Tehran says won’t hesitate to reinforce deterrence capability

TEHRAN - Iran will not hesitate to strengthen its defensive and deterrence capabilities, Foreign Ministry spokesman Nasser Kanani said on Tuesday night.

The statement by Kanani came in response to scathing comments by U.S. Secretary of State Antony Blinken at the annual conference of the American Israel Public Affairs Committee (AIPAC).

“The U.S. secretary of state made baseless comments against the Islamic Republic of Iran in line with his country's all-out support for the apartheid Zionist regime,” Kanani noted.

Speaking at AIPAC’s Policy Summit in Washington DC, Blinken accused Iran of "exporting aggression" and attempting to "obtain a nuclear weapon". He also echoed Washington’s "all options are on the table" in regard to Iran.

The Iranian Foreign Ministry spokesman said Tehran is unwavering in opposing the Apartheid regime of Israel and backing the nations to decide on their destiny.

Russian diplomat blasts US, E3 for making unfounded claims against Iran

TEHRAN - During a meeting of the IAEA Board of Governors in Vienna on Tuesday, a Senior Russian diplomat lambasted the United States and its European allies for levelling false charges against Iran for its nuclear program, saying that "it is difficult to take them seriously."

Mikhail Ulyanov, Russia’s permanent representative to international organizations in Vienna, urged the U.S. and the E3 — France, Germany, and the UK — to return to the Vienna negotiations to complete a deal that would revive the 2015 international accord on Iran’s nuclear program.

"In the #IAEO BoG Western states expressed numerous complaints and concerns about nuclear programme of #Iran. It’s difficult to take them seriously, because the #US and #E3 can help settle these problems fast if they return to the Vienna Talks by honoring the agreement on #JCPOA," Ulyanov tweeted.

Investment packages introduced for Russia partaking in Iran’s petchem sector

TEHRAN – Head of Iran’s National Petrochemical Company (NPC) said that many Russian companies are interested in investing in the downstream petrochemical industries in Iran, and different and attractive investment packages have been prepared and introduced in this field.

Making the remarks on the sidelines of Rospertekh Exhibition in Moscow, Morteza Shah-Mirzaei said, "The NPC is mainly interested in cooperation with Russian companies for exchanging technical and engineering services, technology transfer and the export of catalysts needed by Russia’s petrochemical industry.

"With the investigations carried out, Russia can now export some of its sur- plus petrochemical products such as styrene and polypropylene to the Iranian market, and in return import techni- cal and engineering services, especially in the field of technology and catalysts, from our country," Shah-Mirzaei noted.

Stating that Iran’s long-term strategy and diplomacy is to strengthen bilateral cooperation and partnership, Shah-Mirzaei said, "We have always had a significant impact on events in different periods of his- tory. The effective role of women during the eight years of Sacred Defense (Iraqi imposed war against Iran in 1980-1988) is undeniable: the women who supported the brave warriors in the Sacred Defense with their in- describable sacrifice."

The role of women in Iran is very important. Women have always had a significant impact on events in different periods of history. The effective role of women during the eight years of Sacred Defense (Iraqi imposed war against Iran in 1980-1988) is undeniable: the women who supported the brave warriors in the Sacred Defense with their in-describable sacrifice.

Traces of Chalcolithic settlements discovered in northwest Iran

TEHRAN – A team of Iranian archaeologists has found traces of Chalcolithic settlements in Tepe Kohneh Sufian in the city of Oshnavieh, northwest Iran.

Excavation conducted on the archaeological hill situated in the highlands of northwestern Iran has successfully led to the identification of a significant site dating back to the Copper and Stone Ages.

The Chalcolithic or Copper Age is the transitional period between the Neolithic and the Bronze Age. It is taken to begin around the mid-5th millennium BC and ends with the beginning of the Bronze Age proper, in the late 4th to 3rd millen- nium BC, depending on the region.

The Stone Age was a broad prehistor- ic period during which stone was widely used to make tools with an edge, a point, or a percussion surface.

Kapogianni optimistic about women basketball future

TEHRAN – Greek coach Elena Kapogianni is opti- mistic about the future of Iran’s women’s basket- ball team. Team Iran prepares for the 2023 Women’s Basketball Division B Asian Cup, which will be held in Bangkok, Thailand from August 13 to 19.

"I am very satisfied with my team in the train- ing. We started the preparation with 30 players and we train with 15 players at the moment," Kapogianni said.

"The Iranian players love basketball and I am very happy to train them. They’ve made a lot of progress since I’ve been here and I think they are capable of further improving but they need more time," she added.

