

TEHRAN -- Iran on Monday condemned a powerful explosion outside the Russian embassy in Afghanistan, which hit the diplomatic mission's premises in west Kabul's Darulaman neighborhood that killed more than a dozen people, including two employees of the embassy.

Foreign Ministry spokesman Nasser Kan'ani expressed his sympathy with the Russian government and the families of the two victims, as well as those Afghans targeted in the terrorist attack. He called on the Afghan authorities to take more serious measures to ensure the security of embassies and diplomatic premises in the country.

NAIROBI (AFP) -- Kenya's Supreme Court on Monday upheld William Ruto's victory in the August 9 presidential election, capping weeks of uncertainty as weary citizens voiced relief over a peaceful conclusion to the prolonged political process.

"This is a unanimous decision. The petitions are hereby dismissed, as a consequence we declare the first respondent (Ruto) as president-elect," Chief Justice Martha Koome said.

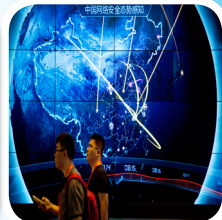
VOL NO: LV 11790 TEHRAN / Est.1959

Tuesday, September 6, 2022, Shahrivar 15, 1401, Safar 9, 1444, Price 200,000 Rials

Iran: No Agreement Without Guarantees



China: U.S. Launched 'Tens of Thousands' of Cyberattacks



Iran's Poorshab, Khaksar Win Two Bronze Medals at Karate1-Premier League



Zionist Regime Admits 'Highly Probable' It Killed Abu Akleh



Gen. Baqeri:

Iran Will Not Tolerate Enemy's Naval Drones

TEHRAN -- Iran's most senior military commander said Monday the "enemies" endanger the safety of navigation by launching and sending small unmanned reconnaissance maritime drones.

Major General Muhammad Baqeri, the chief of staff for the Armed Forces of the Islamic Republic, made the remarks referring to a series of encounters between Iranian and United States naval forces last week.

"Enemies are trying to compensate for the reduction of force in the Middle East by creating new units," he said, adding that "They endanger maritime security by dispatching small unmanned surveillance drones, but the armed forces' response to vessels wandering in open waters will be decisive."

He also touched on the occupying regime of Israel joining the United States Central Command (CENTCOM), calling it a "threat" to the region.

"The presence of Israel in the region is illegitimate. It not only does nothing to help the regional security, but also foments insecurity," he said.

"We do not tolerate the presence of the Zionist regime," Gen. Baqeri said, noting that "We will

not make any compromises regarding the rights of the Iranian nation and the security of our seas and lands..

Iran seized and released two American sea drones in the Red Sea on Friday. Later in the day, U.S. officials confirmed that that Iran returned the two captured maritime drones but claimed that the unmanned vessels were missing their cameras.

Iran's Nour News website, close to the country's Supreme National Security Council (SNSC), shed light on the circumstances surrounding the brief seizures, saying the measure was taken to prevent possible maritime incidents and safeguard shipping lanes.

Nour News reported that the IRGC naval forces took "timely action" earlier in the day to seize the U.S. vessel, whose "navigational system had failed," and began towing it with the aim of supporting safe and secure shipping in the Persian Gulf.

The Navy's Jamaran destroyer encountered the "data collecting" vessels during a routine operation aimed at securing shipping routes and confronting piracy and maritime terrorism, the Navy said in a statement on Thursday.

IRGC Navy Unveils Shahid Soleimani Catamaran



The Shahid Soleimani catamaran is unveiled during a ceremony in the southern Iranian port city of Bandar Abbas on September 5, 2022.

TEHRAN -- Iran's Islamic Revolution Guards Corps (IRGC) Navy on Monday unveiled a domestically-developed patrol combat vessel named after the country's top anti-terror commander Lieutenant General Qassem Soleimani, who was assassinated in a U.S. drone strike near Baghdad airport in January 2020.

The military achievement was put on display during a ceremony in the southern Iranian port city of Bandar Abbas.

Chief of Staff of Armed Forces

Major General Muhammad Baqeri, IRGC Chief Commander Major General Hussein Salami, Commander of the IRGC Navy Rear Admiral Alireza Tangsiri and a number of other high-ranking military officials, commanders and state officials attended the ceremony.

During the ceremony, the IRGC Navy also took delivery of Shahid (Martyr) Rouhi and Shahid Dara high-speed and missile-launching

assault boats.

The hull of Shahid Soleimani catamaran is equipped with radar-evading stealth technology, meaning that it has a very low level of radar cross-section, according to General Baqeri.

The vessel, thanks to its shape, can undertake all kinds of operations in open seas, and is capable of cruising in adverse weather conditions.

The Shahid Soleimani catamaran

also has a much higher maneuverability and a much smaller turning radius compared to vessels of the same size, enabling it to implement various offensive and defensive missions.

The vessel runs on four indigenous high-power engines, which give it the chance to be quickly dispatched to the designated zone, and go on long-haul maritime missions without the need for coastal support as it defends the interests of the Islamic Republic in high seas.

Moreover, it can carry helicopters, and is equipped with large helipads intended for use by military choppers as well as vertical take-off and landing unmanned aerial vehicles.

The vessel, given its combined combat features, can also carry and launch various types of fast attack craft during operations in open seas.

