

TEHRAN -- President Ebrahim Raisi on Wednesday blasted foreign interference in the region, saying hostile attempts have failed to obstruct cooperation among the regional states.

"After failing to undermine the determination of the regional governments for effective interaction, the enemies are attempting to obstruct the path to the development and strengthening of regional cooperation with deceptive tricks, but they will get nowhere," he told Kuwait's new ambassador Bader Abdullah al-Munaikh.

Describing dialogue among the neighbors and the promotion

(Continued on Page 7)

TEHRAN -- Foreign Minister Hussein Amir-Abdollahian here Wednesday reaffirmed Iran's readiness to sit with Ukrainian officials and experts to discuss Western countries' allegations that Iran had exported drones to Russia to be used in the ongoing military campaign in the Eastern Europe.

"It is clear to us that the leaders of certain European Union member states tend to adopt immature and radical stances on regional and international developments. This is while much of the bloc is treading the path of rationality," he said during a joint press conference with Belarusian counterpart Vladimir Makei.

Viewpoint

Limits to Leniency, Weed out the Traitors


Envoy Blasts U.S. Role in Mideast Insecurity, Defends Iran's Missiles



Iran Edge Past Tajikistan in 2022 CAFA U15 Championship



Hamas: Zionists Only Understand Language of Force



Russia Rehearses Response to Nuclear Attack

NEAR KHERSON FRONT-LINE, Ukraine (Dispatches) -- Russia rehearsed its response to a nuclear attack on Wednesday in an exercise that involved nuclear submarines, strategic bombers and ballistic missiles at a time when tensions are high over a "dirty bomb" allegation it has made against Ukraine.

Russian President Vladimir Putin remotely observed the annual exercise, called "Grom" or "Thunder", which uses test launches to put Moscow's nuclear forces through their paces in a show of force designed to deter and intimidate foes.

Defense Minister Sergei Shoigu reported to Putin that the exercise was intended to simulate a "massive nuclear strike" by Russia in retaliation for a nuclear attack on Russia.

The maneuvers followed Putin's warning about his readiness to use "all means available" to fend off attacks on Russia's territory in a clear reference to the country's nuclear arsenals.

During Wednesday's drills, a Yars land-based intercontinental ballistic missile was test-fired from the northern Plesetsk launch site. A Russian nuclear submarine in the Barents Sea launched a Sineva ICBM at the Kura firing range on the far-eastern Kamchatka Peninsula.

As part of the exercise, Tu-95 strategic bombers also launched cruise missiles at practice targets.

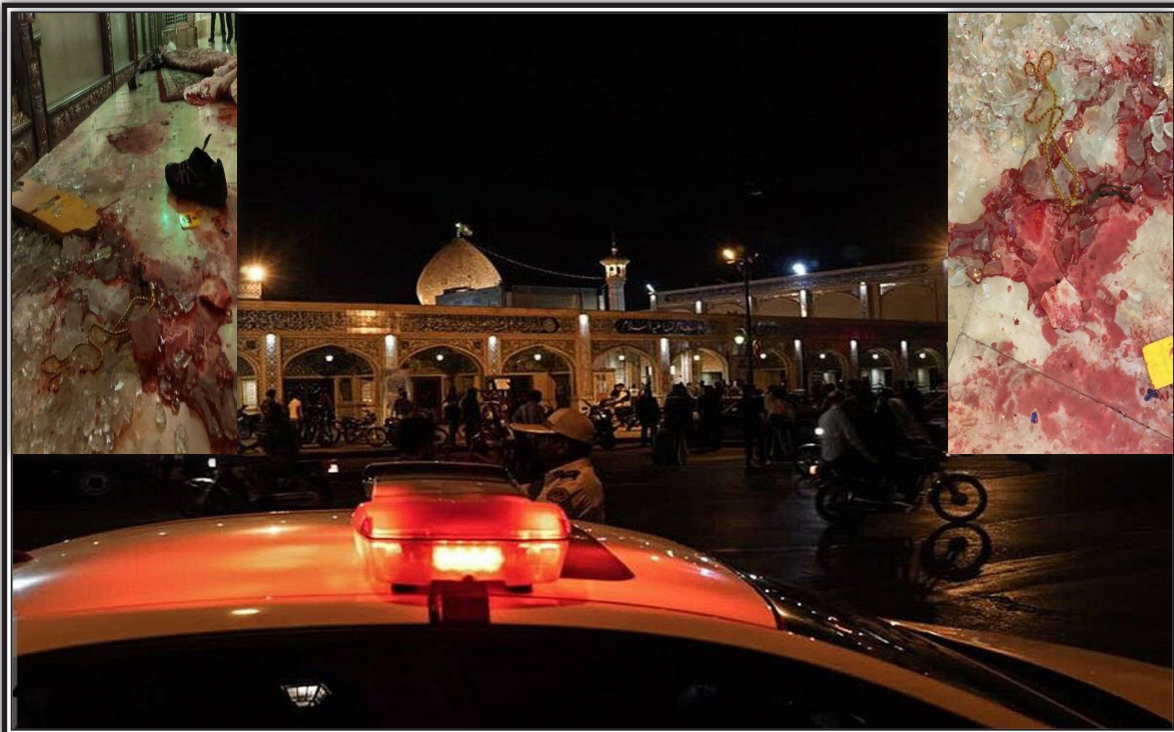
The Kremlin said in a statement that all tasks set for the exercise were fulfilled and all the missiles that were test-fired reached their designated targets.

Such maneuvers involving land, sea and air components of the Russian nuclear triad have taken place on an annual basis to train the country's nuclear forces and demonstrate their readiness. A previous such exercise was held just days before Putin sent troops into Ukraine.