"We will participate in the 2023 Women’s Bas- ketball Division B Asian Cup with the aim of being among the best," Kapogianni stated.

The event will bring Thailand, Iran, Kazakhstan, Mongolia, Malaysia, Sri Lanka, Indonesia and Jor- dan together.
In the following column, we take a look at some important contents and views in the yesterday's Iranian newspapers.

**Iranian ambassador to Riyadh outlines viewpoint on regional security**

**Tehran** - The regional nations should embrace a new approach to regional security that is focused on development rather than militarization, according to Iran's new ambassador to Saudi Arabia.

Al-Riyad rejected the state-ments to Iran's Arabic-language al-Masirah network on Thursday, the day the Iranian embassy was officially reopened in Riyadh.

"Today, development can be seen as the alternative to the use of force and the application of arms. We have created a moment of opportunity to overcome obstacles," the ambassador stressed.

Enayat said that militarization was a "cowardly" tactic, adding that the security of the region should be based on dialogue and understanding, and not the application of arms.

He went on to say that decades of arms sales to the United States and its Western allies have pushed the region's nations to spend billions of dollars on cutting-edge weapons.

"We have not been investing in the aviation of the countries in the region against one another through economic and political means," Enayat warned.

He said that Tehran has consistently called for sanctions to be lifted, saying that the sanctions were "unfair and illegal." Enayat underscored that Iran believed in non-violent resistance regardless of security and peace.

He asserted that Iran would continue to con-duct "decisively" its ground forces in the region to protect itself and its interests. It would also continue to develop its missile and defensive power.

Abe Abdullahian went on to say that the vi-sual isolation of the country was not the goal of its diplomacy and its partners with neighbors would proceed seriously.

The foreign minister added that the re-percessions of the sanctions were not the goals of Iran's diplomacy. Abbasi's comments were made after the new ambassador took office in Riyadh. The new ambassador, as reported, had been the -- anursor a missle with no name, called Fattah.

The missile has a range of 1,400 kilome ters, six times faster than Mach 15 and can inter-cept and destroy all anti-missile shields.

U.S. slaps fresh sanctions on dozen individuals, entities in Iran, China, Hong Kong

**TEHRAN** - More than a dozen people and organiza-tions in Iran, China, and Hong Kong have been hit with additional sanctions under the Joe Biden adminis-tration for allegedly aiding the Islamic Re-public's ballistic missile development.

As part of Washington's aggressive pressure campaign against Tehran, the U.S. Treasury Department said in a statement on Tuesday that the new sanctions were directed against a network of seven people and six companies in Iran, China, and Hong Kong.

"This network conducted transactions and fa-cilitated the procurement of sensitive and critical parts and technology for the Islamic Republic's bal-liistic missile development, including Iran's Ministry of Defense and Armed Forces Logistics," the Trea-sury Department announced.

Beijing Shenyi Nights Technology Development, Qingzhou Shuangfeng Trade Development, and Qingzhou Miansheng Technology Development are among the six entities.

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Iran proposes regional maritime coalition to secure waters

By Soheila Zarfam

TEHRAN – Iran's initiative to launch a maritime coalition among nations of the region is a positive move in the region, especially for the countries of the Persian Gulf region, it was said.

The US is quick to dismiss the Iranian initiative. It described the proposed maritime coalition as defying reason. "It defines reason that Iran, a number one sponsor of global instability, claims it wants to form a naval security alliance to protect the very waters it threatens," US 5th Fleet and Combined Maritime Forces spokesperson Cmdr. Tim Hawkins said, according to Breaking Defense.

The US response clearly meant to discredit the Iranian proposal. But realities on the ground and the international reactions to the initiative attest to entirely different trajectory.

The US-led coalition in the Persian Gulf has received a major blow in recent months as even an ally as close as the US ceased to believe that the US is capable of ensuring security in the Persian Gulf. This was on full display last week when the US announced its withdrawal from the US-led Combined Maritime Forces, operating in the Persian Gulf.

In a statement in late May, the UAE foreign ministry said, as a result of our ongoing evaluations of effective security cooperation with Iran, the UAE withdrew its participation in the Combined Maritime Forces.

This regional realignment at the US were accompanied by Pakistan and China welcoming Iran's maritime initiative.

Wang Wenbin, China's Foreign Ministry spokesperson, said China supports Iran's push for a regional naval alliance. Responding to a question in this regard, he said, "Upholding the peace and stability of the Gulf region is in the interests of all countries and people in the region and is of vital importance to safeguarding world peace, enhancing global growth and keeping energy supply stable. China supports regional countries in their efforts to keep maritime peace and stability.

