

Leader names new year 'inflation control, growth in production'



● Khamenei.ir

Political Desk

Stressing the need for Iranian officials to focus on controlling inflation and boosting production, Leader of the Islamic Revolution chose "inflation control, growth in production" as the slogan of the new Iranian calendar year of 1402, which began Tuesday, March 21. In an address early Tuesday, Ayatollah Seyyed Ali Khamenei congratulated the Iranian nation and other nations that hold Nowruz dear and consider it to be important, on the occasion of the commencement of the Persian New Year.

The Leader also underlined the importance of efforts to curb inflation in Iran and named the new year "Inflation control and growth in production".

The Leader congratulated each and every member of the Iranian nation on the arrival of Nowruz, especially the respected families of the martyrs, the wounded and the veterans of the war and those who are serving the people, as well as all other nations who honor Nowruz and place importance on it. May God bless all of you on the occasion of this noble Eid.

"In my opinion, in 1401 (last Iranian calendar year), the most important issue for the nation was the issue of the country's economy, which is directly related to people's livelihoods. On the matter of the economy, there were bitter moments but also sweet ones. There was bitterness in some sectors which I will mention, and there were also sweet moments in some cases concerning the economy. These matters should be seen together, alongside each other, and then an overall evaluation can be made about them," the Leader noted.

According to Ayatollah Khamenei, the bitterness was mainly because of inflation and high prices, which is truly upsetting, especially the increase in the price of food and the basic necessities of life. When there is a significant increase in food prices and the prices of basic necessities, the economically weaker sectors of society are the ones who are impacted the most, because food items and the main, essential living supplies have the largest share in their household basket.

New dawn of diplomacy in Middle East



Iranian Foreign Minister Hossein Amir-Abdollahian (L) shakes hands with Russian Foreign Minister Sergei Lavrov during a news conference following their meeting in Moscow, Russia, on March 29, 2023.

● TASS



● Ebrahim Behnam
Political expert

In the waning days of the last Iranian calendar year, the Middle East witnessed a remarkable and auspicious turn of events in diplomacy. The Islamic Republic of Iran and the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia, after seven years of diplomatic estrangement, have agreed to normalize their relations and to reopen their respective

embassies. Similarly, there have been efforts to thaw the icy relations between Turkey and Syria. Moreover, a quadrilateral meeting of deputy foreign ministers from Turkey, Syria, Iran, and Russia is expected to take place soon, according to Iran's foreign minister. On March 23, a Saudi diplomat announced that Riyadh has initiated talks with Damascus to resume providing consular services. On March 29, the Iranian Embassy in

Iraq hosted the iftar ceremony of ambassadors of Muslim countries. Apart from the bilateral meeting between the ambassadors of Iran and Saudi Arabia, a tripartite meeting took place between the ambassadors of Iran, Saudi Arabia, and Syria, hosted by Mohammad Kazem Ale-Sadeq, the Iranian ambassador to Iraq. On March 28, Iran's Foreign Minister Hossein Amir-Abdollahian was in Moscow,

where he met with his Russian counterpart, Sergei Lavrov. The two sides discussed issues related to Syria, Palestine, the Caucasus, Yemen, and the Caspian Sea, in addition to their bilateral relations. Lavrov welcomed the recent agreement between Iran and Saudi Arabia, and Amir-Abdollahian announced in Moscow that Tehran and Moscow were in the final stages of examining the signing of a long-term strategic cooperation agreement. He also declared Iran's readiness to play a more significant role in establishing sustainable peace and comprehensive security in the Middle East. According to Amir-Abdollahian, the foreign ministers of Iran and Saudi Arabia will hold consultations soon to finalize the time and location of their official meeting. Many countries in the region have expressed satisfaction with the developments of the past few weeks, particularly the Tehran-Riyadh agreement. They hope that this rapprochement between the two most important countries in the region will lead to greater stability, security, and prosperity in

the Middle East. Nonetheless, there are countries or extra-regional powers that seem to view these positive diplomatic strides toward regional cohesion and stability as a threat to their interests. Sporadic Israeli attacks on parts of Syria plus the recent American attacks on the Arab country, as well as actions and claims of Iran's northwestern neighbor, namely Azerbaijan, are noteworthy in this context.

