

**Albanian Government's Vandalism Against Iran**

TEHRAN -- Iran's Foreign Ministry on Thursday voiced concern about reports of inappropriate conduct of Albanian authorities toward the Iranian embassy and its staff in the capital, Tirana, saying Albania will be responsible for any acts of violation against the Islamic Republic's diplomatic mission in the Balkan country. Ministry spokesman Nasser Kanaani made the remarks after media reports said Albanian police forces had illegally entered the Iranian embassy in Tirana and conducted

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**Putin Names New Ambassador to Iran**

MOSCOW (Dispatches) -- Russian President Vladimir Putin has appointed a new ambassador to Iran amid growing political and economic relations between the two countries.

A decree published on Russia's official legal information website and covered by the Tass news agency on Thursday said that Alexey Dedov will take over as Moscow's new ambassador to Tehran. "Appoint Dedov Alexey Yuryevich as the Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary to the Islamic Republic of Iran," the document read. Dedov will replace Levan Dzagharyan who served as Russian ambassador to Iran since October 2011.

**Viewpoint**

### Hope the Mised Arab Regimes Will Regain Senses

### China, Iran Discuss Implementation of Strategic Deal



### Iran Ready to Assist OIC in Terms of Sports, Youths Plans



### Zionist Troops Kill Another Palestinian in Raid Near Ramallah



## Two-Day Drills End in Central Iran Army Tests Strategic Missile, Other Equipment

TEHRAN -- Iran's Army Ground Force has test-fired a strategic domestically-developed surface-to-surface missile (SSM), hitting the designated target with pinpoint precision, deputy head of the force Brigadier General Nozar Ne'mati said.

The missile named Fatih (Conquest) 360 was launched during the second stage of the Eghtedar (Authority) 1401 drills in the central Nasrabad region.

Iranian Army units also fired volleys of indigenous Fajr-5 missiles. The missile has a range of 75 kilometers and can carry 175 kg fragmentation warheads.

Ne'mati explained that Fatih 360 missile can hit strategic targets at the speed of 3,704 km per hour. The can be increased to 5,000 km/h while communicating with satellites for quick navigation and fast strikes against enemy targets.

The missile, he said, has enormous destructive power, enjoys high pinpoint accuracy, is fired from a multiple launch rocket system (MLRS), and locks on the target immediately after blast-off.

Ne'mati said the capabilities of the Iranian Army's armored personnel carriers have also markedly improved in the face of potential threats with twin-tube Dehlahieh anti-tank missile launchers mounted on them.

Army chief Major General Abdolrahim Mousavi said the young and trained personnel of the Ground Force have integrated sophisticated and high-tech military hardware into the force, taking major strides to counter potential threats.

Mousavi said the Iranian armed forces would always upgrade their training and military equipment in accordance with possible threats.

The Army Ground Force started the two-day exercises on Wednesday.

According to Khatam al-Anbiya Central Headquarters head Major General Gholam-Ali Rashid, the drills were designed and executed according to potential future wars and threats.

The military exercises involved infantry, armored, artillery, air force, drone, engineering, airborne and electronic warfare units supported by air force planes, said the spokesman of the drills, General Karim Cheshak.

On Thursday, Chief of Staff of the Iranian Armed Forces Major General Muhammad Bagheri hailed airborne operations carried out by Ground Force helicopters, saying they showed the high readiness of the unit.

Air Force head Brigadier General Yousef Ghorbani said the self-protection systems domestically developed to improve the safety of helicopters and upgraded Shafaq missiles were successfully tested during the drills.

He said helicopters equipped with night-vision devices (NVDs) were

used for the first time in a completely offensive manner, and they successfully carried out a night combat operation.

Ghorbani also referred to the successful test of upgraded Shafaq missiles and said the accuracy and range of the missiles have been significantly improved.

They were fired from Bell AH-1 SuperCobra attack helicopters and could hit designated targets with pinpoint accuracy.

In Tabriz, Iranian Army's Air Force commander said the Islamic republic has become self-sufficient in producing unmanned aerial vehicles (UAVs).

General Hamid Vahedi said the Air Force has made good progress in UAV production and had created the Kaman 12 and Kaman 22, two strategic and valuable UAVs, in addition to other drones developed by the Defense Ministry.

Iran is among the region's top UAV manufacturers and its capability in UAV manufacturing is growing day by day, he added.

According to the commander, recent tests have shown that Iran's UAVs are not only capable of carrying out reconnaissance missions, but also hitting targets with precision weapons.

During a two-day drill last month, the Iranian Army tested a variety of homemade UAVs by using them to hit mock targets with precision weapons.

# Whoever Desires Karbala, Bismillah!



Pilgrims march from the city of Najaf to the holy city of Karbala in central Iraq early, to mark Arbadeen.

TEHRAN -- All routes leading to Iran's multiple border crossings with Iraq are jammed as millions of pilgrims are heading to the neighboring country for the annual Arbadeen pilgrimage.

Arbadeen marks 40 days since Ashura (10th day of Islamic month Muharram) and sees millions of people from across the world travelling to Najaf and Karbala to mark the occasion.

Imam Hussein (AS) and his 72 companions were martyred in the

Battle of Karbala in southern Iraq in 680 AD after fighting courageously for justice against the much larger army of the Umayyad caliph, Yazid I.

Iranians comprise the biggest foreign contingent of pilgrims, with tens of thousands making the journey — many walking at least part of the way from Iran to Karbala in large convoys.

The pilgrimage takes place on September 16 and 17, with pilgrims offered food and drink by

volunteers.

