

Legacy of colonial era under challenge





**Energy shortage bane** of Iran's steel industry





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# Iran holds U.S. responsible for Israeli acts against its nuclear program



## Raeisi: Tehran-Riyadh detente to change regional landscape

#### **International Desk**

Iranian president said Iran and Saudi Arabia are two great countries in the region and their recent rapprochement will change the region's equations.

In an interview with Syria's state news agency, SANA, Ebrahim Raeisi said that Iran does not believe that Saudi Arabia is its enemy, or the Islamic Republic is the enemy of Saudi Arabia.

Raeisi stressed that at the height of tensions between

Tehran and Riyadh, the Leader of the Islamic Revolution emphasized that Iran's main enemy is the United States and Israel, not Saudi Arabia. On March 10, after several days of intensive negotiations hosted by China, Iran and Saudi Arabia agreed to resume their diplomatic relations and reopen their

missions after seven years of estrangement. Restoration of relations between the two countries have affected relations between

embassies and diplomatic

many countries in the Middle East region and have reduced tensions in the region.

The Iranian president added that many regional countries have now woken up to the realities in the region.

President Raeisi said that Islamic Republic has managed to confront the Iranophobia policy adopted by the U.S. and Israel, and expose their lies about Iran.

The policy, which has been the source of many tensions in the Middle East, was aimed at creating terror in the

Raeisi also pointed to the presence of forces of some regional countries inside the Syrian territory. He said that Turkey has said that its presence in Syria is aimed at fighting militants who threaten its security. However, the Iranian president said that the only way to restore security in the region is to give control of those areas to Syria and preserve the Arab country's territorial integrity. Raeisi said that Tehran understands the concerns of Syria's neighbors, but the solution is to return these territories to Syrian sovereignty.

Turkey has deployed forces in Syria in violation of the Arab country's territorial integrity in recent years.

Ankara-backed militants were deployed to northeastern Syria in October 2019 after Turkish military forces launched a long-threatened cross-border invasion in a declared attempt to push militants of the Kurdish People's Protection Units (YPG) away from border

and abdomen.

Hamas spokesman Hazem

#### ICPOA prospects:

#### To snapback or to salvage?



The prospect of Western nations triggering the snapback mechanism and thereby reinstating United Nations Security Council sanctions against Iran under the Joint Compre-

hensive Plan of Action (JCPOA) is becoming increasingly plausible. With the lifting of missile sanctions against Iran scheduled for October, some suggest that European parties to the JCPOA (Britain, France, and Germany) may instigate the snapback to keep Iran beset by sanctions.

Since the United States' withdrawal from the JCPOA in 2018  $\,$ and Iran's scaling back of its commitments to the 2015 nuclear deal in retaliation, the snapback has remained unused. In 2025, Resolution 2231— which was the basis for signing the multilateral deal and lifting the UNSC sanctions against Iran — will be terminated and the Security Council will close Iran's nuclear file. As the termination day of Resolution 2231 draws near, the snapback mechanism would become ineffective once the JCPOA discontinues.

For the time being, the Europeans are apparently waiting to see if a deal to revive the JCPOA can be reached with Iran, and if not, they will set in motion the snapback mechanism to restore the Security Council's previous sanctions in the post-JCPOA era.

#### EXCLUSIVE

#### Iran, KSA cooperation crucial to region's security, economy: MP

The cooperation between Iran and Saudi Arabia, the two largest oil producers in the world, will prevent the power-hungry countries from interfering and abusing the oil and energy resources, says a member of the Iranian Parliament's Energy Committee.



In an interview with Iran Daily, Abdol-Ali Rahimi stressed that Iran and Saudi Arabia are now among the largest producers of oil, gas, and energy in the world, and both countries are important members of the Organization of the Petroleum Exporting Countries (OPEC). "The cooperation of these two countries in the field of energy can surely cut the hands of countries that somehow try to colonize, exploit, and plunder the wealth and energy reserves of the two neighbors," he added. Referring to last year's approval of Iran's bid for permanent membership in the Shanghai Cooperation Organization (SCO), the legislator pointed out the fact that Saudi Arabia, which is now standing on Iran's side as part of a separate negotiation, joined the SCO on April 2023 as a "dialogue partner" can provide a clear perspective on the role the two will play in the world's energy management.

The SCO is an intergovernmental organization formed to increase multilateral security as well as economic and cultural cooperation. The organization was founded in 2001 by the  $\,$ leaders of China, Russia, Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Tajikistan, and Uzbekistan with the

aim of establishing a regional balance against the influence of the United States and NATO.



**Ancient city of Jajarm** ranks among oldest human settlements

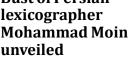




Teaching is one of most stressful professions in the world









### Israeli army kills two more **Palestinians in West Bank**

International Desk

Two Palestinian were killed in an Israeli raid in the occupied West Bank on Saturday, the Israeli military and Palestinian group Hamas said. Gaza-based resistance movements Hamas and Islamic Jihad have vowed to respond to the Israeli regime's killing of two Palestinian youths in a violent assault on a refugee camp in the northern West Bank city of Tulkarm.

The latest Israeli atroci-

ty took place on Saturday morning as two Palestinians, identified as Samer Salah Shafiee and Hamza Jamil Kharyoush, were fatally shot by the Israeli occupation forces during a raid on Nur Shams refugee camp near Tulkarm City.

The Israeli military said it conducted a raid to apprehend individuals suspected of carrying out a shooting attack against Israelis earlier this week, Reuters re-

Hamas said the men were



members of one of the Qassem said in a statement group's branches. The that such atrocities by the ilstatement said the men had engaged in armed struggle against the Israeli military. The Palestinian Health Ministry said both men were 22 years old and died of bullet wounds to their chest, neck

legal entity in the West Bank would not succeed in stopping the Palestinian people's "growing revolutionary tide." but rather would fuel the flames of revolution. In another statement, Islamic Jihad spokesman Tariq

Salmi denounced the latest

future attacks.

killed by Israeli forces in the West Bank and east Al-Quds since the start of the year. Israel has been staging near-nightly arrest raids into West Bank villages, towns and cities for more than a year in an operation prompted by a wave of Palestinian attacks against Israelis last year. Israel says the raids are meant to dismantle militant networks and thwart

Israeli crime in Tulkarm and said the occupying regime

was "fully responsible" for

the killing of the two Pales-

The deaths raised to 104

the number of Palestinians

tinian youths.