

## NEWS IN BRIEF

## Saudi technical delegation in Mashhad to open consulate



IRNA - A technical delegation from Saudi Arabia has traveled to Mashhad, a northeastern Iranian city, to visit the Saudi Consulate General and review ways to reopen it.

The Saudi delegation visited its diplomatic places and embassy in Tehran in the past few days and traveled to Mashhad on Friday (April 14).

Nasser bin Awad al-Ghanoum, the head of the Saudi delegation, expressed appreciation to the officials of the Iranian Foreign Ministry in Mashhad, Khorasan Razavi Province, for their warm welcome. The Saudi official expressed hope that the revival of ties between Riyadh and Tehran would lead to further cooperation among regional countries and bring about prosperity for the region.

# Iran questions Europe's human rights double standards



IRNA

The Secretary General of Iran's High Council for Human Rights Kazem Gharibabadi has criticized international mechanisms for not taking a position regarding the deterioration of human rights situations in Western countries.

In a letter to "Volker Türk", the United Nations High Commissioner for Human

Rights, Gharibabadi noted, "The world suffers from fundamental challenges and dilemmas regarding human rights, mainly caused by the actions of countries that claim to be defending human rights and see themselves in the position of making demands from others and being immune from any criticism and responsibility.

The responsibility of the international human rights mechanisms in such conditions is fundamental to support and promote human rights, which must be fulfilled by respecting independence, impartiality, professionalism, and non-selectivity," IRNA reported.

He then drew the Commissioner's attention to "some situations over the last six months in several countries regarding the right to freedom of assembly and of association."

"France regularly witnesses massive public demonstrations in protest against the government's policies. Instead of listening to the protesters' demands and trying to improve the situation, the French government resorts to large-scale violence to deal with the gatherings. Using anti-riot equipment, assaulting people, and arresting thousands of protesters are only part of the countermeasures ad-

opted by the French government," he wrote.

Gharibabadi also noted, "Following a sit-in protest in Germany, the German Minister of the Interior took to Twitter and said, 'Blocking escape routes puts lives at risk. We saw that in a terrible way in Berlin. The police have my full support for a crackdown.'" On the other hand, over 3,000 German police and security forces arrested hundreds of political opponents under the pretext of plotting to stage a coup d'état. Arresting these people - who only sought to bring changes in the German political system gun-free and without closing the street and killing the police - on suspicion of subversion and restricting any support for them on social networks is considered suppression of freedom of expression and opinion."

Referring to the recent riots in Iran, the Secretary General of Iran's High Council for Human

Rights added, "Egged on by incitement and backing of particular States, media outlets and terrorist groups, the recent gatherings in the Islamic Republic of Iran deviated from their peaceful nature and morphed into riots, causing violations of the fundamental rights of citizens, including but not limited to the right to personal liberty and security, the right to freedom of movement as well as the right to health and safety." "I would like an answer to the following question: Why didn't the High Commissioner and his Office take a position regarding the deteriorating human rights situations in the aforementioned countries?! The Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights is expected to perform its duties in a professional and non-selective manner. Public opinion is still awaiting an appropriate reaction," Gharibabadi concluded.

## Failed ...

In Syria's neighborhood, Lebanon's Hezbollah, another ally of Iran, as well as other resistant groups, such as Hamas and Islamic Jihad in Palestine, have upset the balance of power in the occupied territories and have demonstrated their ability to deter Israel's attacks.

Furthermore, diplomatic visits to Tehran and vice versa are underway. Political ties between Iran and China are stronger than ever. Tehran and Moscow have strengthened their political and economic relations.

All these developments are yet another sign of a tangible reality: Contrary to the wishes and efforts of some Western countries in cooperation with Israel, the Islamic Republic of Iran is not only not isolated, but has gained a greater role in regional relations.

This fact was also reflected in "The Times of Israel," which emphasized that "Iran seeks to build a new Middle East". According to the Israeli media, "The axis supported by Beijing-Tehran, in line with reconciliation and strategic alliance with Sunni Muslim countries, creates important security challenges for Israel and the United States".

The current position of Tehran and its friends in the region is, on the one hand, the result of resistance to external pressures and, on the other hand, it is due to the revelation of lies and fabricated accusations against Tehran, which were propagated in the form of Iranophobia.

