

NEWS IN BRIEF

Kazakhstan's PM due in Iran next week



MEHR – Kazakhstan's Prime Minister Alikhan Smailov is scheduled to visit Tehran next week for talks on economic relations. Smailov will visit Iran at the invitation of Iran's First Vice President Mohammad Mokhber. His trip is aimed at expanding the economic and commercial relations between the two countries. The Kazakh prime minister is set to hold meetings with high-ranking Iranian officials during his visit. Trade volume between Iran and Kazakhstan in the first 10 months of 2022 reached \$450 million. During this period, Iran's exports to Kazakhstan increased by 26.5% and imports increased by 15%.

Iran, Russia discuss talks on Syria

MEHR – Iran's Ambassador to Russia Kazem Jalali held talks with Russian Deputy Minister of Foreign Affairs Mikhail Bogdanov over quadrilateral talks on Syria. Recently, the Russian Ambassador to Syria Aleksandr Yefimov said that the meeting of the foreign ministers of Iran, Russia, Syria and Türkiye was postponed to May. The meeting between the senior diplomats from Russia, Iran, Syria and Türkiye was to be held on April 3-4 in Moscow.

Iran discovers large batch of smuggled weapons



IRNA – Iran's border forces have discovered a large batch of weapons and ammunition smuggled into the country. Authorities in the western city of Dehloran in Ilam Province announced the discovery of more than 11,000 bullets, 60 pistols and 10 Kalashnikov rifles along with 120 magazines. In connection with this, a person has been arrested by the security forces.

Leader: Enemy seeking to polarize Iranian nation



Leader of the Islamic Revolution Ayatollah Seyyed Ali Khamenei addresses a group of university students and campaigners of student movements in Tehran, Iran, on April 18, 2023. [Leader.ir](#)

IS THE WILL OF THE ENEMY. STUDENTS' DEMANDS MUST BE ACCOMPANIED BY REALISM AND PROVIDING SCIENTIFIC AND PRACTICAL SOLUTIONS," THE LEADER SAID. AYATOLLAH KHAMENEI DISMISSED THE IDEA THAT ANY DISMAY ABOUT THE RESOLUTION OF THE COUNTRY'S PROBLEMS HAS AN INTERNAL ORIGIN, SAYING IT IS THE ENEMY'S STRATEGY TO MAKE THE IRANIAN NATION FEEL DISAPPOINTED ABOUT ITSELF. EMPHASIZING THAT "EVERYONE SHOULD BE UP-TO-DATE IN GETTING TO KNOW THE ENEMY'S PLAN AND STRATEGY," THE LEADER SAID, "WHETHER WE UNDERSTAND IT OR NOT, THE ENEMY IS CONSTANTLY WORKING AGAINST THE 'RIGHTEOUS FRONT' BY SPENDING MONEY AND RESOURCES." THE LEADER ALSO SAID THE ILL-WISHING MEDIA INSIST THAT THE IRANIAN NATION HAS TURNED AWAY FROM RE-

LEADER OF THE ISLAMIC REVOLUTION AYATOLLAH SEYYED ALI KHAMENEI SAID THE ENEMY HAS ALWAYS SOUGHT TO POLARIZE THE IRANIAN NATION, CALLING ON THE COUNTRY'S STUDENT

COMMUNITY TO ADHERE TO THE PRINCIPLES OF REALISM IN ITS DEMANDS. AYATOLLAH KHAMENEI MADE THE REMARKS ON TUESDAY IN AN ADDRESS TO A GROUP OF UNIVERSITY STUDENTS

AND CAMPAIGNERS OF STUDENT MOVEMENTS, ACCORDING TO PRESS TV. "STUDENT ACTIVITIES SHOULD NOT POLARIZE THE STUDENT COMMUNITY AND THE COUNTRY. POLARIZATION

