

NEWS IN BRIEF

Raeisi hails weightlifters on Asian title



Sports Desk

In a message congratulating Iranian weightlifters on winning the title in the 2023 Asian Weightlifting Championships in South Korea, Iranian President Ebrahim Raeisi emphasized, "The heroic crowning of our country's proud weightlifters in the 2023 Asian Weightlifting Championships in South Korea has once again demonstrated the capabilities of the dear children of this land." In his message, Raeisi expressed hope that with the increasing efforts of such brave athletes, the country would witness their growing success in other sports fields as well. "I extend my salutation to these brave men and my thanks to their coaches and people who made the great nation of Iran happy with their valuable efforts," the president's message wrote.

Iran summons Iraqi envoy



TASNIM - The Iranian Foreign Ministry summoned Iraq's ambassador in Tehran in protest at the anti-Iran activities in the Iraqi Kurdistan Region. The Iraqi ambassador was called in by the Iranian Foreign Ministry on Saturday in protest at an invitation given to the members of separatist groups to take part in an official meeting in the Kurdistan Region of Iraq, as well as the continued activities of terrorist groups in that region. In the meeting at the Foreign Ministry, the Iraqi envoy was informed of Iran's strong protest against the recent developments. The director of the first department of the Persian Gulf at the Iranian Foreign Ministry reminded the Iraqi ambassador that the anti-Iran meeting in the KRG and the activities of terrorists in that region run counter to a recent security agreement between Tehran and Baghdad. Iran and Iraq signed the bilateral agreement on security cooperation in March. The agreement commits Iran and Iraq to safeguarding the principles of good neighborliness and protecting the common border.

Restoration of Iran-Egypt ties closer than it looks



International Desk

Tehran and Cairo appear to have overcome some differences as they have begun talks to restore diplomatic relations. The talks are hosted by

Iraq, as confirmed by a senior Iranian lawmaker on Sunday. Fada-Hossein Maleki, a member of the National Security and Foreign Policy Committee of the Iranian parliament, said

Sunday that talks between the two countries are going well. He then said that if the current trend of developments continues, the embassies of Iran and Egypt would reopen soon.

"The next step would be preparing the ground for the presidents of the two countries to meet, but that won't happen unless the embassies reopen," Maleki highlighted. In this regard, Iran's For-

eign Minister Hossein Amir-Abdollahian told IRNA on Sunday that "direct channels of communication between Tehran and Cairo are open". However, the chief Iranian diplomat said, some regional countries have expressed their readiness to "help" Tehran and Cairo bring their views closer. "We have always welcomed the development of relations between Tehran and Cairo. The diplomats in Tehran and Cairo have had good meetings. There is a good level of access to the officials of both countries," Amir-Abdollahian opined. The foreign minister then expressed hope that there would be an expansion of ties between Tehran and Cairo soon as President Ebrahim Raeisi's administration welcomes building excellent relations with the regional countries. "We prioritize restoring

(diplomatic) relations with Egypt," Iran's top diplomat highlighted. On May 8, Iraqi sources told The National news website that Egypt and Iran have been holding talks in Iraq's capital Baghdad since March to discuss normalizing relations. The latest round of discussions began at the weekend, Egyptian officials said, although it is not clear how much progress has been made so far. An Iraqi diplomat told The National that two rounds of low-level talks were held between Egyptian and Iranian officials in Baghdad in March and April this year. "Both sides have welcomed Iraq's efforts to mediate," said the diplomat. "Both sides are putting out feelers and they are willing to move forward. There has been no headway until now."

Iranian naval flotilla ...

Over the past four decades, the Navy has taken momentous strides in safeguarding the political spectrum, upholding the Islamic Republic of Iran's integrity, defending territorial borders, and bolstering Iran's defense infrastructure, thereby playing a pivotal role across different epochs. The Navy's endeavors during the eight-year-long Iraqi-imposed war and its decimation of the Iraqi naval force in the early stages of the war exemplify its significance. Likewise, the Navy's escort of the Islamic Republic of Iran's commercial ships and its contribution to sustaining the economy until Iraq's aggression came to an end demonstrate its pivotal role. Moreover, the construction of state-of-the-art warships such as Jamaran, Damavand, Dena, and Sa-

hand, alongside advanced submarines such as Ghadir and Fateh, boasts distinctive attributes that make them stand out as some of the most advanced combat vessels in the West Asia region. Currently, the issue of hoisting Iran's flag on the high seas is crucial for maintaining authority across oceans. Iran's commander-in-chief affirmed that "establishing a foothold in the seas brings power". Indeed, our presence on the high seas signifies that our nation has fostered an elevated level of knowledge, technology, and culture that has undergone rapid progression and development. Thanks to the Islamic Revolution, we have a strong presence in the Gulf of Aden, the Indian Ocean, and the Red Sea. Our Naval Forces have crossed the Suez Canal, ventured into

the Mediterranean Sea, and entered the waters adjacent to the occupying Israeli regime. We have even crossed the Strait of Malacca and navigated the South China Sea, surging with pride as we reached the Cape of Good Hope, ultimately crossing the Atlantic Ocean. Our aspirations now lie in witnessing the fluttering of our beloved flag on the Gulf of Mexico in the near future. The Navy is about to welcome home its 86th flotilla, comprising the domestically-produced Dena destroyer and Makran, Iran's sole forward base ship, after a round-the-world voyage. This circumnavigation of the 86th flotilla was a continuation of the Navy's series of international missions and is being carried out in accordance with the directives of the Commander-in-Chief, who has emphasized the



IRNA

paramount importance of maritime navigation, the development of defense diplomacy, and the revival of Iran's naval power in the oceans. The flotilla's mission was to send a message of peace and friendship to the countries of the Indian, Pacific, and Atlantic oceans and to reinforce multilateral relations between the naval forces of the countries along its route. The aforementioned flotilla embarked on its expedition on August 31, 2022, following planned routes and sailing for more than 210 days and nearly 58,524 ki-

lometers before returning to the country. As a symbol of Iran's naval military power, the 86th naval fleet showcased the country's combat and operational capabilities to the world, while also bolstering the international standing of the Islamic Republic of Iran on the global stage. We hope that the Navy will continue to make significant strides toward the economic, security, and cultural goals of our beloved country by pursuing such oceanic voyages with unwavering determination.



Mohammad Ali Rajabi
Cartoonist



UN Syria envoy calls for resolving Syrian conflict through political process



mfa.ir

International Desk

Geir Otto Pedersen, the United Nations' Special Envoy on Syria's Affairs, puts great emphasis on resolving the Syrian issue through a political process.

Pedersen made the remarks in separate meetings with Iran's Foreign Minister Hossein Amir-Abdollahian and his Special Aide Ali Asghar Khaji on Sunday. During Pedersen's meeting with Khaji, the two sides discussed the latest developments in Syria, especially the quadrilateral meeting of foreign ministers of Iran, Russia, Turkey, and Syria, which was held earlier this week in Moscow to work out a settlement to the Turkish-Syrian disputes.

Khaji and Pedersen also exchanged views on the political processes and joint cooperation between Iran and the UN in various fields to help resolve humanitarian issues in Syria. Referring to the necessity of fighting terrorism and respecting Syria's sovereignty and territorial integrity, Khaji welcomed positive developments between Arab states and Damascus. Pedersen briefed the Iranian diplomat on some of the measures taken by the UN on the Syrian conflict.