In fact, regional and extra-regional efforts to leave Tehran out of regional equations and relationships have been a failure because they were not based on reality.

## Neighbors unite ...

## Migrant crisis

This domestic economic turmoil has assumed regional and international dimensions and triggered a surge of migrants from various Afghan cities to the neighboring nations, especially Iran. According to the international statistics of the International Organization for Migration and the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees, there are nearly five million Afghans residing in Iran, with an additional half a million Afghan immigrants entering Iran in 2021, coinciding with the Taliban's return.

## Security challenges

Terrorism and the emergence of Daesh, or ISIS, in Afghanistan have worsened the country's already complex and challenging situation. In the wake of its collapse in the Middle East, ISIS has concentrated its terrorist activities on specific parts of Afghanistan, launching brutal attacks against civilians, particularly Shias and Hazaras, resulting in

the loss of thousands of Afghan lives. Despite having given refuge to millions of Afghan refugees, motivated by humanitarianism and international responsibility, Afghanistan's neighboring countries cannot tolerate border security issues, particularly with the presence of terrorist groups such as ISIS.

Iran has drawn a firm red line on border and internal security, sanctioning any measures required to protect them at all levels. Iran's participation in the meetings of Afghanistan's neighbors chiefly focuses on the issue of its border security, which has faced the menace of drug trafficking and human smuggling for years, resulting in significant financial and human losses.

## Role of education

Alongside security and diplomatic apprehensions, Iran has raised concerns over the re-emergence of specific kinds of ideologies following the Taliban's re-establishment in Afghanistan. The consequences are social, particularly in regard to women's

education and presence in the society, about which the Islamic Republic has already warned. Iran emphasizes the significance of education for Afghan women and girls, and has expressed its readiness to provide more assistance through the United Nations and encourage the interim governing body in this critical matter.

The neighboring countries of Afghanistan are working together to address the challenges facing the country, especially in the aftermath of the Taliban's return to power. Economic difficulties, terrorism, drug trafficking, and refugee crises are just some of the issues that need to be addressed. In response, the international community has pledged humanitarian aid and support, with several countries committing to accepting Afghan refugees. While there is much work to be done, there is hope that through collaboration and cooperation, Afghanistan can rebuild and move toward a brighter future. It will require significant effort and resources, but with the right approach and sustained commitment, positive change is possible.

## Iran successfully tests Sadid-365 missile

## Political Desk

Sadid-365, the newest domestic addition to Iranian missiles, was test-fired by the IRGC Ground Forces on Saturday. The Sadid-365 missile is an anti-tank guided missile, with a range of eight kilometers, which is capable of destroying all kinds of



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armored equipment, said General Ali Kouhestani, head of the Research Organization of the IRGC Ground Force on Saturday. This optically-guided missile can hit targets with high accuracy, General Kouhestani said, adding that Sadid-365 enjoys a top attack system capable of attacking targets from above.

It can pass through the barrier of active defense systems of tanks and destroy them, he added.

The general said that IRGC experts will optimize the missile in the next phase and equip it with folding fins and a new fire control system.

He noted that the IRGC Ground Force's personnel carriers will be furnished with four Sadid-365 missiles, two installed on each side of the turret.

In July 2021, the IRGC unveiled the ground-launched version of Almas anti-tank missile, a top attack weapon that can hit targets within a range of eight kilometers.



Mohammad Ali Rajabi  
Cartoonist



## Tehran, Baku confer on defusing tensions

## Political Desk

Iranian Foreign Minister Hossein Amir-Abdollahian and his Azeri counterpart, Jeyhun Bayramov, held a third round of phone conversations on Friday night on the latest developments in bilateral ties.

During the talks the two sides stressed pursuing the agreements reached between the two countries. Constant meetings of the top diplomats of the Islamic Republic of Iran and the Republic of Azerbaijan



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in the capitals of the two countries are on the agenda, according to the Iranian Foreign Ministry's transcript of the phone call. During the constructive talks the two ministers emphasized continued consultations between of-

ficials of the two countries. The phone call comes as Tehran and Baku had entered a new phase of diplomatic confrontation, but diplomatic efforts seem to have borne fruit, as the two neighbors have cooled off media hype.