It is equipped with the most sophisticated reconnaissance, surveillance, telecommunications and electronic warfare systems as well as radars. It can identify and monitor designated targets at sea level, below sea level and in the air.

Among other features of the vessel is the use of homegrown self-protection systems, modern communication and telecommunication equipment, various types of encoders and data links.

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New Economic Shock Wave Rattles Europe

LONDON/OSLO (Reuters) -- Europe's gas prices surged, its share prices slid and the euro sank on Monday after Russia stopped pumping gas via a major supply route, sending another economic shock wave through the European Union as it struggles to recover from the pandemic.

EU governments are pushing through packages worth billions of dollars to prevent utilities being crushed by a liquidity crunch and to protect households from soaring energy bills, after Russia's state-controlled Gazprom said it would stop pumping gas via the Nord Stream 1 pipeline due to a fault.

Europe has accused Russia of weaponizing energy supplies in retaliation for Western sanctions imposed on Moscow over its military operation in Ukraine. Russia blamed sanctions by "the collective West" for causing the gas supply problems.

A host of European power distributors have already collapsed and some major generators could be at risk, hit by caps that limit the prices rises they can pass to consumers or caught out by hedging bets, with gas prices now

400% more than a year ago.

"This has had the ingredients for a kind of a Lehman Brothers of energy industry," Finnish Economic Affairs Minister Mika Lintila said on Sunday, referring to the U.S. bank that collapsed in 2008 and heralded the global financial crash.

Finland aims to offer 10 billion euros (\$10 billion) and Sweden 250 billion Swedish crowns (\$23 billion) in liquidity guarantees to their power companies.

"The government's program is a last-resort financing option for companies that would otherwise be threatened with insolvency," Finland's Prime Minister Sanna Marin said.

Germany, more reliant than most EU states on Russian gas, has offered a multibillion-euro bailout to power utility Uniper. Berlin said it would spend at least 65 billion euros to shield customers and businesses from soaring inflation, stoked by surging energy prices.

The benchmark gas price rose as much as 35% Monday and was up more than 400% on the year, after Russia said on Friday a leak in Nord Stream 1 equipment

meant it would stay shut beyond last week's three-day maintenance halt.

European financial markets were reeling from the news. The euro sank to a 20-year low and European shares tumbled.

Nord Stream 1, which runs under the Baltic Sea to Germany, historically supplied about a third of the gas Russia exported to Europe, although it was already running at just 20% of capacity before last week's maintenance outage.

"Problems with gas supply arose because of the sanctions imposed on our country by Western states, including Germany and Britain," Kremlin spokesman Dmitry Peskov said on Monday. "There are no other reasons that lead to problems with supplies."

Adding to the standoff over energy, he also said Russia would retaliate if G7 states imposed a price cap on Russian oil. "There can only be retaliatory measures," he said.

Russia also sends gas to Europe via pipeline across Ukraine, another major route. But those supplies have also been reduced

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Facing Worst Crisis in Decades, UK Names Truss New PM

LONDON (AFP) -- Britain's new Conservative leader Liz Truss Monday vowed "bold" action to fix the country's worst economic crisis in decades, as she was confirmed as Prime Minister Boris Johnson's successor after a grueling party contest.

The foreign secretary resisted pressure for a politically perilous early election to confirm her new mandate, vowing instead to "deliver a great victory for the Conservative party in 2024".

Truss beat her rival, former finance minister Rishi Sunak, by about 57 to 43 percent after a summer-long contest decided by just over 170,000 Conservative members -- a tiny sliver of Britain's electorate.

Sunak -- who has been lukewarm about whether he would serve in Truss's cabinet -- tweeted that now was the time for the party to unite as "one family".

But Truss ignored her applauding rival as she marched up to the stage of the central London convention hall, calling it an "honor" to be elected after undergoing "one of the longest job interviews in history".

Truss vowed a "bold plan" to address tax cuts and the energy crisis, which she has indicated will be financed by much higher borrowing -- even at the risk of stoking double-digit inflation.

Truss, 47, will be the UK's third woman to become prime minister following Theresa May and Margaret Thatcher.

She will formally take office on Tuesday, after Johnson tenders his resignation to Queen Elizabeth II.

The leadership contest began in July after Johnson announced his departure following a slew of scandals and resignations from his government, including Sunak's.

A YouGov poll in late August found 52 percent thought Truss would make a "poor" or "terrible" prime minister.

Forty-three percent said they did not trust her "at all" to deal with the crisis in the cost of living, as energy prices rocket amid Russia's war in Ukraine.

Truss is also viewed with mistrust among some of Britain's allies, after taking a hard line against the European Union over post-Brexit

trading rules for Northern Ireland.

"I look forward to a constructive relationship, in full respect of our agreements," European Commission president Ursula von der Leyen said, flagging climate change and Ukraine as areas for cooperation.

Ireland's government also gave Truss a wary welcome, but the scale of the challenges ahead saw the Markets betting exchange give her a 25 percent chance of failing to last through 2023.

The Tory winner faces "the worst in-tray for a new prime minister since Thatcher", The Sunday Times wrote.

Millions say that with energy bills set to rise by 80 percent from October -- and even higher from January -- they face a painful choice between eating and heating this winter, according to surveys.

Polls show public support for an early general election, and the Conservatives face a growing challenge to retain their grip on power with the opposition Labour party riding high.

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