

## Tehran 'opposes geopolitical changes' in Caucasus, official says

TEHRAN: Iran on Monday said it opposes any "geopolitical changes" in the Caucasus, where it has long been angered over Azerbaijan's desire to set up a transport link along the Armenian-Iranian border.

Foreign Ministry spokesman Nasser Kanani, while voicing support for Azerbaijan's reclamation of the separatist Nagorno-Karabakh region last month, said Tehran is "against making geopolitical changes in the region and this is our clear position."

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## UN migration chief voices concern over Mediterranean deaths, pledges new solutions

GENEVA: The new head of the UN migration agency has voiced concern that the deaths of migrants and refugees in the Mediterranean were being "normalized" and vowed to work with governments to provide options for economic migration to address the crisis.

US former White House adviser Amy Pope started as head of the International Organization for Migration or IOM on Oct. 1 at a time of record forced displacement around the world and high political tensions over irregular immigration.

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## How Arab countries can address pollution and improve urban air quality

DUBAI: Already contending with the combined challenges of rapid urbanization, a warming climate, and stress on freshwater resources, countries across the Middle East and North Africa are now fighting for something even more fundamental – breathable air.

The World Health Organization has warned that nine out of 10 people worldwide breathe polluted outdoor air that exceeds what it deems as acceptable levels,

adding that the Arab region in particular has some of the world's poorest air quality.

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## **Lebanese security services arrest 2 Syrians involved in people smuggling from Libya**

BEIRUT: Lebanon's General Directorate of Internal Security Forces announced on Monday that they had arrested two Syrian nationals, aged 48 and 52, on suspicion of people smuggling.

The suspects had been accused of smuggling people of various nationalities from Libya to Europe via boats. Their names were not disclosed.

The suspects were operating in coordination with people of Lebanese nationality in the Wadi Khaled region in northern Lebanon, on the border with Syria.

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## **Egyptian president El-Sisi confirms candidacy in December presidential election**

CAIRO: Egyptian President Abdel Fattah El-Sisi confirmed on Monday that he will stand for a third term in office in a presidential election scheduled for December.

El-Sisi, a former army chief who has been president since 2014, had been widely expected to run again and secure a third term after constitutional amendments four years ago that would allow him to stay in office until 2030. In recent weeks supporters have mounted a campaign using billboards and public messages urging El-Sisi to stand.