LIGIOUS BELIEFS AND REVOLUTIONARY IDEALS, BUT THIS YEAR'S LAYLAT AL-QADR, WHICH MARKS THE NIGHT WHEN THE HOLY QUR'AN WAS REVEALED TO THE PROPHET MOHAMMAD (PBUH), AND INTERNATIONAL QUDS DAY WERE MORE VIBRANT THAN LAST YEAR. RESPONDING TO A QUESTION ABOUT THE POSSIBILITY OF HOLDING REFERENDUMS ON THE COUNTRY'S ISSUES, THE LEADER SAID, "IS IT POSSIBLE TO HOLD REFERENDUMS ON VARIOUS ISSUES IN THE COUNTRY? WHERE IN THE WORLD DO THEY DO THIS? DO ALL THE PEOPLE WHO HAVE TO PARTICIPATE IN THE REFERENDUM HAVE THE ABILITY TO ANALYZE THAT ISSUE?" AYATOLLAH KHAMENEI CALLED ON THE IRANIAN YOUTHS TO RESOLUTELY FOLLOW THE PATH OF THE ISLAMIC REVOLUTION AND ISLAM WHILE KEEPING HOPE AND RATIONALITY ALIVE, AND WARNED, "ENEMIES HOLD A GRUDGE AGAINST THE IRANIAN YOUTHS" AS THEY ARE AFRAID OF THE IRANIAN YOUNG GENERATION'S PRESENCE, WORK AND MOTIVATION.

Iranian MP advises Baku to be far-sighted

Reaffirming that Iran has always sought to support its neighbors and establish peace and security in the region, the legislator maintained that as a powerful state, Iran has never been indifferent toward the destiny and security of its Muslim neighbor, and that is why Tehran has backed Baku at various critical moments. "We believe that while the territorial integrity of our neighbors should be respected, the cultural commonalities of them should be highlighted and deepened so that our peoples grow ever closer," the

MP said. Moqtadaei called Azerbaijan "a precious part" of the Muslim world and stressed that Israel cannot be allowed entry to the region as a result of amateurish measures since "it would hurt the people and interests of the country in the long-term." "We have conveyed this to the Azerbaijani authorities because we believe that any damage dealt from that front to Azerbaijan will eventually spill over into other regional countries." He emphasized that the current Iranian government seek to boost relations with neighbors and

ensure regional security through good neighborliness. "We have never sought to break ties with Azerbaijan, and Iran's strategic patience over bilateral disputes of late have been self-evident," Moghtadaei said, adding that Azerbaijani officials should take necessary precautions in this regard lest their country be damaged. He advised Baku to maintain its independency in various affairs and rely on its domestic capabilities and potential, warning that if its policies lead to dependence on other countries, no good shall come to them.

Pakistan welcomes Iran-Saudi Arabia détente



National Desk

Pakistan welcomed restoration of diplomatic relations between Iran and Saudi Arabia. Pakistan's Foreign Minister Hina Rabbani Khar in a meeting with Iran's Ambassador to Islamabad Seyyed Mohammad Ali Hosseini on Tuesday said Pakistan is the happiest country in the world in this regard, according

to Mehr news agency. Saudi Arabia severed its diplomatic relations with Iran in 2016 following protests outside its embassy in Tehran over Riyadh's execution of Shia cleric Sheikh Nimr Baqir al-Nimr. A Chinese-brokered agreement between Iran and Saudi Arabia helped the two countries restore diplomatic relations. The rapprochement

agreement has had positive impacts in the Middle East region. Iranian and Pakistani officials also discussed other issues such as bilateral ties and the situation in Afghanistan. Pakistan's top diplomat emphasized the commitment of Islamabad to the all-out development of relations with Tehran, including in the political, economic and commercial fields.

Mohammad Ali Rajabi
Cartoonist



Iran-IAEA talks progressing: Eslami

The head of the Atomic Energy Organization of Iran has hailed the advance in negotiations between Iran and the International Atomic Energy Agency. Speaking to reporters on the sidelines of a cabinet session on Wednesday, Mohammad Eslami said that delegations from the two sides are in contact constantly, adding that the process of negotiations is making headway, Tasnim news agency reported. Eslami noted that technical and expert delegations representing Iran and the IAEA make reciprocal visits and contacts every day,



adding that a report on the results of the talks will be publicized in due time. He also highlighted Iran's advances in the production of radiopharmaceuticals, saying 67 types of radiopharmaceuticals are administered to over one million cancer patients in 210 hospitals and medical centers across the country. Iranian experts in the

pharmaceutical industry have in recent years made great headways in producing medicines used to cure a broad range of diseases. In December 2022, scientists at the AEOI's Nuclear Science and Technologies Research Center developed the Rhenium-188-based radiopharmaceutical for the treatment of neuroendocrine tumors (NETs). Eslami said in January that Iran had been ranked among the world's top five states in the production of radiopharmaceuticals, which are exported to nine countries.