

NEWS IN BRIEF

Harsh punishment awaits Israel: Speaker



● MEHR

Political Desk

Lambasting the recent Israel's brutal attacks, Iranian Parliament Speaker Mohammad Baqer Qalibaf stressed that a crushing punishment is awaiting the Israeli regime.

Speaking at an open Parliament session on Sunday, Mohammad Baqer Qalibaf strongly condemned the desecration of the Al-Aqsa Mosque, the arrest and beating of worshippers in that holy site and the brutal attacks on Gaza and South Lebanon by the Israeli military. For decades, the Israeli regime has turned into an uncontrolled and increasingly criminal killing machine by violating all international laws, the Parliament speaker stressed, adding that the world's Muslims support their courageous brothers and sisters in Palestine.

"Today, the Zionist regime is in its weakest state in history, and the strength of the Resistance Front has forced this regime to show cowardly reactions," he underscored.

Iran-Russia-Türkiye-Syria FMs meeting to be held in May



● ANADOLU AGENCY

Political Desk

The quadrilateral meeting of the foreign ministers of Iran, Russia, Syria and Türkiye was postponed to May, said the Russian Ambassador to Syria Aleksandr Yefimov.

In an interview with El Watan newspaper, Yefimov stated that contacts and consultations are continuing between the relevant parties to achieve positive results in this framework. Noting that although the quadrilateral meeting was supposed to be held on Sunday, it was postponed to early May, the Russian envoy added that the road to normalization of relations between Ankara and Damascus is long and it is not possible to examine all the cases during one round of talks.

Referring to his country's efforts to hold a quadrilateral meeting, Yefimov expressed hope that positive results will be achieved in this regard.

Iran-KSA move one step closer to reopening missions

Political Desk

Following an agreement between Iranian and Saudi top diplomats in Beijing on April 6 to swiftly reopen diplomatic missions, a Saudi Arabian diplomatic delegation has arrived in Tehran to discuss the reopening of its diplomatic missions after a seven-year absence, Riyadh's Foreign Ministry said.

Saturday's visit is part of "implementing the tripartite agreement" reached on March 10 between the two regional powers, brokered by China, to restore relations ruptured in 2016, the Saudi Foreign Ministry said, as reported by the official Saudi Press Agency (SPA).

A Saudi "technical delegation" met Iran's chief

of protocol at the Foreign Ministry in Tehran, SPA reported.

In this regard, Director-General for Persian Gulf Affairs at the Iranian Foreign Ministry said that the Iranian delegation will visit Saudi Arabia next week.

Alireza Enayati, who spoke to Iran Press, also elaborated on the details of the meeting between Hossein Amir-Abdollahian, Iran's foreign minister and his Saudi counterpart, Faisal bin Farhan in Beijing on Thursday, April 6.

According to Enayati, two rounds of talks were conducted between the two foreign ministers, one of which was held behind closed doors.

"According to this agreement, the necessary mea-

asures are being taken to reopen embassies, exchange ambassadors, and heads of missions," the diplomat said.

Referring to the aerial transportation agreement between the two countries, Enayati said, "It was decided to resume flights between the two countries, which define the popular relationship in ties between Iran and Saudi Arabia. Providing the necessary facilities for the travel of nationals, issuing visas and resuming Umrah pilgrimages are among the other items under this agreement."

Regarding the Yemen crisis, the diplomat said that Iran has stressed this issue in the agreement, adding that the crisis in Yemen cannot be solved



● Saudi Arabian embassy in Tehran/PARSINEH

through war.

"Iran supported the ceasefire in Yemen on both occasions, like the time it was extended. The issue of Yemen is an issue that must be resolved by the Yemenis themselves," he added.

According to Enayati, the capacities of Iran and Sau-

di Arabia are great and the relations between the two countries have diverse contexts.

"It is expected that according to what was mentioned in the final joint statement, the private and public sectors would benefit from maximum economic ca-

capacity due to the proximity of the two countries," the diplomat stated.

Enayati added, "Iran, as a transit bridge from the south of the Persian Gulf to the north, can contribute to the growth and prosperity of the region as a completely reliable route."

New era of regional stability

With their capital and geopolitical sway, Iran and Saudi Arabia

have the potential to wield considerable influence over a major portion of the regional states. As such, the re-establishment of their relations not only benefits the entire region, but also presents the Islamic Republic with the opportunity to expand and deepen its connections with nearly fifty Arab nations, paving the way for prosperity, development, peace, and stability.