This year's Arbadeen pilgrimage comes after two years of the COVID-19 pandemic. According to rough estimates, around 5 million Iranians are heading to Iraq for the pilgrimage, resulting in traffic jams at the border crossings in the western provinces of Ilam and Khuzestan.

Officials temporarily closed the Shalamchah and Chazaba border crossings in Khuzestan province, which connect with Iraq's city of

Basra, after an overwhelming rush of pilgrims.

At Mehran border crossing in Ilam province, which connects with Iraq's Diyala governorate, pilgrims were reportedly stranded for several hours, with no transport to ferry them on the Iraqi side.

Iran's Vice President Muhammad Mokhber traveled to the Mehran border crossing on Thursday to take stock of problems facing the Iranian pilgrims, his office said.

According to the border police, a large majority of pilgrims prefer Mehran border crossing, followed by Shalamchah and Chazaba. A small percentage cross through Khosravi, Tamarchin, and Bashmaq crossings.

Iran's Interior Minister Ahmad Vahidi traveled to Baghdad to discuss ways to ease the passage of Iranians through Iraq, including his Iraqi counterpart Othman al-Ghani.

Vahidi "lauded the significant role played by the Iraqi security forces to protect the Arbadeen pilgrims, to offer services and to secure all roads they go through on their way to holy Karbala", the Iraqi interior ministry said.

Late Thursday, Vahidi and Iraqi Prime Minister Mustafa al-Kadhimi discussed ways to strengthen bilateral cooperation and support for joint coordination in areas that benefit the two countries.

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## Europe Braces for 'Worst Winter in History'

BRUSSELS (Dispatches) -- European Economy Commissioner Paolo Gentiloni is warning of an economic downturn in the coming months, saying "the coming winter could be one of the worst in history".

In some countries, energy rationing may become necessary and new aid packages may ultimately be unavoidable, Gentiloni said in an interview with German newspaper Der Spiegel on Thursday.

"The current inflation will throw our economy into turmoil, and the coming winter could be one of the worst in history," he said.

The senior EU official also hinted at the need for some EU countries to ration gas consumption.

"It depends on what decisions Russian President Vladimir Putin makes and how we ourselves behave. It is already necessary to save energy, although we see good progress in how gas storage facilities are being filled and energy is saved."

European Central Bank (ECB) president Christine Lagarde confirmed that if gas prices continue to "skyrocket", the European countries will fall into recession.

One of the scenarios being envisaged by the ECB is gas rationing across the whole euro area and a recession in 2023, she noted.

The eurozone inflation is poised to be 9.1

percent in August, up from 8.9 percent in July, according to Eurostat data, as prices rise at the highest pace for half a century.

NATO Secretary-General Jens Stoltenberg warned Thursday that Ukraine and its supporters face a tough winter in coming months.

"We need at least to be prepared for this winter, because there is no sign of Russia giving up its goal of taking control of Ukraine," Stoltenberg told The Associated Press on the sidelines of a U.S.-led Ukraine backers meeting in Ramstein, southwest Germany.

While Ukraine has sought weapons and ammunition, it now needs winter equipment. During Thursday's meeting, German Defense Minister Christine Lambrecht said her country would deliver electricity-generating equipment, tents and other material. But more is needed.

"Winter's coming, and winter's going to be hard on the battlefield in Ukraine. We know that the size of the Ukrainian army is now roughly three times as big as what it was last winter," Stoltenberg said. "They are in urgent need for more winter uniforms, for generators that create electricity, warmth, and also of course tents and other things that can help them through the winter."

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## UK's Longest-Reigning Colonial Monarch Dies

LONDON (Dispatches) -- Queen Elizabeth, Britain's longest-reigning monarch, has died aged 96, Buckingham Palace said late Thursday.

Her eldest son Charles, 73, automatically becomes king of the United Kingdom and the head of state of 14 other realms including Australia, Canada and New Zealand.

The royal family had rushed to Scotland's Balmoral on Thursday after doctors said the monarch was not feeling well and should stay "under medical supervision".

In spite of Buckingham Palace's prior statement, announcing that "the Queen remains comfortable and at Balmoral," she passed away.

According to the Buckingham Palace, Queen Elizabeth II was suffering from "episodic mobility problems" since the end of last year.

The development came after the queen appointed Liz Truss as the new British prime minister on the previous day.

Elizabeth was the queen of Britain and more than a dozen other countries, who saw 15 British prime ministers in her record-breaking reign and earlier this year marked her 70th year on the throne.

At her death, she was head of state of: Antigua and Barbuda, Australia, The Bahamas, Belize, Canada, Grenada, Jamaica, New

Zealand, Papua New Guinea, Saint Kitts and Nevis, Saint Lucia, Saint Vincent and the Grenadines, Solomon Islands, Tuvalu and the UK.

At the peak, she was queen of 18 countries at the same time, between 1983 and 1987. Since then, Fiji (1987), Mauritius (1992) and Barbados (2021) have become republics.

Her last years as the monarch were marked by a slew of scandals dogging the royal family.

The Sunday Times recently reported that Prince Charles, the heir to the British throne, accepted a £1 million (\$1.19 million, 1.21 million euro) donation from the family of the deceased Saudi terrorist, Osama bin Laden.

Neither Charles nor other members of the British royal family who had ties with Nazis or were entangled in numerous sexual affairs have been strangers to controversy and scandals.

From the 1970s to 90s, Charles and Camilla Parker Bowles were in a publicly-acknowledged illicit affair, which eventually resulted in Queen Elizabeth forcing the Prince and Princess Diana to get divorced in 1995.

Another one of the many scandals was when the Queen's second son, the Duke of York, was embroiled in a sex-slave relationship with an underage girl.

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