

NEWS IN BRIEF

No delay in
Iran-Russia
agreement

TASS

International Desk

The process of drafting the text of a comprehensive cooperation agreement between Russia and Iran is now at the final amendment stage, Russia's Special Presidential Envoy for Afghanistan and Director of the Foreign Ministry's Second Asian Department Zamir Kabulov said.

"Both sides are determined to sign it as soon as [it] is ready. The Iranian partners have sent us their amendments; we have been exchanging [them] for the past year, [and] we have sent our revisions and considerations [to them]. Now, we are waiting for them to put it down on paper. After that, we will compile everything into a single document. Then, the president will decide when and how [it will be signed]," TASS reported on Saturday.

There has been no delay in the process, the diplomat stressed.

Kabulov noted that "what's happening is the routine legal process of agreeing on [the content of] a serious document, [which will be] a 20-year strategic agreement."

Earlier, Iranian Ambassador to Russia Kazem Jalali said that Iran expects the comprehensive cooperation agreement between Tehran and Moscow to be signed this year.

Daesh
member
arrested
in Zabol

National Desk

Iranian police forces arrested a member of the Daesh terrorist group in Zabol city of Sistan and Baluchestan Province, according to the local police chief.

General Doostali Jalilian said Saturday that the police discovered a member of the terrorist group has settled in one of the villages of Zabol.

Conducting a special military operation to find his hideout, Iranian police forces managed to arrest the terrorist.

In the initial investigation, it was found that the ISIS member, who has citizenship of one of the neighboring countries, was advocating for the terrorist group in the area, he noted.

Zabol is located near Iran's border with Afghanistan.

Navy overhauled Iranian fleet
during circumnavigation

National Desk

Iran's Navy Commander Admiral Shahram Irani expanded on the recent around-the-world voyage of the 86th fleet of the Iranian navy, recounting its most notable achievements.

In an interview with Fars News Agency on Saturday, Irani said that this is a first for an Islamic country to sail around the world.

"One of our important achievements was in the field of overhaul and restoration. The important part of the crew's activities during the journey was carrying out the overhaul and recovery of the equipment, which maintained its condition for the rest of the circumnavigation," the navy commander said.

On Friday, Irani told the press that the fleet began its mission in September 2022 from Bandar Abbas port, southern Iran, and is now in Aden Gulf after 213

days.

In accordance with maritime diplomacy, he said that the fleet visited India and Indonesia and entered the Pacific Ocean for the first time while holding a joint drill there.

The commander highlighted the fact that the circumnavigation took about 15,000 kilometers in the Pacific Ocean, during which the flotilla passed three typhoons without suffering any damage.

"Our next accomplishment was the establishment of the first naval hospital, an independent and fully-equipped hospital which performed three successful surgeries during the voyage," Irani highlighted.

"When we talk about establishing a hospital in a fleet, it means that in addition to medical equipment, it must also have laboratory equipment because a successful medical operation requires performing detailed tests. Our medical



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equipment was completely homegrown, which we should consider as a badge of honor," the navy commander elaborated.

According to Irani, the navy's other achievement in the field of medicine and treatment was the establishment of a blood bank

in the fleet. "In selecting the people for this mission, we acted in a way that the blood group of the people could supply each other's needs," he said.

As per the navy chief, the fleet made stops at Jakarta, Mumbai, Rio de Janeiro, North American coasts,

and Cape Town. While he told the reporters on Friday that the navigation around the world took about 15,000 kilometers in the Pacific Ocean, the commander elaborated that the entire circumnavigation took about 70,000 kilometers.

Iran stands by Palestine...

General Qa'ani also noted that the Resistance Front has grown into an extensive axis that has connected various parts of the resistance across the world.

Similarly, in phone conversations with Palestinian resistance figures, Iranian Foreign Minister Hossein Amir-Abdollahian denounced the Israeli atrocities against civilians in the Gaza Strip and its assassination of resistance leaders.

The Iranian chief diplomat held separate phone conversations with Ismail Haniyeh, head of the political

bureau of Hamas, and Ziyad al-Nakhalah, secretary-general of the Islamic Jihad Movement on Friday. Amir-Abdollahian condemned Israel for its "brutal aggression," the "targeted" assassinations of resistance leaders, and the killing of innocent Palestinian women and children, noting that the Israelis showcased their "weakness and frustration" in the face of the resistance of Palestinians.

Haniyeh, for his part, said resistance groups are "ready" and "coordinated" to confront the Israeli attacks, praising the political stance

of Iran in support of Palestine.

"The resistance will determine the fate of this Zionist aggression, and the Israeli regime has no other choice but to surrender," Haniyeh said.

Meanwhile, Nakhalah said Palestinians will continue to resist until the regime accepts the conditions put forward by the resistance, Press TV reported.

At least 33 Palestinians including children have been killed and 147 wounded in the besieged enclave since the bombardment started on Tuesday. Two Israelis have died in

rocket attacks, according to Al Jazeera.

Sirens sounded in southern Israel near the town of Ashkelon after rockets were launched from Gaza. In the occupied West Bank, Israeli forces killed at least two Palestinians and wounded three in the Balata refugee camp in the northern city of Nablus.

Israel has ruled out an immediate truce in Gaza, saying the onus is on the Palestinian Islamic Jihad to stop launching rockets as it bombed the enclave for the fifth straight day.



People inspect damage to a graveyard hit by an Israeli air attack in Beit Lahia in the northern Gaza Strip.

MOHAMMED ABED/AFP

IRGC equips Iranian vessels with homegrown cruise missiles

National Desk

The Islamic Revolution Guards Corps (IRGC) Navy has furnished two types of its vessels with a new cruise missile with a range of 2,000 kilometers, the force's commander said.

In an interview with Tasnim News Agency published on Saturday, Rear Admiral Ali Reza

Tangsiri said the homegrown cruise missile "Qadr-474" can hit targets within a range of 2,000 kilometers.

He noted that the Mahdavi- and Soleimani-class vessels have been equipped with the new long-range cruise missile.

The commander stated that the advanced Soleimani warship, named after Lt. General Qassem

Soleimani, has been armed with various types of missiles with ranges of 200, 300, 750, and 2,000 kilometers.

He added that the IRGC Navy is going to employ a new coast-to-sea cruise missile named after Abu Mahdi al-Muhandis.

The Abu Mahdi missile and two other cruise missiles with 750-km and 2,000-km ranges are

smart, can be guided to go after a new target before exploding, and can be launched even from regions deep in the land and behind the mountains to hit naval targets, he said.

The commander also stated that the IRGC Navy will unveil four Soleimani-class vessels in the current Iranian year (which ends on March 20, 2024).



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Mohammad Ali Rajabi
Cartoonist



MP: Iran, Saudi Arabia appoint envoys

International Desk

A senior Iranian legislator said on Saturday that both Tehran and Riyadh have appointed their ambassadors, and their names will soon be made public.

Abbas Golru, head of the foreign relations committee of the Iranian parliament told Mehr news agency on Saturday that the envoys would be stationed at their respective diplomatic missions before the commencing of the Hajj pilgrimage.

"Saudi Arabia's consulate in Mashhad will reopen

soon," the MP noted. Elsewhere in the interview, the lawmaker said that regional countries are always waiting for Iran and Saudi Arabia and the relations between Tehran and Riyadh can affect the entire region.

"After the improvement of our relations with Saudi Arabia, many other countries in the region also announced their readiness to develop relations with Iran," Golru said.

He then called on the Iranian officials to boost economic diplomacy with Saudi Arabia.



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