

NEWS IN BRIEF

Indian NSC
adviser due
in Tehran

NOUR NEWS

International Desk

Ajit Doval, national security adviser to Indian Prime Minister Narendra Modi, will visit Tehran on Monday at the invitation of Iran's top security official Admiral Ali Shamkhani.

During this one-day visit, Doval will meet with Shamkhani, secretary of the Supreme National Security Council (SNSC) of Iran, as well as other senior Iranian officials to discuss regional and international issues of mutual interest.

The expansion of relations with India, as a major member of both the Shanghai Cooperation Organization (SCO) and the BRICS group of emerging economies, could help advance the Islamic Republic's strategy of forging closer economic cooperation with member states of those organizations.

India's investment in Chabahar port will also be discussed in Doval's meetings.

Local police
chief shot dead
by unknown
gunmen

National Desk

Local police chief of Saravan, a city in southeastern Iran in the Sistan and Baluchistan Province was shot dead by anonymous individuals driving a car, a provincial official announced. Governor of Saravan Saeed Tajlili told IRNA on Sunday that Lieutenant Colonel Alireza Shahraki had been assassinated earlier in the day when he was inside his own car at an intersection in Saravan. Shahraki's wife was seriously injured in the attack, said the governor, adding that an investigation was launched to identify the perpetrators.

Later it was announced that the police chief's wife had also passed away due to suffering serious injuries.

U.S. attitude
toward Israel
has made
"tangible shift"

Iranian Foreign Ministry spokesman Nasser Kannaani on Sunday highlighted the drastic shift in public opinion in the United States towards the Israeli regime, saying Americans are entitled to question their country's support for the occupying regime, which comes at the expense of their own interests.

Persian Gulf Day highlights
Iranian identity

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Political Desk

In the Iranian calendar, the 10th of Ordibehesht (which falls on April 30) marks Persian Gulf Day. The occasion will once again bring to mind a Persian identity that has thus far benefited Iran, as well as the countries in the region.

Few countries claim that Tehran is the main source of insecurity in the Persian

Gulf region. They seem to have forgotten the times when Iranian naval forces seized many ships that were trafficking fuel or smuggling other goods in the Persian Gulf. Those same countries have desperately attempted to rename this body of water by forging history.

Marking the occasion, the Iranian Foreign Ministry wrote in a post on its official Twitter page that "Iranians

mark April 30 as #PersianGulfDay."

"The name of 'Persian Gulf' is born with the history. All historical & international sources, ancient maps, documents, books as well as UN directive confirm that the body of water in south of Iran has always been called #PersianGulf," the tweet reads.

Meanwhile, the Tehran Municipality has hoisted banners and placards in front of the United Arab Emirates (UAE) and British embassies in the capital, Tehran, to protest against the choice of a fake name for the Persian Gulf by officials from the two countries.

The strategic gulf is an international trade route connecting the Middle East to Africa, India, and China.

The gulf has an area around 93,000 square miles, or 251,000 square kilometers. It measures 615 miles, or 990 km, in length, and 55km to 340km in width.

Iran borders the Persian Gulf from the north, east and northeast, while Oman and UAE surround it from the south and southeast. It is surrounded by Qatar, Saudi Arabia and Bahrain from the southwest and west,

and Iraq and Kuwait from the northwest.

It has been referred to by historians and ancient texts as the "Persian Gulf" since the Achaemenid Empire was established in what is now modern-day Iran.

While historical documents show that the waterway has always been referred to as the "Persian Gulf," certain Arab states and their allies have frequently used the fictitious name the "Arabian Gulf" or "the Arab Gulf" to point to the body of water.

Geologists say the Persian Gulf began to form around 500,000 years ago, and it began to take shape along Iran's southern plains. In its earlier years, it was so big that the plains in Borazjan, Khuzestan and Behbahan were filled with water till the Zagros Mountains.

Greek texts called the body of water "Persian Gulf" or "the Gulf of Persia." Compiled texts dating from 550-330 BC refer to the gulf and certain areas of the Arabian Peninsula as the Pars or Persian Sea. This highlighted the sovereignty and power enjoyed by the Persian Empire over the entire area. In the mid-20th century,

however, some Arab states around the Persian Gulf suggested that the proper name for the gulf is the Arabian Gulf. The dispute escalated to the extent that Iran banned publications using this unusual and forged name. Both parties have extended historic proof to support their individual claims. The Eighth United Nations Conference on the Standardization of Geographical Names, held in Berlin in August-September 2002, cleared the UN's position on the name. According to the UN, the use of Arabian Gulf is flawed and Persian Gulf is the correct name.

In a tweet on Sunday, celebrating the national occasion, Iran's Foreign Minister Hossein Amir-Abdollahian wrote, "Persian Gulf is an important part of the undeniable and common identity of Iran and the region and a natural resource full of benefits for the residents around it."

He added that "maximizing the benefits of the Persian Gulf will depend on the security, convergence and collective participation of the coastal countries of this proud water area."

