Sadeq
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An Iranian lawmaker says that the Israeli regime is seeking to create conflict and insecurity in the South Caucasus region amid recent territorial tensions between the regional countries, especially Azer-

baijan and Armenia. In an exclusive interview with Iran Daily, Ahmad Alirezabeigi said that Israel is pretending to support Azerbaijan and Muslims in the dispute between the two neighbors over the Nagorno-Karabakh region. The Nagorno-Karabakh region has been at the center of a decades-long dispute between the two countries, which have fought

two wars over the mountainous territory — in the 1990s and in 2020. The Nagorno-Karabakh region is internationally recognized as part of Azerbaijan, but largely populated by ethnic Armenians. In 2020, a Russian-brokered cease-fire deal saw Armenia cede swathes of territories it had controlled for decades. After the cease-fire, Azerbaijan has proposed the opening of the Zangezur corridor which would give Azerbaijan access to its Nakhichevan exclave through Armenia. The corridor would pass through Armenian territory near the country's border with Iran. Alirezabeigi said that the strategic Zangezur corridor has now become an excuse to increase insecurity in the South Caucasus. The Iranian lawmaker said if Azerbaijan implements its project, a geopolitical gate will be closed to Iran, which limits Iran's access to its neighbors. Iran will not tolerate geopolitical changes and it will resist

such changes. Today, we are witnessing expansionism in the South Caucasus region by some powers, which is taking place amid the Russian power vacuum caused by the ongoing war in Ukraine. Therefore, the ground has been prepared for some trans-regional actors to flex their muscles in the South Caucasus and, in the meantime, the Israeli regime is mostly trying to exploit the situation in order to generate tensions in the region. The Israeli regime, in an unconventional move and through the Israeli newspaper, Haaretz, has revealed all the military support it has already provided to Azerbaijan. In fact, this is part of the regime's scenario to fuel tensions in the region. Israel intends to push Azerbaijan towards a conflict with Iran and the regime is certain that it will benefit from the conflict. But both Azerbaijan and Iran should be vigilant and not fall into the Israeli trap and should respect

and adhere to international law. Referring to Armenia's situation, Alirezabeigi said Yerevan is now in strategic shock. Because, based on a military treaty signed between Armenia and Russia, Moscow is committed to supporting the territorial integrity of Armenia, but now Armenia feels that Russian side has not fulfilled its obligations. Therefore, it has turned towards the United States. Yerevan's approach is not in line with our interests in the region, and there is no justification for NATO's presence in the region — an issue that is certainly not acceptable by Tehran. Regarding the tensions between Armenia and Azerbaijan over the Lachine corridor, the Iranian parliamentarian said the two countries have accepted commitments under the cease-fire agreement that should be respected by both sides. The Lachine corridor is the only highway linking Armenia to the Nagorno-Karabakh region.

FM: No party can hamper regional land trade

National Desk

The Iranian foreign minister has asserted that no party can close the borders of regional countries, emphasizing support for resistance as a cornerstone of Iran's foreign policy, saying that defending resistance means defending peace, stability, and security in the region. In an interview with Al-Wefaq newspaper, Hossein Amir-Abdollahian discussed the latest developments related to Iran's foreign policy in the region and on the international stage. The foreign minister had

paid a visit to Syria and Lebanon, which coincided with significant developments, including US movements on the eastern borders of Syria and threats from the Zionist regime against Palestinian resistance leaders. Amir-Abdollahian said that there are two main aspects of the Syrian issue. One is the Arab world's new approach toward Syria, including restoration of ties, Syria's return to the Arab League, reopening of embassies, and establishing various forms of cooperation with Syria. Another issue related to Syria is the discussion of

borders and the security of the common borders between Turkey and Syria. Syrian authorities claim they have the necessary capability and readiness to ensure the security of the shared border with Turkey from within Syrian territory. Amir-Abdollahian said that during a recent four-party (Iran, Syria, Russia, and Turkey) foreign ministers' meeting in Moscow, Iran proposed an idea for Turkey and Syria to agree on the withdrawal of Turkish military forces from Syrian soil. However, this equation involves both sides. Turkey is concerned about

the security of its borders and wants to ensure that its territory is not threatened by destabilizing elements in the region, while Iran and Russia serve as guarantors in this matter. Regarding the question of whether the US aims to cut off relations between Iran, Syria, and Iraq by obstructing their transit line to impact the economies of the resistance countries, Amir-Abdollahian said that while this issue has been raised in the media, investigations show that there have been no field operations to support such claims. "However, we must say

that the Americans have been trying to cut off these ties for a long time. But thanks to the plan that was prepared based on the common interests of Iraq and Syria, these borders were reopened, and, in fact, they were the borders of common economic cooperation between the two countries," he added. He concluded by emphasizing Iran's fundamental policy of supporting the Axis of Resistance, which is based on defending the oppressed and the vulnerable while safeguarding regional peace, stability, and security.

Defense minister warns Iraqi disarmament deadline cannot be extended

Iraq: Baghdad fully committed to implementing security pact

National Desk

The Iranian defense minister has emphasized that the deadline for the security deal with Iraq will not be extended, as an Iraqi official stressed that Baghdad is fully committed to implementing the agreement with Tehran. In an interview with Iran newspaper, Mohammadreza Ashtiani said that his country "will allow no extension; it will act according to the agreement it made." Iran has set a deadline of September 19 for the Iraqi-Kurdish authorities to take action against secessionist anti-Iranian groups stationed in northern Iraq along the common border. The agreement was made for disarmament and expulsion of terrorists from the Kurdistan Region in northern Iraq. However, Ashtiani said, "Some actions have been taken, and we will evaluate them at the 90th minute, and decide based on that." This came

as an informed source told Tasnim news agency on Friday that secessionist anti-Iranian groups in northern Iraq have agreed to lay down their arms and leave the areas along the common border between Iran and the Iraqi Kurdistan Region. The source, who spoke on condition of anonymity, said the Kurdistan Regional Government (KRG) has practically started the activities to draw the opposition parties away from the Iranian border.

Iraq in full control of its borders

Also on Sunday, the spokesman for Iraq's Joint Operations Command said that government forces have begun to gain full control over all border points with neighboring Iran, stressing Baghdad is fully committed to implementing the security agreement with Tehran, Press TV reported. "Iraqi government forces have begun to establish control over all border points with Iran, and apply

Iraq's laws and sovereignty there," Major General Tahsin al-Khafaji said in an interview published on Sunday. "The step is meant to prevent the use of Iraqi soil to launch an attack on neighboring states, as emphasized in the Iraqi Constitution," he added. "Iraqi forces have the military capabilities to control the common border strip between Iraq and Iran," he said. "The central government in Baghdad and the KRG coordinate at high levels in this regard." Khafaji underscored that Iraq is fully committed to implementing the security agreement with Iran because the pact is in the interest of Iraq's national security. Last Monday, President of Kurdistan Region Nechervan Barzani said Erbil adheres to the Iran-Iraq security agreement. In March, the two countries signed a security agreement that includes coordination in protecting the border between the two countries in the Iraqi capital of Baghdad.