

NEWS IN BRIEF

Spox:
Zelensky's charges aim to get more arms



PRESS TV - Iranian Foreign Ministry spokesman refuted Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelensky's allegation that Iran has sent drones to Russia to be used in the war against Ukraine, saying the "worthless" claim is a plea for more Western weapons and funds for Kiev.

In a statement on Saturday, Nasser Kanaani slammed Zelensky's comments as a "blame game" with the aim of deflecting public attention.

He said the Ukrainian president put up a "political show" full of "worthless" and "groundless" allegations.

New missile can repel nearly all cyberattacks



MEHR - The newly-unveiled Khorranshahr-4 missile is capable of neutralizing enemy cyberattacks, the Iranian Deputy Defense Minister Mehdi Farahi said, noting that countering the missile is almost impossible for defense systems.

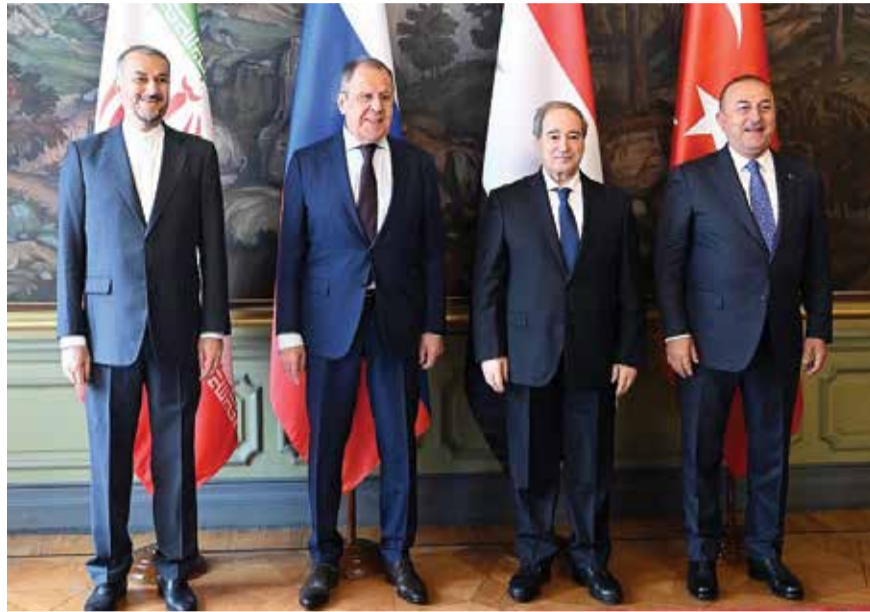
Designed by the experts of the Defense Ministry, the Khorranshahr missile is one of the most advanced missiles Iran has ever built, with a range of 2,000 km, and equipped with a high-explosive warhead weighing 1,500 kg.

Iran, Syria discuss anti-terrorism cooperation

MEHR - Iranian Justice Minister Amin Hossein Rahimi discussed cooperation in combating terrorism in a meeting with Syria's Ambassador to Iran Shafiq Dayoub on Saturday.

Iran aided the Syrian nation and government when they were at war with terrorist groups, Rahimi noted, adding that Tehran is now ready to assist Damascus in rebuilding the country by transferring its experiences.

Iran, Russia, Turkey, Syria to hold quadrilateral meeting



Iran's Foreign Minister Hossein Amir-Abdollahian (1), Russia's Foreign Minister Sergei Lavrov (2nd-L), Syria's Foreign Minister Faisal Mekdad (3rd-L), and Turkey's Foreign Minister Mevlut Cavusoglu met to discuss the diplomatic resolution of the Syrian conflict in Moscow, Russia, on May 10, 2023.
● CFP

The deputy foreign ministers of Iran, Russia, Turkey, and Syria will hold a meeting to discuss normalizing relations between Ankara and Damascus in the coming days, Turkey's foreign minister announced.

Speaking to the Turkish NTV channel, Mevlut Cavusoglu said that the representatives of the four countries will hold a meeting at the level of deputy foreign ministers to discuss drawing a road map to normalize relations between Ankara and Damascus in the coming days, Mehr news agency reported.

The foreign ministers of Iran, Russia, Syria, and Turkey previously held a quadrilateral meeting in Moscow on May 10.

Referring to the recent quadrilateral meeting in Moscow, Cavusoglu said, "In that meeting, we agreed to prepare the infrastructure for the safe return of Syrian refugees to areas under the control of the Syrian central government."

A large number of Syrian refugees who reside in Turkey wish to return to their country, but this process should be undertaken within the framework of international laws, and based on the designs of Turkey as the host country, he said. At the end of the Moscow meeting, the foreign ministers issued a joint statement, stressing their commitment to the territorial integrity of Syria and preparing a roadmap for developing relations between Damascus and Ankara in various aspects.

Mediator in Tehran ...

