

NEWS IN BRIEF

Former Iraqi PM Kadhimī summoned over Soleimani case



● SHAFAG NEWS

International Desk

Iraq's public prosecutor decided to refer former Iraqi prime minister Mustafa al-Kadhimi for investigation in the case of targeting "Resistance Leaders," namely Lieutenant General Qassem Soleimani and Iraq's Popular Mobilization Forces (PMF) Leader Abu Mahdi al-Muhandis, who were assassinated by the United States in 2020, as well as "violating the sovereignty of Baghdad Airport" during his tenure as the head of the intelligence service.

Official documents released on Sunday and obtained by Shafaq news agency reveal that the public prosecutor's response to Deputy Hussein Munis directed the Federal Investigation Court to take legal action regarding the subject of the complaint mentioned in the letter and to inform them as soon as possible.

U.S. lawmakers to push for comprehensive Iran sanctions law



● house.gov

International Desk

A bipartisan group of U.S. lawmakers introduced legislation in the House and Senate on Monday to permanently authorize a law allowing the president to implement punishing sanctions on Iran's economy.

The Solidifying Iran Sanctions Act, sponsored by Rep. Michelle Steel (R-Calif.) and co-sponsored by Rep. Michael McCaul (R-Texas), the chairman of the House Foreign Affairs Committee, is intended to permanently extend the Iran Sanctions Act (ISA) of 1996, which is set to expire in 2026.

The ISA, which must be continuously renewed by Congress under a mandatory sunset provision, allows the U.S. executive branch to impose sanctions on Iran's energy sector.

"The Iran Sanctions Act is one of the most important tools in U.S. law to compel Iran to abandon its dangerous and destabilizing behavior," McCaul said in a statement.

Rial-rupee mechanism crucial for Iran-India trade: SNSC



Iran's President Ebrahim Raisi (R) shakes hands with India's National Security Advisor Ajit Doval in Tehran, on May 1, 2023. ● president.ir

International Desk

Ajit Doval, national security adviser to Narendra Modi, prime minister of India, visited Tehran on Monday and met the special representative of the Leader of the Islamic Revolution and the Secretary of the Supreme National Security Council (SNSC), Admiral Ali Shamkhani. The two sides discussed political and security relations, particularly bilateral

and multilateral economic issues and the most critical regional and international developments. During this meeting, Shamkhani said that the deep-rooted historical and cultural commonalities, the will of the leaders of the two countries, as well as the strategic independence of Iran and India, are the main indicators for the development of bilateral cooperation. Stating that the relations between Iran and India

are not against any other country and are not affected by the will of third parties, Iran's top security official said, "Global and regional developments provide very suitable conditions for strengthening interactions between Tehran and New Delhi in the fields of energy, transportation, transit, technology, and banking."

"Activating the rial-rupee mechanism is a necessary and important measure that will play a decisive role in advancing common goals in various economic fields," Shamkhani highlighted.

He then stated that Iran welcomes the promotion of India's role and position in regional and international developments and considers Delhi's active presence in political, economic and security initiatives with the participation of the Central Asian countries and the Persian Gulf region's countries as necessary, adding, "The participation of the two countries for assessing and using the opportunities resulting from regional and global developments, as well as active cooperation in the Shanghai Cooperation Organization and the BRICS group, will serve the national interests of Iran and India," Shamkhani highlighted.

He added that decisions taken to remove obstacles to continued cooperation in the Chabahar port can be very effective in changing the current situation. Doval, for his part, said that the effective influence of Iranian culture in the daily life of the Indian

people shows the deep ties between the two nations, "for which perhaps no other example can be presented at the regional level."

He added that independent countries should prepare for the development of regional cooperation and playing an effective international role by recognizing the characteristics of new global developments.

The agreement between Iran and Saudi Arabia to normalize relations will have serious effects in addition to deep regional effects in changing relations in the international system, Doval stated.

"I appreciate the central and decisive role of your Excellency (Shamkhani) in managing the process of normalizing relations between Tehran and Riyadh and the agreement reached between the two countries," India's national security adviser stated. New Delhi emphasizes the continuation of joint cooperation in helping stability in Afghanistan and preventing the development of the presence and role of Takfiri terrorism in this country, as well as the establishment of a responsible and inclusive government in Afghanistan, Doval said.

"We consider Chabahar as India's gateway to all-round economic cooperation with Iran, and we are ready to increase consultations to resolve existing problems," India's top security official concluded.

Doval meets Iranian president

Later on Monday, India's

top security official met Iran's President Ebrahim Raisi.

During the meeting, Raisi told Doval that the will of the leaders of Iran and India is to expand relations, especially in the economic and commercial fields and this issue was emphasized in the meeting between the Iranian president and India's premier in September on the sidelines of the 22nd Summit of the Shanghai Cooperation Organization in Samarkand, Uzbekistan.

Pointing out to the new world order that is shaping up, Raisi said that SCO and BRICS, as well as other regional alliances can play a vital role in the new world order.

"As two influential countries in the region, Iran and India can be more effective in the changes caused by the shaping of this new world order by promoting their cooperation to a new level," Raisi concluded.

Doval, for his part, said that India believes it needs to expand and deepen its cooperation with its neighbors in order to affect the changes in the world order.

India's top security official meets Iran FM

Prior to meeting the Iranian president, Doval met Iran's Foreign Minister Hossein Amir-Abdollahian on Monday afternoon.

The two officials discussed ways to expand bilateral and regional cooperation, as well as ways Tehran and New Delhi can contribute to solve the existing crisis in Afghanistan.

India determined for further cooperation with Iran

Pakistan, as a neighboring Muslim country, has many differences with India, yet it has always had good relations with Tehran. India always pursues the strategy of expansion of

relations with the neighbors of its enemies and rivals in order to counter them. Therefore, relations between Iran and Pakistan are not an obstacle in the way of expansion of ties between Tehran and New Delhi.

Iran and India have good capacities for cooperation in various fields, ranging from energy to transit. Regarding political and economic cooperation, Iran has always wanted to strengthen relations with India, but the ball is in India's court.

So far, New Delhi has not been able to use Iran's capabilities due to different reasons, especially the U.S. opposition. But now, it seems that there are no serious obstacles. Conditions are now ready

for India to expand its relations with Iran, and if New Delhi does not take advantage of this opportunity, its rivals will.

It seems that the Indian official's visit to Tehran is aimed at not losing this opportunity.



Mohammad Ali Rajabi
Cartoonist



MI6 Iranian spy disclosed Fordo and Fakhrizadeh: NYT

"Fordo's discovery changed the world's understanding of Iran's nuclear program and redrew the West's military and cyber plans for countering it," the report noted, citing Yoni Koren, who was the chief of staff for Israel's defense minister at the time that said in 2019, "The information about Fordo shocked us." "The great contribution of the British to the com-

bined Western efforts to gather data from inside the Iranian nuclear project was always in human intelligence," he said. "They had a foot on the ground in places where neither we nor the Americans had a presence." In 2019, Iran discovered "with the assistance of Russian intelligence officials that he had revealed the existence of a clandestine Iranian nuclear weapons program deep

in the mountains near Tehran, according to two Iranian sources with links to Iran's Revolutionary Guards," the report stated. Britain has never publicly acknowledged that Akbari, who became a British citizen in 2012, was its spy. "It is our longstanding policy not to comment on matters relating to intelligence," William Archer, the spokesman on Iran for the British Foreign Office told The New York Times.