

Italy Raises Russian Oil Imports Despite EU Opposition

ROME (Dispatches) -- Italy has increased its imports of Russian crude in spite of efforts by the European Union to end its dependence on Russian energy over the Ukraine crisis.

Italy has imported about 450,000 barrels per day this month, four times as much as in February and the most since 2013, said media reports. The country is now close to overtake the Netherlands as the largest importer of sea-shipped Russian oil in the EU, according to data obtained from commodity tracking firm Kpler cited by the Financial Times.

Kayhan International

Ex-PM Khan Calls for March to Islamabad

KARACHI, Pakistan (Reuters) -- Pakistan's opposition leader and former prime minister Imran Khan on Sunday announced the date of a march to Islamabad to demand dissolution of assemblies and a date for elections, as the South Asian nation continues to slide into political and economic crisis.

Former premier Imran Khan, who was ousted in a confidence vote last month was blamed for mishandling the economy. "I will meet you in Islamabad's at Srinagar Highway on 25th," opposition leader Khan told a media conference on Sunday.

VOL NO: LV 11707 TEHRAN / Est.1959

Monday, May 22, 2022, Khordad 2, 1401, Shawwal 22, 1443, Price 200,000 Rials

President Raisi Calls for Review of Economic Policies



China: U.S. Indo-Pacific Strategy Doomed to Fail



Iranian Women First at Asian Alysh Wrestling Championship



Hamas Warns Against Al-Quds March



Terrorists Assassinate IRGC Member in Tehran

TEHRAN – A member of the Islamic Revolution Guards Corps (IRGC) was assassinated in an armed terrorist attack by two motorcyclists in Tehran on Sunday.

According to Iran's official IRNA news agency, the incident took place around 4 p.m. local time, when the IRGC member was dismounting his car to enter his house in an eastern neighborhood of the Iranian capital.

The IRGC member, identified as Hassan Sayyad Khodayari, was shot five times by the assailants who fled the scene, it said.

The IRIB news agency reported that three bullets hit him in the head and two bullets in his hand.

Other media reports identified him a "defender of the shrine," a reference to Iranians who fight against Daesh terrorists in Syria and Iraq.

The IRGC issued a statement soon after the assassination, saying that its former member was assassinated in a terrorist attack by counter-revolutionary elements.

The statement condoled with his family, adding that necessary measures have been taken to identify and arrest the assailants.

Following the assassination, head of Tehran Court of Justice Ali Alqasi ordered the Tehran prosecutor to speed up efforts to identify and arrest those behind the criminal act.

Alqasi also stressed the need to expedite judicial measures aimed at identifying the perpetrators of the assassination.

Thugs to Zionist Spy Services Captured

In a statement on Sunday, the IRGC said Iran's security forces have arrested a network of thugs affiliated with Israel's spy services.

The network, it said, was involved in such criminal acts as theft, vandalism targeting public and private property, kidnapping, and obtaining fake confessions.

The statement said the members (Continued on Page 7)

Key Lesson From Ukraine War



WASHINGTON (Dispatches) -- Iran is watching closely events in Ukraine with a focus on missile technology and warfare – Russia has launched nearly 2,000 ballistic and cruise missiles during its ongoing war in Ukraine, a U.S. security website says.

The scope and scale of its barrage are unprecedented in the realm of 21st-century warfare, wrote online international affairs website

19FortyFive, a bipartisan U.S. defense, national security, and military-focused publication.

According to the website, Iran has witnessed Russia's inability to project air superiority over Ukraine and observed its consequential reliance on its missile arsenal to maintain an upper hand over its perceived enemy. In recent years, the IRGC has

depended on the development of its missile arsenal to serve as a critical tool of deterrence. Russia's war in Ukraine has proved the merits of this strategy, 19FortyFive wrote.

In the last five years or so, it said, Iran's missile arsenal has greatly expanded to include highly accurate ballistic missiles, cruise missiles, and drones. The IRGC

has used its newly advanced arsenal to conduct attacks targeting Daesh terrorists in Syria as well as separatists and Zionist agents in northern Iraq.

Iran's emphasis on its missile capabilities is even spelled out in an internal bulletin from the IRGC, the website said. It reads, "Missiles, by building the balance of fear, can prevent war and will force adversaries to resort to diplomacy."