He said Tehran and Muscat have maintained coherence in their ties over the past decade and their relations have not witnessed fluctuations. The former ambassador noted that the Sultan of Oman's visit to Tehran will help expand bilateral ties and accelerate the process of easing tensions between Iran and some regional countries. Rahimi said the deals signed between Iran and Oman last year, and the agreements that will be signed during the Sultan of Oman's visit are important to economists. He said this is because these agreements will help develop long-term and strategic visions considering trade transactions with Oman.

Rahimi said both countries have common grounds for making investments in various economic sectors, including the development of Iran's Makran coast and Chabahar port, as well as Oman's ports.

Tehran-Cairo ties

Reports indicate that mediation between Iran and Egypt is among the goals of the Sultan of Oman's trip to Iran. Rahimi said Oman's foreign policy is based on a balancing act and it seeks to help normalize Tehran-Cairo relations. He added that time is ripe for the resump-

tion of ties between the two sides.

Heshmatollah Falahatpisheh, a professor of international relations, believes Oman has focused on two issues with regard to Iran.

"One of these issues pertains to the revival of 2015 nuclear deal, and the other is related to accelerating the process of easing tensions in the West Asia region. Defusing tensions in the region is a priority for the Omani government. Omanis also welcome positive developments in Iran's nuclear case," he said. Falahatpisheh also weighed in on the prospects of Iran-Egypt ties.

"Regional countries are moving toward reducing tensions with Iran in an unprecedented level, irrespective of trans-regional relations. When Saudi Arabia realized that its national interests and security have become pawns in the hands of American parties and politicians, it tried to establish more independent relations. Saudi Arabia's détente with Iran is among the most important outcomes of this approach," he said.

Falahatpisheh said that de-escalation between Iran and Egypt is not more difficult than de-escalation between Tehran and Riyadh. He added that recent devel-

opments in the region and the efforts of the Sultan of Oman have paved the ground for normalizing ties.

Interaction versus confrontation

Falahatpisheh said relations between countries have entered into an era of 'new regionalism'.

"On the basis of this framework, many countries try to define common interests despite their differences. This role model should be welcomed in West Asia," he said. He said Iran and Egypt will be able to focus on their mutual interests despite their differences.

"De-escalation between Arab countries and Iran began with détente between Tehran and Riyadh. It was the first step. When the first step is taken, we should expect other steps in economic, political and cultural sectors." Falahatpisheh said confrontations in the West Asian region should be replaced with interactions.

"Although this vision has fierce opponents such as Israel and even the U.S., it seems that regional countries have chosen the right path of cooperation. If ongoing developments had occurred 20 years ago, many countries would be reaping benefits today."



A week before traveling to Tehran, Oman's Sultan Haitham bin Tariq al-Said (L) met with his Egyptian counterpart President Abdel Fattah el-Sisi in Cairo, Egypt, on May 21, 2023.
● TWITTER

Undoubtedly, Oman has established good historic ties with Iran and has played a constructive role in clearing up misunderstandings between Tehran and regional countries. Now, Sultan Haitham's visit provides an ideal opportunity to further boost relations between the two countries.

According to Alireza Enayati, director general of Iran's Foreign Ministry in Persian Gulf Affairs, the visit is aimed at implementing the agreements signed between the two countries during the president's visit to Oman last year. Referring to the annual two-billion-dollar trade exchange between Tehran and Muscat, Enayati added that, "We hope that new documents will be signed between the two countries during this trip to expand interactions and cooperation."

Raeisi:
OPEC success result of members' constructive interaction

Raeisi also called for unity among the member states, warning

that a number of Western governments seek to sow division and discord among OPEC members in order to achieve their own interests.

Al-Ghais, for his part, praised Iran as a founding member of the organization, which has always had fruitful, effective and constructive cooperation with the other members.

He noted that Iran has always contributed to closer unity of OPEC members, both at the ministerial and the technical levels.

He also expressed hope that consensus among OPEC member states as well as Iran's support and cooperation would help restore calm to the global oil market.

Mohammad Ali Rajabi
Cartoonist



Iran respects outcome ...

"Having peace and security in Turkey is important to us, since it impacts peace and security in the whole region," Heydari said, expressing Iran's readiness to help its neighboring country "however we can".

Referring to the amicable relations between the two countries, he noted that the Turkish government uniformly considers Iran to be a good neighbor and a significant actor in the region's developments. "During his years in office, President Erdogan always sought to expand ties with all countries and cared most about the national interests of Turkey," the Iranian MP stated.

Acknowledging that not all Turks were satisfied with Erdogan's performance, Heydari described Ankara under his presidency as a "good neighbor to Tehran" ow-



ing to Erdogan's positive view toward Iran. Heydari expressed hope that whether Erdogan or Kilicdaroglu is elected to be Turkey's president in the upcoming election, the bilateral cooperation between Iran and Turkey would continue and their ties would deepen and expand more than ever since Tehran and Ankara are two of the most important and influential actors in the region.