

NEWS IN BRIEF

Tehran, Paris agree to continue talks to overcome challenges

MEHR- Iranian Foreign Minister Hossein Amir-Abdollahian says Tehran and Paris have a common stance that talks should be continued based on mutual respect in order to overcome the existing challenges.

Amir-Abdollahian in a tweet on Friday, a day after he held a face-to-face meeting in Beijing with his French counterpart Catherine Colonna, travelling with President Emmanuel Macron on his state visit to China, criticized France for failing to fulfill its obligations as per the 2015 nuclear agreement, formally known as the Joint Comprehensive Plan of Action (JCPOA).

"I also emphasized that the rights of the French protesters should be observed." During the two-hour meeting with Colonna, the Iranian foreign minister said, the sides discussed mutual relations, the recent agreement between Iran and Saudi Arabia to normalize relations, which have been severed for seven years, developments in Ukraine and regional issues, including Palestine and Lebanon as well as Tehran's peaceful nuclear program and the removal of sanctions.

Tehran-Baku confrontation enters a new phase



● DAILY SABAH

Iran's Foreign Ministry spokesman Nasser Kanaani **Page 1 >** on Friday responded to Azerbaijan's hostile action, saying "Iran has diplomatic countermeasures on the agenda." "We consider the behavior of the government of the Republic of Azerbaijan to be in conflict with the principles of good neighborliness," he added.

The Foreign Ministry spokesman called on the government of the Republic of Azerbaijan to "maintain mutual respect, take steps in the direction of good neighborliness and stay away from what the Zionists and enemies of the region want."

Kanaani emphasized, "The Islamic Republic of Iran, at the same time, emphasizes the observance of the principles and foundations of the good neighborliness policy and paying attention to the sinister goals of the Zionist regime in creating differences and tensions in relations between Islamic countries."

Continuing its unconstructive actions, Baku's National Assembly, in a statement, asked Iran to refrain from "biased actions" against the Republic of Azerbaijan.

According to Trend news agency, the Parliament of the Republic of Azerbaijan, in its statement, called the statement of the Iranian Parliament regarding the opening of the embassy of the Republic of Azerbaijan in Tel Aviv as "interference in internal affairs and another politically provocative action" against Baku.

Azerbaijan's Parliament Speaker Sahiba Gafarova claimed on Friday that Baku wants Tehran to refrain from actions that harm bilateral relations with Azerbaijan, without referring to Baku's recent anti-Iran stances. In the end, she claimed that "in some countries, special forces are trying to incite conflict in the region and thwart efforts to establish long-term peace between the Republic of Azerbaijan and Armenia."

The move was carried out in an atmosphere in which, following the recent visit of Jeyhun Bayramov, Azerbaijan's foreign minister to Tel Aviv, the anti-Iran statements and positions of the Republic of Azerbaijan have intensified.

Last week, Leyla Abdullayeva, the spokesperson of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Republic of Azerbaijan, dodged questions on the agreement between Baku and Tel Aviv on the formation of a "united front against Iran". Instead, she chose to say, in a baseless claim, that Iran was involved in the assassination of an Azeri MP.

The comment was followed by a reaction from Kanaani, who referred to the evasion of the authorities of the Republic of Azerbaijan to provide an explanation about

the agreement with Israel. "We advise our Muslim brothers and sisters in the Republic of Azerbaijan to be alert to the real intentions of the Zionist enemy," he said. The possibility of a military confrontation cannot be neglected, as Baku began a military drill on Thursday. The military personnel of mechanized units carried out practical training exercises on driving and fire training, the country's Defense Ministry told News.Az. The exercise was conducted in areas of Nakhchivan, near Iran's border. Baku also conducted a naval drill in the Caspian Sea this week. Iranian officials are committed to diplomacy in order to put out the existing fire between Iran and Azerbaijan, but it is Baku that is trying its best not to de-escalate.