The Tehran-Riyadh agreement is a significant and momentous step that requires careful and intelligent management by both sides until the reopening of their embassies. Governments in the region, aware of the importance of this agreement and its potential to promote stability and security, have warmly welcomed it. They should also remain vigilant to the suspicious actions of extra-regional powers. The Middle East is now poised for positive developments, but steering these developments in the right direction requires rationality and common-mindedness among the governments in the region.

Iran vows revenge for Israel killing second military advisor in Syria



IRGC military adviser Meghdad Mehghani succumbs to wounds due to Israeli airstrike in Syria on Friday

● PRESS TV

According to the Syrian news agency SANA, Israeli fighter jets entered Syrian territory from the northern occupied Golan

Heights very early on Friday morning at 00:17 Damascus Local Time. They targeted a facility in the suburbs of Damascus. In a statement on Friday

morning, Kanaani strongly condemned the Israeli airstrikes, lamenting the international community's failure to adopt appropriate and deterrent measures against the Tel Aviv regime's acts of aggression on Syria, which target civilian airports and even residential neighborhoods. "Such an approach has emboldened the regime to continue violating the sovereignty and territorial integrity of an independent country and a member of the United Nations, and to persist in committing crimes against its citizens and military forces," he said. "The latest Israeli airstrike on Syria is a blatant and repeated violation of international law and princi-

ples, a move by the regime to divert attention from internal crises and deep divisions within its society, as well as a testament to Israel's dissatisfaction with growing stability in Syria and the recent rapprochement between the war-torn Arab country and world countries," explained Kanaani. Known as one of the main supporters of terrorist groups that have battled the government of President Bashar al-Assad since foreign-backed militancy erupted in Syria in early 2011, the Israeli regime frequently violate Syrian sovereignty and target military positions. The targets usually include residential buildings. Military positions especially

those of the Hezbollah resistance movement, which has played a key role in helping the Syrian army in its fight against foreign-backed terrorists, are also frequently hit by Israeli strikes.

Israel largely remains silent about the attacks. Damascus has repeatedly complained to the UN over Israeli assaults, urging the Security Council to take action against Tel Aviv's crimes. The calls have, however, fallen on deaf ears.

Iran maintains an advisory mission in the Arab country, helping it in the face of foreign-backed terrorism. Back in 2017, the advisory assistance helped Syria vanquish the Takfiri terrorist group of Daesh.



Mohammad Ali Rajabi
Cartoonist



Iran protests Azerbaijani media's hostility

Iranian Foreign Ministry sent a strongly-worded letter to the Azeri Ministry of Foreign Affairs, protesting the recent trend of accusations against Iran. The letter has warned against the "damaging and negative consequences" of the continuing trend of "demoralizing flow of media accusations." Similarly, Iranian Foreign Ministry spokesman cautioned Baku against the Israeli regime's sinister objectives.

Criticizing the Republic of Azerbaijan for refusing to give an explanation about

developing a partnership with the Zionist regime and for making new accusations against Iran, Nasser Kanaani tweeted on Friday night, saying that the spokesperson for the Republic of Azerbaijan's Foreign Ministry has leveled new accusations against Iran and has evaded an explanation for the comments made by the Zionist regime's foreign minister about his agreement with his Azeri counterpart to form a "united front against Iran".

"Is the continuation of (Azerbaijan's) silence not an implicit affirmation of

comments from Baku's strategic partner?" Kanaani asked.

He then warned the Azeri officials that the only purpose behind the criminal Zionist regime's move to reach out to the Muslim countries is "the creation of disagreement and division in the Islamic Ummah (community) in order to fulfill its expansionist objectives".

"We advise our Muslim brothers and sisters in Azerbaijan (Republic) to be vigilant about the real intents of the Zionist enemy," the Iranian spokesman stated.