

Kazakh PM to visit Tehran



IRNA

Political Desk

Kazakhstan's Prime Minister Alikhan Smailov will travel to Tehran on Wednesday, according to the Iranian President's political deputy.

Mohammad Jamshidi said, "The prime minister of Kazakhstan will travel to Tehran on Wednesday to review the latest state of relations between the two countries. The aim of implementing the agreements of the presidents of the two countries will be the focus of his consultations with Iran's First Vice President Mohammad Mokhber."

Jamshidi added that high-ranking delegations, headed by Smailov and Mokhber, will consult on how to boost bilateral political, economic and trade relations.

According to Jamshidi, planning and coordination to improve the level of cooperation between Tehran and Astana in the field of transportation, export, technical and engineering services, transit, cooperation in the field of energy and banking relations will be among the most important topics on the agenda of the two delegations during the visit of the Kazakh premier to Tehran.

Envoy: Iran will legally respond to EU sanctions

Political Desk

The Iranian ambassador to Austria said on Tuesday that Tehran will react legally, "on the basis of countermeasures," to the recent hostile action of the European Union's Council in sanctioning Iranian individuals and legal entities. Writing on his Twitter account, Abbas Bagherpour said, "Europe is desperately showing its international performance through noxious moves including by copy/paste of U.S./UK list of sanctions, while there are better ways for role-playing, away from miscalculation."

"We legally react on the basis of countermeasure," he added.

He then expressed hope that one day, "wisdom would prevail over adventurism."

The European Union imposed sanctions on Monday on eight Iranian individuals and a mobile telecommunications provider.

The latest measures mean 211 individuals and 35 legal entities are now under EU sanctions, the EU Council said in a statement.

UN deputy chief hails Iran's cooperation on humanitarian crises

International Desk

UN Undersecretary-General for Humanitarian Affairs and Emergency Relief Coordinator Martin Griffiths, who is in Tehran, met with Iran's Foreign Minister Hossein Amir-Abdollahian and Senior Adviser to the Iranian Foreign Minister for Special Political Affairs Ali Asghar Khaji.

During his meeting with Khaji, both sides discussed the latest developments in the region, especially the restoration of relations between Iran and Saudi Arabia, humanitarian problems in Syria and Yemen, and the peace prospect in the region.

Referring to the existing security and political system in Syria, Khaji described the economic problems and the critical humanitarian situation in Syria, especially after the recent earthquake, as the country's most pressing issue. He further stressed the need to increase and speed up the transfer of humanitarian aid to the

country at the regional and international levels.

As for Yemen, Khaji described the recent talks in Sana'a as positive, adding that more than 20 million Yemenis urgently need help. He also called for the international community to speed up its efforts to tackle humanitarian problems in Yemen.

Griffiths, for his part, noted that the recent agreement between Iran and Saudi Arabia to resume bilateral relations has had positive implications for regional developments and for advancing the peace process. He underlined the significance of the participation and assistance of regional countries in meeting the humanitarian needs of the Syrian and Yemeni people. Later, the UN official met Amir-Abdollahian. During the meeting, both officials exchanged views on various regional and international issues.

After the meeting, Griffiths held a press conference to elaborate on the outcome of his talks in Tehran.

During the press conference, the UN official said his meetings in Tehran were "constructive," expressing hope that interactions between Tehran and UN would continue.

Griffiths said, "The minister of foreign affairs and the government of the Islamic Republic of Iran have had close relations with us regarding the preparation and response to humanitarian disasters. We hope to witness the expansion of relations as much as possible. A clear evidence of the expansion of our relations were the events and actions we took during the earthquake that recently occurred in Syria and Turkey."

The UN official went on to note that another issue that he discussed was the capacities that both sides must realize in order to witness the permanent truce in Yemen and to be able to bring prosperity, peace and stability to the people of this country. Discussing the humanitarian aid carried out



by the United Nations in Afghanistan, the official said that, so far, countries have pledged to donate \$4.6 billion to Afghanistan, which is "the largest amount of humanitarian aid to any country in the world," adding that considering the extraordinary conditions of Afghanistan, it is not surprising that 16 million people in Afghanistan need humanitarian assistance.