Both Iran and Saudi Arabia are prominent actors within OPEC and OPEC+, wielding substantial influence over the international energy supply, in general, and oil prices, production, and exports, in particular. Their April 6 agreement has already yielded positive outcomes. There has been

a surge in oil prices and a cut in OPEC production, along with efforts aimed at reintegrating Syria into the fold of Arab nations. So, the accord has potential ramifications that go beyond Tehran and Riyadh and could entice other Arab countries such as Egypt, Jordan, and Bahrain to improve their ties with Iran.

The schism between Iran and Saudi Arabia had created an opening for Israel to exploit the inter-state tension to its advantage. This allowed Israel to consolidate its influence in the region, as evinced by striking various normalization deals with several Arab nations. However, a rapprochement between Iran and Saudi Arabia would severely constrain the scope of these machinations.

This historic agreement also

marks a shift away from the previous era where foreign relations of countries were often determined by a third power at the opposite end of the world. Some experts believe that this signifies the beginning of a post-American epoch. The new regional order sees a departure from the ideology of coercion and hegemony that has been the cornerstone of American foreign policy. The countries in the region have recognized that the principle of equitable collaboration is the best way to achieve regional stability.

Moreover, the agreement signifies an Eastern alliance that embodies a new world order where the role of Eastern countries in global affairs is elevated. This new world order can thwart the West's predisposition towards taking command and reestablish-

ing colonialism in disregard of the interests of other countries.

While the restoration of diplomatic ties between Iran and Saudi Arabia is undoubtedly a major development, it is important to note that there are still challenges to overcome. The United States and Israel are likely to view this agreement as a threat and may take steps to undermine it. The US military-industrial complex has heavily invested in the region, making the restoration of amicable relations between Iran and Saudi Arabia a tangible threat to its interests. It is therefore incumbent upon Iran and Saudi Arabia, along with other nations in the region, to remain vigilant, maintain this amity, and preemptively forestall any hostile actions.

Ultimately, the agreement be-

tween Iran and Saudi Arabia represents a step towards a more stable and cooperative regional order, one that prioritizes the interests of nations in the region over those of external powers. By working together, nations in the region can overcome longstanding conflicts and address shared challenges, eventually paving the way for a more prosperous and peaceful future.

The fact that these two nations, with their long and complex histories, have been able to put their differences aside and come together is a testament to the power of diplomacy and the potential for peaceful coexistence. It remains to be seen what the future holds for this newly restored relationship, but the possibilities for progress and prosperity are tantalizing.

Iran seizes 4 vessels carrying smuggled diesel

Political Desk

The Chief Justice of Hormozgan Province of Iran announced the seizure of 4 vessels carrying smuggled fuel in the Persian Gulf waters, noting that 270,000 liters of diesel were retrieved from these

vessels.

Mojtabi Ghahremani said, "Based on the order of Kish Island's public prosecutor and in line with the implementation of the anti-smuggling plan, the officers of the 1st navy flotilla stationed on this island managed to identify and

capture four vessels carrying smuggled fuel cargoes in the border strip. During the inspection of these vessels, more than 270 thousand liters of smuggled diesel were discovered and confiscated, he added.

The Chief of Justice of

Hormozgan Province announced the approximate value of the discovered fuels to be more than 81 billion Rials (approximately 1,928,000 USD), adding, "The smugglers skillfully created tanks in the hulls and walls of the vessels and placed fuel in these

tanks.

Ghahremani emphasized that according to the legal procedure, the discovered fuels will be delivered to the distribution sector of the petroleum products company and the fuel would enter the legal distribution cycle.



Mohammad Ali Rajabi
Cartoonist



Maritime parades planned in support of Palestine: IRGC Navy chief

Voluntary sailors in Iran's northern and southern coastal regions and their peers in a number of ports across the world will attend maritime parades on April 13 to demonstrate solidarity with the people of Palestine, the IRGC Navy commander said, according to Tasnim news agency.

Speaking to reporters in the southern port city of Bushehr on Sunday, Rear Admiral Ali Reza Tangsiri said the maritime parade is scheduled for April 13 to express support for the oppressed people of Palestine



● TASNIM

and their Intifada (uprising) and to condemn the Zionist regime's brutal and heinous crimes. The maritime parades, slated for Thursday evening, will include the vessels of the popular Basij force of

the IRGC Navy, he added. Local sailors along the southern and northern coasts of Iran will take part in the parades that will be held simultaneously in a number of ports across the world, the commander stated.