

Oman's sultan to travel to Iran after an Egypt visit



International Desk

Oman's Sultan Haitham bin Tariq Al Said will travel to Iran on Sunday for a two-day visit, Oman state TV said on Wednesday. In a statement, the Sultanate of Oman announced that Sultan Haitham will travel to Tehran in order to strengthen the ties of friendship and good neighborly relations, IRNA reported.

According to the statement, the visit takes place in response to the invitation of Iranian President Ebrahim Raeisi.

"This trip is in line with the continuation of consultation and coordination between the two sides in order to discuss various developments in the regional and international arenas," it added.

The Iran trip takes place a few days after Sultan Haitham paid a visit to Egypt.

Informed diplomatic sources suggest that Cairo is ready to raise the level of relations with Tehran following the Sultan of Oman's visit to the country.

Referring to the recent meeting between the Sultan of Oman and Egyptian President Abdel Fattah el-Sisi, some informed diplomatic sources reported that the restoration of Tehran-Cairo relations was among the most important issues discussed in the meeting, New Arab reported.

Now, Cairo is once again prepared to raise the level of diplomatic relations with Tehran to the level of ambassador as the current diplomatic representation in the two countries is at the level of Chargé d'affaires, the sources told the New Arab.

The sources also noted that the Sultan of Oman's visit to Egypt and his meeting with el-Sisi could soon lead to great improvements in Iran-Egypt relations.

Earlier on May 15, Fada-hosseini Maleki, a member of the Iranian Parliament's National Security and Foreign Policy Commission, said that Iran and Egypt are on track to restore diplomatic relations and reopen their respective embassies.

Leader: Parl. strategic act prevented bewilderment in nuclear issue

Leader of the Islamic Revolution Ayatollah Seyyed Ali Khamenei highlighted

the crucial role played by the Iranian Parliament in countering sanctions

and addressing nuclear challenges, saying the strategic law adopted by

the parliament in 2020 to counter sanctions saved the country from "bewilderment in nuclear issue". During a meeting with lawmakers in Tehran on Wednesday, Ayatollah Khamenei commended the strategic laws passed by the parliament including the Strategic Action Plan to Counter Sanctions, Press TV reported.

"This law clearly defined what we should do, and we are witnessing its manifestations in the world," the Leader said. Under the legislation, which was approved in December 2020, the Iranian government is required to restrict the inspections of Iran's nuclear facilities by the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA) and accelerate the development of the country's nuclear program beyond the limits set under the 2015 nuclear agreement. It was adopted in a bid

to counter illegal sanctions imposed on Iran by the United States and its Western allies.

Ayatollah Khamenei also congratulated the Iranian nation on the anniversary of the liberation of the city of Khorramshahr in the course of Iraq's war of aggression against Iran in the 1980s, describing the event as a "miraculous epic".

The southwestern port city was recaptured during a landmark operation, code-named Beit ol-Moqaddas in 1982, putting an end to over 500 days of occupation by forces of the ex-Iraqi dictator's regime.

The Leader said that the initiatives used in the outstanding operation and the sacrifices made by Iranian martyrs were more important than the great victory, adding that these facts should not fade into oblivion.



Leader of the Islamic Revolution Ayatollah Seyyed Ali Khamenei meets lawmakers in Tehran on May 24, 2023.
● leader.ir

Terrorist team dismantled in southeast Iran

The forces of the Islamic Revolution Guards Corps (IRGC) smashed a team of terrorists in Iran's southeastern province of Sistan and Balouchestan, killing two. The IRGC Ground Force's Quds Base said in a state-

ment that the team was busted before it could carry out its plans for terrorist operations in the southern part of the province, Tasnim News Agency reported. The IRGC servicemen ambushed the terrorist team and smashed it in cooper-

ation with the forces of the Intelligence Ministry, the statement added.

Two terrorists were killed and a third one was arrested in the attack, which also resulted in the confiscation of ammunition, weapons, and explosives.



● TASNIM

IAEA no party ...

Negotiations kicked off in the Austrian capital city of Vienna in April 2021, with the intention of removing anti-Iran sanctions and examining the United States' seriousness in re-joining the accord. The talks, however, have been at a standstill since August 2022 due to Washington's insistence on not removing all the

sanctions and its failure to offer necessary guarantees that it will not abandon the deal again. Eslami also rejected a report by Bloomberg claiming that the number of examinations of Iran's nuclear program fell by 10% in 2022 after Tehran decided to turn off the monitoring cameras installed by the IAEA at the country's nuclear sites.

In a statement issued in June 2022, the AEIO announced plans to turn off some surveillance cameras of the IAEA, whose operation is deemed beyond Iran's obligations under the UN agency's Safeguards Agreement. The Iranian nuclear chief said a month later that the IAEA monitoring cameras will remain turned off until the JCPOA is fully restored.



Mohammad Ali Rajabi
Cartoonist



Unilateral sanctions 'severely' impact civilians: Iran envoy



A senior Iranian diplomat has warned of the severe consequences of sanctions on civilians, especially women and children, urging an end to unilateral sanctions on countries. Speaking before a Tuesday UN Security Council meeting on protecting civilians and ensuring their security and dignity in conflict, Iran's Ambassador and Deputy Permanent Representative to the United Nations Zahra Ershadi argued that lifting unilateral sanctions would enable the international community to give swift, timely, and effective humanitarian responses, Press TV reported.

Lifting the sanctions would ensure that critical assistance reaches those in need without unnecessary delays or limitations, she said, warning that illegal sanctions also hamper healthcare systems and

humanitarian organizations, restrict access to medical supplies, and impede aid delivery.

Emphasizing that the warring parties to a conflict should refrain from attacking civilian objects such as food supplies, water sources, and hospitals, Ershadi said, "Under international humanitarian law, all parties to a conflict are required to ensure that civilians have access to essential goods and services including food and medical care."

She pointed to the "critical" situation in the Middle East, saying that terrorism, occupation, illegal unilateral acts, and the presence of illegal foreign forces continue to wreak havoc on civilians and their infrastructure.

The Iranian envoy noted that a UN document showed a concerning increase in civilian deaths, with at least 16,988 cases recorded across 12 conflicts, marking a 53 percent rise compared to the previous year. Ershadi emphasized that the Israeli regime is systematically violating the human rights of Palestin-

ians in the occupied territories through constant oppressive, expansionist, and apartheid practices.

According to the UN report, last year witnessed the highest number of Palestinian civilian fatalities in the West Bank since 2005.

The Iranian diplomat described the situation in Gaza as "deeply distressing" because it has effectively become the "world's largest prison".

She said the persistence of the U.S. and EU unilateral sanctions on Syria and the plundering of its natural resources by illegal foreign forces have had a negative impact on the humanitarian situation in the country. Ershadi added that people in Syria are facing exacerbating challenges that impeding the Syrian government's ability to provide essential services to those in need.

She said that effective humanitarian operations for civilian protection "rely on international cooperation, proper and timely finance, and resource access; unfortunately, these elements are impeded by unilateral coercive measures".