Tensions high in occupied territories after Israeli raids

Police said they shot and killed the driver of the car **Page 1 >** and identified him as a 45-year-old Palestinian citizen of Israel from the village of Kafr Qassem. Israel immediately mobilized police and army reserves following the attack, Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu's office said, amid expectations the incident was likely to amplify calls for the right-wing Netanyahu coalition government to pursue an even tougher approach to-

wards Palestinians. A shooting in the West Bank, meanwhile, killed two sisters and seriously wounded their mother near an Israeli settlement in the Jordan Valley, Israeli and British officials said. The family lived in the Efrat settlement, near the Palestinian city of Bethlehem, said Oded Revivi, the settlement's mayor. No groups claimed responsibility for either attack, but the Hamas resistance group that rules Gaza praised both

incidents as retaliation for Israeli raids earlier this week on the Al-Aqsa Mosque. Israel's moves have also sparked outrage across the Muslim world and drawn condemnations from Islamic countries. Iranian President Ebrahim Raisi has called for unity in the Muslim world against the atrocities of the Israeli regime. During a phone call with his Turkish counterpart Recep Tayyip Erdogan on Friday, Raisi strong-

ly slammed the recent attacks of the Israeli forces against Al-Aqsa Mosque as a desecration of the holy place. He also slammed Israeli aggressions on Syria and Lebanon, according to Press TV. Raisi reiterated the call for holding an emergency meeting of the Organization of Islamic Cooperation (OIC) to discuss ways to confront the brutal actions of the Israeli regime. For his part, Erdogan called for Muslim unity to

support Palestine. "The Islamic world should be united against Israel's attacks in Palestine," he said, according to the Turkish Presidency's Directorate of Communications. Noting that rational thinking could prevent a new cycle of violence in Palestine, Erdogan said adopting common sense would be beneficial for all sides. In another phone conversation on Friday, Raisi discussed the crisis with the Turkmen President

Serdar Berdimuhamedov. Raisi mentioned the recent crimes committed by the Zionist regime in Al-Aqsa Mosque and against the people of Palestine and Lebanon, while stressing the need for the convergence of Islamic countries. Nearly 90 Palestinians have been killed by Israeli forces in the occupied West Bank since the beginning of the year. During that time, 16 people have been killed in Palestinian attacks on Israelis.

Iran will benefit from Türkiye-Syria reconciliation: Analyst



IRNA- An Iranian analyst focused on West Asia region says that Iran will benefit from reconciliation between Türkiye and Syria. Hadi Seyyed-Afghahi told IRNA on Saturday that the most important outcome of a recent meeting on Syria in Moscow, which was held in the presence of the deputy foreign ministers of Iran, Russia, Türkiye and Syria, was to remove the stumbling blocks on the way to materialize a peace plan between Syria and Türkiye. Referring to the complexities surrounding the resumption of relations between Ankara and Damascus, Seyyed-Afghahi stressed that the presence of Türkiye in a parts of the Syrian territory is a major problem.

FM's aide: Iran has maintained its position in a non-western world

Political Desk

An aide to the Iranian foreign minister says the foreign policy of the Islamic Republic of Iran seeks to interact with all countries by maintaining the basic principle of "neither east, nor west" and maintaining achievements based on previous experiences. Speaking to Khamenei.ir,

Rasoul Mousavi, aide to the Iranian Foreign Minister Hossein Amir-Abdollahian said that since the Islamic Republic has recognized the interventionist policies of Western countries as contrary to the security and national interests of the country, therefore, by adopting the geopolitical approach of looking to the East, it has created a new space in co-

operation with Asian, African and Latin American countries. In this new environment, he added, due to its innovativeness and confidence, the Islamic Republic has succeeded in changing the fixed definition of the international community that the western countries had and reducing the international community to the Unit-

ed States and countries aligned with it, and has given a new shape to foreign relations. Of course, he noted, the foreign ministry must make it clear that basically the approach of expanding relations with the world other than the West is a new experience even for these countries and the confidence that the Islamic Republic has shown in



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cooperation with these countries has boosted the confidence of the other countries.



Mohammad Ali Rajabi
Cartoonist



Iran FM calls for urgent OIC meeting

Political Desk

Iranian Foreign Minister Hossein Amir-Abdollahian and his Mauritanian counterpart Mohamed Salem Ould Merzoug held a phone conversation late Friday, congratulating each other on the holy month of Ramadan and discussing bilateral ties and regional developments, particularly the situation in Palestine. Amir-Abdollahian congratulated the top Mauritanian diplomat on the successful holding of the meeting of the OIC's foreign ministers in Nouakchott and invited him to visit Tehran, which



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was welcomed by the top Mauritanian diplomat. The two foreign ministers held talks over the current situation in Palestine and the recent acts of aggression by the Israeli regime, as well as their desecration of the Al-Aqsa Mosque and raid on Palestinian worshippers. Amir-Abdollahian and Mer-

zoug underlined the need for united action by Islamic countries in order to counter the Israeli regime's aggression. Given that Mauritania holds the presidency of the OIC, pushing for an emergency meeting of the organization was another issue the Iranian and Mauritanian foreign ministers discussed.