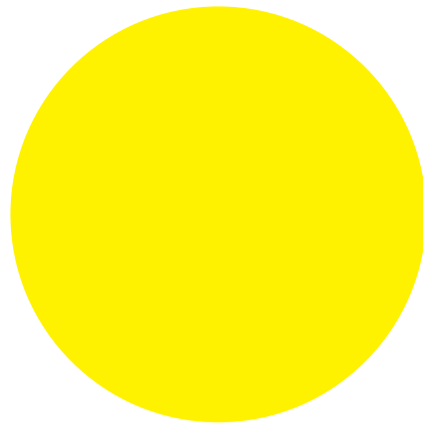




**UK king's coronation draws apathy, criticism in former colonies** 3 >



**Chega Sofla, oldest area proving Iran's ownership of Persian Gulf** 8 >



# Iran Daily



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Vol. 7284 • Saturday, May 6, 2023 • Ordibehesht 16, 1402 • Shawwal 15, 1444 • Price 40,000 Rials • 8 Pages

## Tehran, Damascus eye further reinforcement of economic ties

6 >



A farmer harvests tea leaves on a farm in northern Iran on May 5, 2023. ● MOJTABA MOHAMMADI/IRNA

### Latest case of active diplomacy: Iran-Egypt rapprochement



**Saeed Azimi**  
Staff writer

**EXCLUSIVE**

Al-Araby Al-Jadeed, a London-based, Qatari-funded news website, cited high-ranking Iraqi officials on Friday as saying that officials from Iran and Egypt have met during the past month to restore diplomatic relations that severed in 1979, immediately after Egypt recognized the Israeli regime.

Two Iraqi officials, one from the Iraqi Foreign Ministry and another from the Iraqi National Security Council, provided Al-Araby Al-Jadeed with similar information about the meeting between the representatives of Egypt and Iran in Baghdad with the mediation of Iraq.

The two Iraqi officials explained that both Egyptian and Iranian officials insisted that the nature of the meeting would not be officially announced. This is while Egyptian diplomatic sources told the news outlet that during the last week of March, talks were held between Egyptian and Iranian security officials, and the two sides discussed the possibility of gradually developing bilateral relations to the next stage.

According to the information provided by the two Iraqi officials to Al-Araby Al-Jadeed, the meeting was held at a low level between the two sides last month with the presence of a representative from the office of Iraqi Prime Minister Mohammad Shia al-Sudani, Iraqi Foreign Minister Fuad Hussein, and Iraq's national security adviser. The sources added that it is expected that a similar meeting will be held between the parties. Page 2 >

### Iran-Afghanistan water dispute has far-reaching consequences

**Social Desk**

Iran and Afghanistan are facing a long-standing dispute over water allocation rights, particularly for the Hirmand River,



● IRNA

which feeds into the Hamun Lake shared between the two neighbors. This has led to a series of environmental and geopolitical challenges over the years.

The Hamun Wetland, which constitutes the terminal section of the Hirmand transboundary basin, serves as the only habitat source for migratory birds in the eastern part of Iran and has immense ecological significance.

The lack of an agreement between the two nations on water allocation rights has created significant issues for the Hamun as well as the local population in Iran and has triggered environmental concerns. Now, the Afghan government's measure to inaugurate the Kamal Khan Dam on the Hirmand River has heightened activists' and environmentalists' concerns over the wetland. Page 7 >

## Iran expels four Azerbaijani diplomats in tit-for-tat move

**International Desk**

Iran expelled four Azerbaijani diplomats in a tit-for-tat move in the latest deterioration of relations between the neighbors.

The four diplomats had been working in Azerbaijan's Embassy in Tehran and its consulate in the northwestern city of Tabriz. Tehran's move came after Baku arrested six Azerbaijani nationals, whom it claimed were linked to Iranian secret services and were

plotting a coup in the Caspian nation, and subsequently expelled four Iranian diplomats on April 6.

On April 7, Iran said it will take "diplomatic countermeasures" in response to Azerbaijan's radical and unconstructive positions against Iranian diplomats.

According to Iranian Foreign Ministry Spokesman Nasser Kanaani, Tehran believes that such moves by the Azerbaijani government are in contradiction to the neighborly

principles.

"The Islamic Republic of Iran, on the one hand, emphasizes the [importance of] observing the principles and basics of the neighborhood policy and paying heed to the sinister goals of the Zionist regime (Israel) in creating differences and tension in the relations among Muslim countries and, on the other hand, has diplomatic countermeasures on its agenda," Kanaani added.

Relations between Tehran

and Baku have been tense after a gunman stormed Azerbaijan's Embassy in Iran's capital in January, killing its security chief and wounding two guards.

Azerbaijan closed its diplomatic mission following the incident and evacuated staff over what it called a "terrorist act". This is while an initial investigation pointed to "personal and family-related problems" as the motive of the assailant.

Azerbaijan's decision in

March to open an embassy in Israel has also contributed to tensions between the two neighboring countries.

Iran has repeatedly opposed the improvement of relations between Azerbaijan and Israel.

Iran, which has a large population of ethnic Azeris, has strongly criticized Azerbaijan for moving closer to Israel, with its Foreign Ministry saying it sees the relationship between Azerbaijan and Israel as "anti-Iranian".

### Iranian female swimmer sets 4th Guinness record

Iran's female swimmer Elham Asghari has set a new Guinness record, getting her name in the famous Guinness World Record book for the fourth time.

The swimmer set her fourth record by pulling a kayak weighing 15 kilograms, with a 40kg weight being inside, according to IRNA. It took an hour and 58 minutes for Asghari to swim 5 kilometers pulling the kayak in the Persian Gulf waters.

She broke the record previously set by British swimmer Nick Watson. He had swum 5 kilometers, pulling a kayak while his disabled son sat in the kayak, within 2 hours and 42 minutes in November 2019.



● IRNA

The Iranian athlete swam with one hand for four hours and 59 minutes to register a new record.

Asghari had also broken a world record after registering 5,488 meters swimming whilst wearing handcuffs in 2019. Back in 2017, the 37-year-old Iranian sportswoman completed the challenge of swimming handcuffed for more than three hours in the Persian Gulf waters.

### Eight dead in 2nd Serbia mass shooting

Police arrested a suspect after eight people were killed in Serbia's second mass shooting in just two days, as President Aleksandar Vucic on Friday responded to what he said was a "terrorist attack" with proposed tough new gun control measures.

The Balkan country was already reeling from a mass shooting on Wednesday, when authorities say a 13-year-old boy shot dead nine and wounded seven at a school in Belgrade before turning himself in, Reuters reported. Serbs had just begun three days of mourning on Friday for those victims as news broke of the second incident, which authorities said occurred late on Thursday in the village of Dubona, 42 km south of Belgrade.

State broadcaster RTS said the suspect, a young man, had been involved in an altercation in a school yard. He left and then returned with an assault rifle and a handgun, opened fire and continued to shoot at people at random from a moving car.

"The suspect U.B., born in 2002, has been apprehended in the vicinity of the city of Kragujevac, he is suspected of killing eight people and wounding 14 overnight," Serbia's Interior Ministry said in a statement. An investigation was ongoing.

Iran's Foreign Ministry spokesman Nasser Kanaani offered his condolences to Serbia's government and nation over the incident.



**Traditional handicrafts of Kurdistan Province** 4 >



**Napoli revive memories of Maradona with Serie A title win** 5 >



**Senior Saudi trade delegation due in Iran: Deputy FM** 6 >