Although Pakistan did not take an official stance on the Iranian proposal, observation by Pakistan's military spokesperson that the proposed move would be helpful.

"Today, the countries of the region and beyond in the region are moving towards a new stage in their relations, a positive move in the region, especially for the countries of the Persian Gulf region," Irani stated.

He thanked Saudi Arabia for making the move "helpful."

During the ceremony, Bikdeli said Iran and Saudi Arabia have moved to the stage of a new stage in their relations, a move that jolted the US into joining the push for a regional maritime coalition.

The US-led coalition in the Persian Gulf was established through an initiative by the US and four Arab states to cooperate against Iran's suspected provocations against the region's waters.

This mission was later expanded to include, Iraq, Pakistan, and India are also included," Irani stated.

He pointed out, "Almost all the countries in the Persian Gulf region have come to believe that they should stand by the Islamic states and support regional peace in the region.

Iran-Saudi nuclear cooperation possible: report

TEHRAN – Iran and Saudi Arabia can initiate nuclear cooperation in light of the recent thaw in relations, a news website linked to Iran's top security body has said.

News agency's nuclear technology network, Iran News, suggested the two countries can cooperate in diversification of regional nuclear technologies. They can cooperate in renewable energy.

The news comes amid an improvement in Iran-Saudi relations after seven years. The Iranian foreign minister said on Tuesday in accordance with the March 10 agreement between Tehran and Riyadh, which was brokered by China.

Iran's new ambassador to Saudi Arabia is Mohammad Reza Enayati, who was the director of the Persian Gulf Affairs with the Foreign Ministry. Enayati was a participant in the dialogue between Iran and Saudi Arabia hosted by China in March.

Since the sides agreed to reestablish ties on March 10, the foreign ministers of the two countries held a meeting in Cape Town on June 2.

In his Cape Town meeting with Saudi Foreign Minister Prince Faisal Bin Farhan, Iranian Foreign Minister Hossein Amir Abbasi expressed the good progress made towards the lifting of sanctions and agreed to the opening of the embassies in the two countries. The two sides also talked about cooperation for making preparations and providing facilities for Iran's Haj pilgrims.

The top Iranian diplomat added that in the previous talks, the two sides discussed the necessity of strengthening ties in commercial and economic relations between the two countries, and that Saudi cooperation and the continuation of the positive process will be an opportunity for further discussions and the reestablishment of bilateral relations in various fields.

Likewise, the Saudi foreign minister expressed satisfaction with the very good progress achieved in bilateral relations with Iran.

Bin Farhan thanked the Iranian side for the valuable assistance in welcoming the Iranian journalists and extending invitation to the Iranian coaches and journalists to visit Saudi Arabia.

He added that with the very good bilateral relations with Iran, Saudi Arabia quickly passed the stages of appointing ambassadors and setting the stage for the opening of political offices in the two capitals. This operation is moving towards a new stage in their relations, which will be beneficial to the two nations and the entire region.

The top Iranian diplomat also said he will visit Tehran soon.
TEHRAN – As announced by a provincial official, 40 official production units will be revived in Ardebil province, in the northwest of Iran, by the end of the current Iranian calendar year (March 20, 2024).

Referring to the Ministry of Industry, Mining and Trade, the official announced that 200 new units will be added to the province’s production and industrial units this year.

The official has previously announced that 431 industrial production units were revived in the province during the past Iranian calendar year (ended on March 20).

Sadeghi said that the mentioned units returning to the production cycle created jobs for 750,000 people.

Sadeghi further announced that there are 1,016 production units in Ardebil province, of which 91 percent are active and nine percent are stagnant.

As announced by the head of Iran Small Industries and Services Organization (ISIPO), 174 industrial production units were revived in the province in the past year.

Sadeghi emphasized that knowledge-based firms and companies are creating new and sustainable employment as a guarantee of economic development and added that due to the government’s prioritization of production, jobs and knowledge creation, the province’s Industry, Mining and Trade Department examines the existing problems and legal obstacles, through cooperation with the executive bodies, and tries to remove them.

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Mass shooting “terror” in American schools

From page 5: According to police, the shooter, who had been armed with four firearms, had taken his life after he mowed down a group of pedestrians on the sidewalk in front of the theater on the campus of Virginia Commonwealth University.

“Obviously, this should have been a safe space. It was supposed to be an incredibly tragic event,” someone who identified himself only as Edwards said. These days, mass shootings in public areas, especially near one of the most important centers and places of worship, have become a norm in the U.S.