Putin was cited by the RIA news agency as saying the potential for conflict in the world and region remained high.

The Pentagon said a day earlier that Russia had notified it of its intention to carry out the exercises at a time when NATO is rehearsing its own use of U.S. nuclear bombs based in Europe in its annual "Steadfast Noon" war games.

Takfiri Terrorists Attack Shah Cheragh



The attackers shot at pilgrims and staff at the entrance to the shrine of Shah Cheragh in Shiraz.

TEHRAN -- Takfiri terrorists attacked a shrine in the Iranian city of Shiraz on Wednesday, martyring at least 15 people.

The attackers were in a car and shot at pilgrims and staff at the entrance to the shrine of Shah Cheragh, witnesses said. Police arrested two of the three terrorists and were looking for the third.

The Tasnim news agency said several women and children were among the martyrs.

According to a report by Fars News Agency, three terrorists armed with Kalashnikov rifles at around 5:45 p.m. local time (1415 GMT) opened indiscriminate fire on pilgrims from outside the shrine.

Iran's official news agency IRNA said nearly 40 others were wounded in the attack.

Nour News Agency, which is affiliated with Iran's top security body, said the terrorists who carried out the attack were foreign nationals.

Iran Sanctions EU for Supporting Terrorists

TEHRAN -- Iran announced on Wednesday sanctions targeting individuals and media outlets in the European Union in retaliation for the bloc's coercive measures over the country's response to foreign-backed riots.

The European Union on October 17 imposed sanctions against the police and 11 officials including Iran's telecommunications minister.

In response, Iran's foreign ministry announced in a statement sanctions against eight institutions and 12 individuals based in the EU for "supporting terrorist groups", "inciting violence" and "provoking riots, violence and terrorist acts" in the Islamic republic.

The Iranian blacklist includes the International Committee in Search of Justice, the International League against Racism and Anti-Semitism, and the Persian versions of German broadcaster Deutsche Welle and Radio France Internationale.

European and French politicians, and two individuals at the German tabloid newspaper Bild are among the individuals sanctioned by the Iranian government.

They include president of the International Committee in Search of Justice Aljo Vidal Quadras, co-chairs of the Friends of Free Iran Javier Zarzalejos and Milan Azver, members of the European Parliament Charlier Weimers, Jan Zahradil, Helmut Geuking and Hermann Tertsch, member of the National Assembly of France Meyer Habib, mayor of France's Villepinte Matine Valletton, mayor of Paris first district Jean-Francois Legaret, current and former editors-in-chief of Germany's Bild newspaper Johannes Boieand and Alexandra Wurzbach.

The Iranian sanctions include a visa ban and the "seizure of their property and assets in the territory under Iran's jurisdiction", the ministry statement said.

On October 19, Iran announced it had blacklisted British entities and individuals, days after London imposed sanctions on Iran's police.

The foreign minister of Iran on Wednesday called on the European governments to drop their failed approach to the Islamic Republic.

In a joint press conference with his Belarusian counterpart here, Hussein Amir-Abdollahian warned the Europeans not to continue with their unconstructive, hackneyed and failed approaches.

The minister renewed Iran's rejection of Western officials' claims that Iranian drones have

(Continued on Page 7)

New Reuters/Ipsos Survey Finds: Americans Worried About Intimidation at Polls

WASHINGTON (Reuters) -- Two in five U.S. voters say they are worried about threats of violence or voter intimidation at polling stations during the country's midterm elections, according to a new Reuters/Ipsos poll.

So far no violence has been reported at any early voting centers or ballot drop-off locations ahead of the Nov. 8 elections, when Republicans are favored to win control of the U.S. House of Representatives and possibly the Senate.

But officials in Arizona, a key battleground, have already asked the federal government to probe a case of possible voter intimidation, after people casting ballots were conspicuously filmed and followed. An official complaint noted that the self-

appointed monitors called the voters "mules," a reference to a conspiracy theory popularized by supporters of former President Donald Trump's claim that his 2020 defeat was the result of widespread fraud.

The Reuters/Ipsos poll, completed on Monday, also found that two-thirds of registered voters fear that extremists will carry out acts of violence after the election if they are unhappy with the outcome.

The findings illustrate what some observers have said is growing evidence of a lack of trust in the nation's democratic institutions, following decades of deepening partisanship.

Kathy Boockvar, a former top election official for Pennsylvania,

(Continued on Page 7)

Saudi Rift Shows U.S. Rights Posturing Is Hollow

WASHINGTON (Dispatches) -- The U.S.-Saudi row over the Opec+ decision to cut oil production has laid bare a hole in the Biden administration's commitment to a purported human rights-centered foreign policy, human rights advocates have said.

Following the Opec+ decision, the U.S. was quick in its condemnation and said it was willing to reevaluate its relationship with the country "right away". White House National Security adviser Jake Sullivan said that this review would include arms sales, a major bilateral issue with Saudi Arabia because it obtains 70 percent of its arms from the U.S.

When Saudi Arabia responded by saying its decision was market-based and not political, White House national security council spokesman John Kirby accused the Saudis of trying to "spin or deflect" the facts.

Yet the Biden administration has only begun this re-evaluation after two years in office, despite the president making a promise on the campaign trail to reassess ties with the kingdom over its human rights violations. When that promise was made, rights advocates hoped that Biden's time in office would lead to a change in the kingdom.

"Human rights has not received the attention and focus that it deserves and that this administration said it was placing. They've repeatedly said human rights will be at the centre of foreign policy and that just has not been true when it comes to Saudi Arabia," Seth Binder, advocacy director at the Project on Middle East Democracy, told Middle East Eye.

(Continued on Page 7)