"We made a clear request

from the donor countries. We also reminded the Taliban of their responsibilities. They also have a responsibility regarding women's rights and must ensure that the right to work, play, education, and activism of Afghan women and girls is fully respected and protected. Women should be activists and it is through this interaction and activism that we can reach out to the women and girls of Afghanistan."



Iran's Foreign Minister Hossein Amir-Abdollahian (L) meeting UN Deputy Chief Martin Griffiths (2nd R) in Tehran on April 25, 2023.
mfa.gov.ir

FM kicks off Middle East tour to boost bilateral ties



FAEZE ZAMANI/BORNA

International Desk

Continuing his political consultations with officials from various countries, Iran's Foreign Minister Hossein Amir-Abdollahian arrived in Muscat, Oman on Tuesday.

Upon his arrival, Iran's top diplomat was greeted

by several high-ranking Omani officials.

Later, Amir-Abdollahian met his Omani counterpart, Badr al-Busaidi. According to media reports, both chief diplomats exchanged views on various bilateral, regional and international developments.

Amir-Abdollahian is set to pay a two-day visit to Lebanon on Wednesday, according to various Lebanese media outlets.

Iran's Foreign Minister is set to meet Nabih Berry, Lebanon's Parliament Speaker, Najib Mikati, Lebanon's Prime Minister, and Abdallah Bou Habib, his Lebanese counterpart, on Thursday, according to Lebanese media.

With Amir-Abdollahian visiting Muscat, several political pundits have raised speculations on some progress regarding the ongoing prisoner swap issue between Iran and the United States. Oman has been a mediator between Iran and the U.S. for over a decade, along with Qatar, Switzerland, and most recently, Iraq.

Iran's Foreign Ministry has not yet provided a detailed readout of the meeting between Amir-Abdollahian and Busaidi. His agenda in Muscat has not also been revealed to the media. Therefore, such rumors continue to spiral into the dark.

Navy chief: Iran to build high-speed cruise missiles

Political Desk

Admiral Shahram Irani, Iran's Navy chief, said that high-speed surface-to-surface cruise missiles will soon be built by navy experts.

In an interview with Borana news agency, the commander said, "In the Navy, we have acquired the first set of land attack missiles, which will be unveiled soon," adding that its evaluation process has been carried out successfully. "For the first time, this type of missile, which does not exist in any of the regional countries, is being built in Iran."

The Admiral announced that the construction of high-range anti-ship mis-

siles possessing detection ability is also on the agenda with the cooperation of the Ministry of Defense and knowledge-based companies, and it will soon be added to the Navy.

Irani also noted that the Besat heavy submarine will be "bigger and heavier than the Fateh submarine in terms of tonnage and weight".

As such, the Navy's experts predict that the Besat submarine can stay underwater for longer stretches of time.

"If this happens, this submarine will be equipped with subsurface-to-surface and subsurface-to-air missiles in addition to torpedoes."



ISNA



Foreign Ministry to evacuate Iranians from Sudan

International Desk

Iran's Foreign Ministry announced that it is working on measures to evacuate Iranian nationals from Sudan, where conflict has been going on between the army and a rival paramilitary group for more than a week now.

The Iranian Foreign Ministry made the announcement on Monday night. It said that the ministry has coordinated the measures required for the evacuation of Iranian citizens from Sudan since the beginning of the conflict there. Following up and dealing

with the situation and safety of Iranian expatriates is a priority of the Foreign Ministry, it added.

Other countries including Western, Arab, and Asian states also rushed to evacuate their citizens from Sudan.

The northeastern African country has been the scene of fighting between the military and the Rapid Support Forces (RSF) paramilitary group since April 15.

According to the World Health Organization, more than 400 people have lost their lives and hundreds more were injured in the fighting ever since.



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