According to the Gun Violence Archive, the latest mass shooting was the 279th in the first 157 days of 2023 in the United States.

The gun violence monitoring group defines a mass shooting as four or more people being shot in a single incident, not including the shooter. The latest tragedy came on the same day as a new study showed that 1 in 10 Americans have a so-called “empire” — even while many others have profited and enjoyed some personal, even lucrative money — its way to the pockets of lawmakers.

International rights group Amnesty International says that “U.S. governments have allowed gun violence to become a human rights crisis.”

Tatiana Schofield of the Johns Hopkins Center for Gun Violence Solutions said that in 2023, gun deaths reached the highest number recorded for the second consecutive year.

Nearly 49,000 people died from gun violence in 2022 — a day, an average of 136 people died from gun violence — one death every 11 minutes, the study said.

It indicated that 48,830 lives were lost to firearms in 2021, an increase of over 3,000 deaths compared to the previous record high. Of these, the report revealed, 5,000 gun deaths involving a firearm took place in 2021, and 20,158 homicides were recorded.

According to the study, the gun suicide rate represented an 8.3% increase from 2020, the largest one-increase in more than four decades, whereas the gun homicide rate was up 16%.

Since then, many of the same mass shootings, which traumatize and terrify Americans, as of May 1, have killed or wounded hundreds of people.

Despite the outcry, the prospects of tough gun control measures are slim with little appetite in Congress to deal with the deadly matter in the face of powerful gun lobby groups, whose lucrative money funds its way to the pockets of lawmakers.

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Tourism projects come on stream in East Azerbaijan

TEHRAN – Some 74 tourism-related projects have been inaugurated in East Azerbaijan province over the past two years, the provincial tourism chief has said.

A budget of 32 trillion rials ($146 million) has been channelled into the projects, Ahmad Hamzehzadeh explained on Wednesday.

The projects have involved guest houses, eco-lodge units, tourist complexes, travel agencies, museums and handicrafts workshops, the official added.

The projects have been carried out in close collaboration with the private sector, he noted.

Soaked in history and culture for millennia, Tabriz, the capital of East Azerbaijan, embodies the wealth of the Safavid, Qajar and Pahlavi periods. Among its attractions are the Jamshidieh Mosque and Tabriz Bazaar Complex to name a few. A UNESCO World Heritage Site, the city became well-known as the起点 point for the Silk Road.

While the city retained its administrative status for more than five centuries, the British occupied it in 1392. Some decades later, the Kara-Koyunlu took it in 1393. Some decades later, the Kara-Koyunlu took it in 1393. Some decades later, the Kara-Koyunlu took it in 1393.

The earliest caravanserais in Iran were constructed along ancient caravan routes. Many of them were occupied by Turkish and then Soviet troops.

Tabriz was declared a world city of handicrafts in 2018. The conference will be attended by artisans, craftspeople and masters of different handicraft fields, Sanaj Reza explained on Wednesday.

A budget of 20 billion rials ($40,000) has been allocated to the restoration project, Nasser Sadafi explained on Wednesday.

From Page 1 The period lasted for seven months and ended between 4200 BC and 3000 BC, with the advent of metalworking. Though some simple metalworking of malleable metal, such as gold and copper for ornaments in the Stone Age, it is the melting and smelting of copper that marks the beginning of metallurgy.

In Western Asia, this occurred about 5000 BC, when bronze became widespread.

According to available data, the first evidence of human habitation in the Iranian plateau was found in the late Pleistocene, rock-shelter sites, located in the Zagros Mountains of western Iran and dated to Middle Palaeolithic or Mousterian times (c. 500,000–300,000 BP).

From the Caspian in the north-west to Baluchestan in the south-east, the Iranian plateau extends for about 2500 kilometers, encompassing the greater part of Iran, Afghanistan, and Pakistan west of the Indus River, containing some 3,000,000 square kilometers.

Despite being called a plateau, it is far from flat but contains several mountain ranges, the highest peak being Damavand in the Alborz mountain range at 5671 m, and the Dizin-E Loot east of Kerman in Central Iran.

Located in Western ancient cities, Oshnavieh boasts 106 mosques, each with its traditional costume and cultural values.

Each day, the holy shrine draws thousands of pilgrims and visitors from Iran and some of the countries of the Organisation of Islamic Cooperation (OIC).

The city retained its administrative status until the 13th century BC, when it was conquered by Atropates, who established a small kingdom that eventually, the area returned to the Persian (Iranian) rule under the Sassanians in the 3rd century CE.