While this push to advance its missile arsenal began years before the Ukraine war, the ongoing conflict has strengthened Iran's assertion, 19FortyFive wrote.

According to the Middle East Institute, Iran's Deputy Chief of General Staff for the Armed Forces, Maj. Gen. Aziz Nasirzade, referred to Russia's use of missiles in Ukraine as a teachable moment. He added, "The key lesson from the Ukraine war is that you cannot close your eyes on deterrence

(Continued on Page 7)

Protests Greet Biden on Visit to Japan

TOKYO (Dispatches) -- U.S. President Joe Biden arrived in Japan on Sunday, as protesters took to the streets here against the planned U.S.-Japan summit and the summit of the Quadrilateral Security Dialogue (the Quad).

A series of meetings are scheduled during Biden's three-day visit to Japan, following his trip to South Korea, including the summit of the Quad group involving Japan, Australia and India, during which the United States is expected to hustle the Indo-Pacific Economic Framework (IPEF).

Japanese public opinion, however, seemingly does not favor the IPEF too much.

Japanese media reported that the IPEF has no specific content such as tariff reduction, so it cannot bring visible economic benefits to participating members.

Takakage Fujita, director-general of a civil group dedicated to upholding and developing the Murayama Statement, said in an interview with Xinhua that the United States cooked up the IPEF to use Japan and ASEAN (the Association of Southeast Asian Nations) countries for the benefit of its own.

Fujita said that if the U.S. truly wants to pursue peace and development in Asia, it should follow a coordinated and friendly approach and come up with decent economic ideas.

On Sunday afternoon, around 750 people took to the streets of Tokyo to demonstrate against the upcoming U.S.-Japan summit and the summit of the Quad group.

Tokyo authorities beefed up security and traffic control, mobilizing around 18,000 police officers.

On Saturday, South Koreans organized spontaneous rallies to protest Biden's visit which they believe is set to stoke tensions and war in the Korean Peninsula.

In capital Seoul, people crowded in front of both the Grand Hyatt Seoul hotel and the presidential office nearby in Seoul's Yongsan District, where Biden was staying.

Cordoning off the area in front of Biden's hotel, police said they had assembled some 7,200 officers from 120 divisions on Saturday for maintaining security as the two presidents held the summit.

The protesters said their government should not intensify initiatives such as U.S.-South Korea military cooperation and certain aggressive military strategies, but should instead choose peace and cooperation.

Biden and new South Korean (Continued on Page 7)

Bans 963 Americans Russia Presses Offensive in Donbas Region

KYIV, Ukraine (Dispatches) — Russia pressed its offensive in Ukraine's eastern Donbas region Sunday as Poland's president traveled to Kyiv to support the country's Western aspirations and became the first foreign leader to address the Ukrainian parliament since the start of the war.

Ukrainian lawmakers stood to applaud Polish President Andrzej Duda whose visit, his second to Ukraine's capital since April, came as Russian and Ukrainian forces engaged in battles scattered along a 551-kilometer (342-mile) wedge of the country's eastern industrial heartland.

After declaring its full control of a sprawling seaside steel plant that was the last defense holdout in the port city of Mariupol, the Russian military launched artillery and missile attacks in Ukraine's industrial

heartland, seeking to expand the territory Moscow-backed separatists have held since 2014.

In a Saturday night video address to the nation, Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelensky described the situation in the Donbas as "really hard," but he said his country's ability to withstand nearly three months of full-scale war against Russia "is good news."

Zelensky stressed Saturday that the 27-member European Union should consider Ukraine's desire to join the bloc as soon as possible within the context of Russia's invasion.

Ukraine's potential EU candidacy is set to be discussed at a Brussels summit in late June. The government in Warsaw is ramping up efforts to persuade other EU members that are more hesitant about accepting the war-ravaged country as a

member.

Poland has welcomed millions of Ukrainian refugees and become a gateway for weapons going into Ukraine. It is also a transit point into Ukraine for some foreign fighters, including from Belarus, who have volunteered to fight against the Russian forces.

Russia appeared to have made slow moves forward in the Donbas in recent days. It intensified efforts to capture Sievierodonetsk, the main city under Ukrainian control in Luhansk province, which together with Donetsk province makes up the Donbas.

Luhansk Gov. Serhii Haidai said the only functioning hospital in the city has just three doctors and enough supplies for 10 days.

On Sunday, the British Ministry (Continued on Page 7)