Iran thanks KSA for assisting
Sudan evacuation

International Desk

Iran has thanked Saudi Arabia for helping its citizens escape the conflict in Sudan after dozens arrived by boat in Jeddah. The 65 Iranians were among about 1,900 people ferried to safety from Port Sudan on Saturday as fighting between rival Sudanese forces entered a third week.

Hassan Zarnegar Abarghoui, one of four Iranian diplomats waiting to receive the citizens at the King Faisal Naval Base in Jeddah, said late Saturday that his government was grateful for the "humanitarian co-operation" shown by the Saudi au-



thorities. Merhadd Malekzadh, a 28-year-old Iranian who had lived in Khartoum since he was a child, said no one had expected the fighting to become so intense, and his escape had also been a surprise. "Because of our nationality, we had never imagined we

would come to Saudi Arabia when we were evacuated," said Mr Malekzadh, whose family runs an oil lubricant business in the Sudanese capital. "Fortunately, they really helped us. They put their differences aside and worked together. They saved lives."

Iran, U.S. rivalry
in Syria

Therefore, the U.S. is doing its utmost to maintain

Israel's position as the region's superpower. Over the past years, the U.S. has sought to split the regional countries such as Iraq, Lebanon, Syria and Iran in order to achieve this goal. However, if the U.S. fails to accomplish its purpose, it will put its position in the West Asian region in danger.

Naturally, the process of Israel's weakness has started a long time ago and recent internal problems in the regime have intensified it.

Syria is the frontline of the fight against Israel and it is important in what direction the rivalry between Iran and the U.S. in Syria will go.

Iran has four important strongholds on the frontline against Israel and the U.S., namely Syria, Lebanon, Gaza Strip and the West Bank, all four been strongly supported by the Islamic Republic in the past years.

Incidents in the West Asian region show that developments are taking place in favor of Iran and to the detriment of the U.S. For instance, a

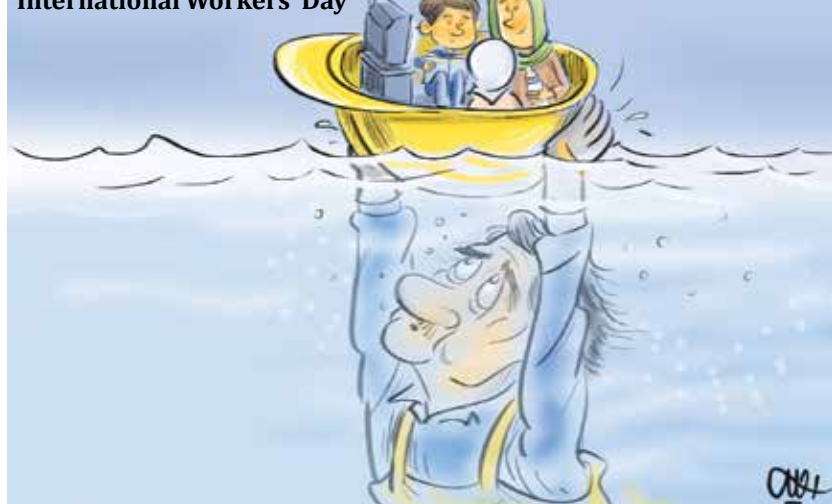
few years ago, Israel was so powerful that when its army in the morning had decided to enter the Lebanon's territory, it would have entered Beirut in the evening. But now, the situation has changed and the Israeli regime has lost its strength. This is precisely an example of Iran's power which has challenged the U.S. dominance in the West Asia.

Therefore, Raeisi's trip and visits by Iranian and Syrian officials would heighten the competition between Tehran and Washington in the region.



Mohammad Ali Rajabi
Cartoonist

International Workers' Day

Envoy: Iran, Iraq's security
intertwined

International Desk

Iran's ambassador to Iraq said that Baghdad's security is intertwined with that of Tehran's, hence, both the Iranian and Iraqi presidents emphasized the importance of maintaining security in Iraq in the recent visit of the Iraqi President Abdullatif Rashid to Tehran on Saturday.

In an interview with ISNA, Mohammad Kazem Al-Sadeq said that currently, Iran and Iraq enjoy \$10 billion in trade

relations, yet both sides emphasized the necessity of boosting the trade level.

Elsewhere in the interview, the ambassador discussed Iraq's water crisis, saying, "In this regard, we announced to the Iraqi government that we are ready to provide them with our experiences related to water management and such."

During this trip, he added, the Iraqi authorities presented a report on Baghdad's measures to create security on the common

borders of the two countries and to prevent the activities of terrorist groups on the Iran-Iraq border, emphasizing that although Rashid's trip was short, it certainly was "constructive."

He then noted that the Iraqi president extended an invitation to his Iranian counterpart, while President Ebrahim Raeisi accepted the invitation.

"The exact date of the trip will be determined through mutual consultations," he concluded.