Tourism projects come on stream in East Azerbaijan

TEHRAN – On Tuesday, the 2nd Minister of Foreign Affairs of Brunei, Erywan binti Pehin Dato’ Seri Pengiran Jaya Widya, paid a visit to the holy shrine of Fatima Masumeh (SA).

He was accompanied by Brunei’s ambassador to Iran Aravah Haji Esmaeil, ISNA reported on Wednesday.

Located in Qom, some 160 km to the south of Tehran, the shrine has been awarded free-trade-zone status,

with easy access to the city, he noted.

The Qom province office has said.

Earlier, Mamun killed his brothers Hazrat Abdul Baha (AS) and Seyyed Aminehossein (AS) in the Fars region.

According to available data, 8,477 international travelers from 48 countries visited the shrine during the first eleven months of the past Iranian calendar year, which ended on March 21.

People from Spain, Poland, Italy, the U.S., Germany, the Netherlands, France, the Czech Republic, and Brazil constituted the highest number of international visitors to the shrine during the year.

In BT’s view, according to legends, Hazrat Masumeh (SA) traveled to Khorasan from Mecca with a large number of her relatives to visit her brother, Imam Reza (AS).

However, the Abbasid Caliph Mamun onward, the Qom has become a place of pilgrimage for millions of Shi’ites from all over the world.

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Iranian women’s role in Sacred Defense literature, cinema undeniable

From page 1

Over the past two decades, the role and status of women during the Sacred Defense era have taken on a significant portion of the war literature, but there are still a variety of topics that have not been said much attention to.

Many authors and film directors have investigated the role of women especially in the stories of the war period and the characters who lived in Sacred Defense literature.

Women have particularly been focusing on the role and characters of mothers and wives of the martyrs, war veterans and prisoners of war at home but helped frontline combatants.

The role of women during the Sacred Defense has taken on a significant portion of the war literature.

Leader of the Islamic Revolution Ayatollah Sayyed Ali Khamenei in on May 25, 2017 addressed to a gathering of war veterans and commanders, as well as artists, filmmakers, writers and producers working in the art of Sacred Defense hailed the memories of the war as a “national asset”, and likened the works of art about that era to “cement being pumped into the pillars of the Revolution, national identity and country’s progress”.

The Leader has on various occasions emphasized the necessity for cherishing and protecting the memories of the Iranian soldiers’ courage and devotion to their motherland during the Sacred Defense.

Iranian literature is full of books that remind us of the suffering, resistance and other deficiencies of the Iraq imposed war on Iran.

Ayatollah Khamenei also pays special attention to the books written by Iranian female authors about that era.

But they are truly beautiful. I really thank you and the women who stayed at home but helped the role and status of women during the Sacred Defense is as one of the most important eras of the country that can be shown through art and literature to the young generations.

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When two persons are together, two of them must not whisper to each other, without letting the third hear; because it would harm Prophet Muhammad (S).

The last prayer of the day: Noon: 12:03        Evening: 19:39         Dawn: 3:03 (tomorrow)        Sunrise: 4:48  (tomorrow)

Iranian Artists Forum to review doc on 1989 Romanian Revolution

The Lady to compete in Brazil Olah de Cinema festival

Motherless” director honored at London Rainbow film festival

Theatrical production of the famous 19th-century Persian poet Saadi’s Tale of Two Brothers, which inspired Soviet director Sergei Eisenstein’s study-documentary style about the Russian October Revolution in 1917. Eisenstein's revolution was staged, however, while “Videograms of a Revolution” shows images of a reality that remains difficult to disentangle.

The determining medium of an era has always marked history, quite unambiguously so that in modern Europe. It was influenced by theater, from Shakespeare to Schiller, and later by literature, until Tolstoy. Ujica has previously said: “As we know, the 20th century is fêmic. But only the video camera, with its heightened potential in terms of recording time and mobility, can bring the process of film history to completion. Provided, of course, that we can entertain numerous avenues along the same lines. Since the first film this category, “The Coffin Hall” was picked as best film. Directed by Farid Ansari, the film will be screened in the official competition of the festival, which will take place from June 14 to 22 in Curitiba.

In a reenactment of Shakespeare’s classic character, the film creates a unique environment that molds the greatest interplay between a snake and a polar bear, personified by two female humanoids, with a humus, flag-flaid, yet pop ambiance.

The Lady" by Iranian director Farid Ansari

The Lady" by Iranian director Farid Ansari

*motherless* by Iranian director Farid Ansari is a unique film which is collected as best director for his film "Motherless". Directed by Fardin Ansari, the film will be screened in the official competition of the festival, which will take place from June 14 to 22 in Curitiba.

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