

NEWS IN BRIEF

Iran-Syria ties intertwined:
Iran's military chief

International Desk

Chief of General Staff of Iran's Armed Forces Major General Mohammad Baqeri welcomed his Syrian counterpart on Wednesday in Tehran.

The two top military officials later held talks on bilateral and regional developments.

"Iran and Syria have always been the areas where the officials of the two countries frequently visit, the latest of which was the visit of Iranian President Ebrahim Raesi to Syria. This shows that the relations between the two countries have a great depth and history," Baqeri highlighted.

He added that relations between the two countries have a long history, and these relations have expanded since the beginning of the Islamic Revolution in 1979.

Envoy warns against any Israeli blunder

International Desk

Iran's permanent ambassador to the United Nations has said that Iran warns against any possible miscalculation against its peaceful nuclear program. Amir Saeed Iravani on Wednesday sent a letter to the chairman of the United Nations Security Council, stating that the recent irresponsible, provocative, and belligerent statement of Jake Sullivan, the national security advisor to the president of the United States, violates international law and the United Nations Charter, particularly Article 2(4), as it threatens to use force against the peaceful nuclear facilities of a member-state of the United Nations.

"Without a doubt, this irresponsible, provocative, and belligerent statement violates international law and the United Nations Charter, particularly Article 2(4), as it threatens to use force against the peaceful nuclear facilities of a member-state of the United Nations," Iravani wrote in his letter.

"Considering the foregoing, Iran warns against any possible miscalculation or adventurist acts against its peaceful nuclear program and reserves its inherent and legitimate right under international law to take all necessary measures to protect and defend its citizens, interests, installations, and sovereignty against any aggression," the diplomat noted.

Amir-Abdollahian wishes Turkey success in presidential elections

FM holds bilateral talks in Moscow

International Desk

Iranian Foreign Minister Hossein Amir-Abdollahian expressed hope that Turkey will hold the upcoming presidential elections successfully.

In a meeting with his Turkish counterpart in Moscow on Wednesday, the top Iranian diplomat wished the government and people of Turkey success in holding the upcoming polls.

Amir-Abdollahian and Mevlut Cavusoglu met on the sidelines of the quadrilateral meeting of Iranian, Syrian, Turkish and Russian foreign ministers in Moscow to explore ways Turkey and Syria would set aside differences.

Millions will head to the polls on May 14 to vote in Turkey's presidential and parliamentary elections. The presidential election will choose the president of Turkey, using a two-round system. Simultaneously, parliamentary elections will elect 600 members of parliament to the Grand National Assembly of Turkey.

Amir-Abdollahian also hailed the growing cooperation between Iran and Turkey in various economic fields, such as transportation, trade and tourism. He further described the quadrilateral ministerial meeting in Moscow as a step forward, pledging that Iran will proceed with efforts to help the talks



Iran's Foreign Minister Hossein Amir-Abdollahian (3rd L) holds talks with his Russian counterpart Sergey Lavrov (2nd R) in Moscow on May 10, 2023.
● KOOSHA MAHSHID FALLAHI/
MIZAN

produce successful results. For his part, Cavusoglu praised Iran's positive and constructive stances in the four-party meeting in the Russian capital.

The two senior diplomats also weighed plans to promote cooperation between the two neighboring countries in various fields.

FM: Iran, Russia growing ties must advance more rapidly
Later in the day, Amir-Abdollahian met his Russian counterpart Sergey Lavrov. During the meeting, Iran's

chief diplomat explored ways of expanding the all-round relations between Iran and Russia, especially in the economic and trade fields, with his Russian counterpart.

The two foreign ministers assessed the growing trend of relations between the two countries as positive. In this meeting, Amir-Abdollahian emphasized that efforts should be made to move the growing relations between the two countries more rapidly in the right direction.

Expressing his satisfac-

tion with the close cooperation between the two countries in resolving the Syrian issue via a political approach, the Iranian foreign minister assessed the holding of the four-party meeting of the foreign ministers of Iran, Russia, Syria, and Turkey in Moscow regarding Syria as a positive result of this cooperation.

For his part, Lavrov considered the holding of a joint commission on economic cooperation between Iran and Russia in the near future in Tehran as an im-

portant step in deepening relations between the two countries.

The two foreign ministers considered the development of the North-South Corridor and financial and banking cooperation as important in the development of economic and trade cooperation and the deepening of relations between the two countries.

They also emphasized the need to facilitate the activities of the private sectors of the two countries, as well as the trips of citizens of the two countries.

IRGC sets up helicopter, drone base

National Desk

Iran's Islamic Revolution Guards Corps (IRGC) on Wednesday set up an airbase that shelters various kinds of advanced helicopters and drones in Sistan and Baluchestan Province. The airbase was inaugurated by IRGC chief Major General Hossein Salami.

The new air base, named after Ali Arabi – an IRGC Ground Force serviceman

martyred in October 2009 – has come into service in the city of Zahedan.

Salami attended a ceremony on the opening of the new airbase, used for the flight of various combat helicopters, logistical and rescue aircraft, and drones.

The IRGC Combat Engineering Division has constructed the airbase in compliance with the latest technical and engineering regulations and aviation standards.

In comments at the event, IRGC Ground Force Commander Brigadier General Mohammad Pakpour said the new airbase would allow the IRGC Ground Force's fleet of helicopters to carry out major security and defense missions and perform rescue and relief operations for public service. The airbase, which can accommodate tens of helicopters, includes hangars and has all the neces-

sary equipment needed for fueling, repair, and maintenance, he added.

The base will reportedly host a broad range of unmanned aircraft and military choppers, such as Bell 205, Bell 206, Bell 214, Mil Mi-17, and Bell 209.

During the ceremony, the IRGC commander also inaugurated a project on the development of the airport of Saravan in Sistan and Baluchestan.

Mohammad Ali Rajabi
Cartoonist

**Speaker emphasizes facilitating trade between Iran, Iraq**

International Desk

Iran's Parliament Speaker Mohammad Baqer Qalibaf on Wednesday called for the facilitation of trade between Iranian and Iraqi entrepreneurs.

Qalibaf made the remarks during a meeting with the Iraqi Judiciary chief Faeq Zeidan, who is visiting Tehran.

Calling for the easing of banking and trade ties between Tehran and Baghdad, Qalibaf told Zeidan that it is necessary to "act

in a way that businessmen operate with more interest and motivation in the two countries. Therefore, it is necessary to help them in the legal and judicial field and in times when entrepreneurs may have to deal with the courts due to some problems that have arisen."

Elsewhere in the meeting, Qalibaf thanked the Iraqi parliament for criminalizing the normalization of ties with Israel, saying that one of the "malicious actions of the United States

and the Zionist regime in the region is to break the stigma of establishing relations between Muslim countries and the Zionist regime. Therefore, criminalizing this issue in Iraq can be very effective in disrupting this American-Israeli plan and clarifying its goals."

Zeidan, for his part, said that during his meeting with Iran's top Judiciary official, both top judicial officials tried to solve a great number of problems that arise for pilgrims.